

God With Us

A Study of John's Gospel: "Through Him All Things"

John 1:3-5

" All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made." (John 1:3)

I. Creatio ex Nihilo – Something Out of Nothing

- a. As Christians we believe the universe came into creation without any pre-existing material.
- b. As human beings, we cannot create, we can only synthesize.
- c. This is not a natural understanding, but a supernatural understanding that must be rooted in faith.
- d. *Creation out of nothing* means exactly what it says. The universe came to be, not out of some pre-existing material *something*, but out of a non-existence void. (1 Cor 8:6; Col 1:16; Heb 11:3)
- e. The universe, while utterly dependent on God, is also fundamentally distinct from Him.
- f. God is distinct from the world. As Father and Creator, He is not dependent on the world for His existence. He is free to reveal Himself and enter into personal relationships within the world.
- g. Using these words, *Through Him all things ... without Him nothing*, John puts God above any perceived god that was worshipped then and now.
- h. Jesus alone is the reason that **all** things exist, whether physical planets or spiritual hierarchies. He towers above all and cannot be reduced to human evolution or in the history of human ideas.
- i. Since Jesus is fully divine, He cannot be condensed to a lower state. Since He is a person He cannot be dissolved into an idea. These verses are anchors to our understanding of the Christian faith.

II. The Word (Jesus) is the Light of Life

- a. The fruit of the Word's activity in facilitating creation was not just bringing it into existence, but the emergence of life within it. God had a plan within a plan.
- b. Sin produces death. The Word gives life. (John 10:10) (Acts 17:8), *For in him we live and move and have our being*) The *life* that God created was corrupted by sin.
- c. Jesus came to remove the sin that separates us from receiving His life-giving Word.
- d. We receive this *abundant life* the moment we accept Him as our Savior.
- e. John sees this *life*, in terms of light. Just as light shined in the darkness (Gn. 1:3) in the act of creation, so the Light of the World (Jesus) shines in a dark sinful world to bring life.
- f. John says three things about the *Word* as light: **(1)** it offers illumination to every person—*that life was the light of men*; **(2)** it shines in the context of darkness; **(3)** and the darkness has not overcome it.

III. Personal Application of His Word

- a. A seed was created to produce life and that life was to continue after that initial seed.
- b. Jesus was that "Holy Seed" who came into this world. 1) As a divine sacrifice He redeems the sin so the seed can take root; 2) As the Word (seed), Jesus brought *life* into the world.
- c. As it is released and received, God's Word produces a new spiritual life in you and that new life in you is supposed to continue reproducing new spiritual life in others.
- d. Sin and the Word never cooperate. Sin seeks to choke out the fruit that the Word desires to produce.
- e. How do these verses encourage and/or inform your faith?
- f. How has God's Word given your life *new life*? Where has God's Word "shined light" into an area of your life and are you still allowing that light to shine?