



The Light Shines

March 5, 2017

read

John 1:1-18
English Standard Version

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) ¹⁶ For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

pray

Light of the world,
shine in our darkness.
Help us to see the light
and walk in it unafraid
that we might find life in abundance
through Jesus—the Word made flesh.
Amen.

consider

E. Stanley Jones in *The Word Became Flesh*
(Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1963), p19.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the word was God” (John 1:1). Why was Jesus here called the “Word”? Well, one’s words are the expression of the hidden thought. If you should stand before an audience without a word, hoping that the audience would get your thought, intuitively and immediately, it would end in futility. Only as the hidden thought is put into a word is the thought communicated.

Here is the hidden God, like the hidden thought, and we cannot know what He is like unless He communicates Himself through a word. If one says, “I can know God in my heart intuitively and immediately, without the mediation of a word,” then the answer is: “But your ‘heart’ then becomes the medium of communication and knowing the heart as one does with its sin and crosscurrents and cross-conceptions he knows it is a very unsafe medium for the revelation of God.” God must reveal Himself.

discuss

How have you experienced the gospel truth that “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us”? In what ways have you experienced the real person, Jesus the Christ?

The heart of Christianity is not its moral teaching, its doctrine, its ceremonies, nor its institutions. The Christian faith isn’t about dedication to a set of moral teachings, doctrines, ceremonies, or institutions. The heart of the Christian faith is that God has put on flesh and lives among us. The Christian faith revolves around a person, Jesus the Christ, the Word made flesh. And, it is to a person that we are called to dedicate our lives.

- ⇒ Is there a difference between dedicating yourself to a person and dedicating yourself to a moral teaching, doctrine, ceremonial practice, or institution?
- ⇒ How might you live into the good news that God has come to live among us offering us all abundant and eternal life (see John 3:16 and John 10:10)?