

# The Logos

ODCC 06/12/09 (x.pages)

**Text:** John 1:1-18 & 43-51

## Introduction

1. For much of this year I have emphasised the Christian life as it is lived in relationship with God. The word “relationship” has been used over and over again.
  - a. Today I want to end off with that idea and will probably complete the rest of the year by looking at the birth of Jesus as we approach Christmas.
  - b. And next year I want to concentrate of teaching what is important to us – these will include such things as the person and work of the Holy Spirit, the Church of Jesus Christ, and the ordinances of the Church, i.e. communion and baptism.
2. Today I want to look at Jesus. the Word. Our text says, *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.”*
  - a. At the end of that chapter John quotes Jesus as He spoke to Nathaniel. Jesus said, *“You shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”*
  - b. Both of these scriptures deal with that which cannot be known to a person unless God makes it known to a person.
  - c. The whole of John chapter 1 has to do with God revealing Himself to people and although God loves the whole world and wants the whole world to accept Him, it’s not going to happen.
  - d. We read, *“Though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him...He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.”*
3. The revelation of God was to make known that which was unknown and which was impossible to know. We saw a few weeks ago as we looked at Ephesians, it’s what Paul calls “the mystery” (3:3).
  - a. It means that which is impossible to know. In science there are many things not know – hidden as it were. But ask a scientist if we will ever discover something which is hidden and they will say, “yes, eventually”.
  - b. Incidentally, it is a fact that in science for every new thing discovered it creates questions about new things that they didn’t know about – so the list of what we do know is growing but the list of what we don’t know is growing much quicker.
4. What may be known about God by a person has to be revealed to them by God. As Believers we have been commissioned to preach the Gospel.
  - a. And we do but God must open their hearts to bring them to a place of believing – and remember, “believing” means not just to acknowledging something is true but it means putting your trust in – it requires faith.
  - b. It is the work of God because our text says, *“to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.”*
5. It is the work of God because it is the work of the Holy Spirit. You cannot accept the gospel with your mind alone. You cannot live the Christian life in the same way you live the natural life.
  - a. You won’t be happy because your faith will rest on your human wisdom and understanding and your strength will come from your own self.
  - b. God is spirit, and His worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth (Jn 4:24).
- c. I mentioned already that our chapter deals with the revelation of God of things that cannot be discovered or known except by revelation. It is the personalising of that which belongs to God so that it becomes mine.
  - a. It is what is required in order for us to be established in faith, and faith is that which always makes us look to God.
  - b. Last week Patrick preached on the lepers who said, *“Why should we sit here until we die? Let us arise and go”* That requires faith.
  - c. On Wednesday Les Freeman spoke about giving up a newly bought house and taking a recently wedded wife and a 3 month old baby and going to minister to Aboriginals whose culture and lifestyle were so foreign to them so that they did not feel at home, and where they felt so incompetent. That required faith.

6. It says, *"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God."* The Gk word for "word" is *Logos*.
  - a. In philosophy, you can see something or feel something but if you can't describe what you see or feel it will never be known.
  - b. The moment you describe something with words, those words express a concept, and it is from a concept that we conceptualise or get an idea or understanding of what you saw or felt.
  - c. But without the word, nothing is know or can be known. Jesus is the Word, He is the expression of God so that God becomes known.
7. Last week Patrick spoke about asking God the wrong questions. God fills the universe and He controls the universe. The universe cannot hold God – even the universe is too small a temple.
  - a. You cannot dialogue with God as a man dialogues with another man. You cannot reason with God in the same way that a man reasons with another man.
  - b. God is unknowable. He is high and lifted up. There is a gap between us which no man can bridge. In philosophy God is the inexpressible and unknowable concept.
  - c. But Jesus is the Word of God who makes know the concept of God and because He is a person, knowing Jesus makes God known to us.
8. Jesus said to Nathaniel, *"You shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."*
  - a. Supposing the throne room of God is "up" and earth is "down". It is impossible for those who are down to go up.
  - b. Jesus was saying to Nathaniel, "Where I am there is a stairway into the very throne room of God."
  - c. It was like Jacob who dreamed of a ladder coming down from heaven with angels going backwards and forwards between the "up" and "down". And God was at the top and He spoke to Jacob and when Jacob woke up he said, *"Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it.' He was afraid and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven.'"* (Gen 28:16).
  - d. Jesus **called** Himself "the gate" (Jn 10:9). **He calls** Himself "the Way". **He said**, "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father."
9. I want to end the year off by encouraging you strongly, do not approach God with your human knowledge and understanding and strength.
  - a. God is Spirit and our relationship with Him must be spiritual – it is developed through the indwelling person of the Holy Spirit.
  - b. A spiritual person cannot be satisfied with more of the same natural life.
  - c. A spiritual person cannot be satisfied with a life where faith is dead because faith is the substance of things hoped for.
  - e. A spiritual person cannot be satisfied with sitting at the gate (as Patrick preached last Sunday), waiting to die when there is a call of God upon their life.
  - f. A spiritual person cannot be satisfied with a little when God has promised a lot.
  - g. A spiritual person cannot be satisfied with the temporary when Christ wants to give them the eternal.