

“God – The Son”

John 17:5

Introduction

- Tonight we continue our series we have entitled “ground work – laying a foundation for faith.”
 - The reason we are doing this is because it is so important that every one of us are able to give a reason for the things we believe.

“Always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you.” – I Peter 3:15

- We are supposed to understand what we believe and as the verse above states, we are to consider, ‘why’ we believe it.
 - Why do we hold the convictions that we do?

We looked first at God – His Existence.

- So often we are told that smart people believe in things like evolution and weak-minded people believe in God.
 - But as we saw there are some great reasons to believe that something out there exists greater than you.

Next we looked at God – His Word.

- If we are going to study theology, the study of God, then we need to have some logical reasons why we believe He exists and we need have a reliable source to learn about Him.
 - And although there are 27 books considered ‘religious’ in our world, all teaching different things about god – only one is backed up with consistency of scripture, archeological evidence, fulfilled prophecy, external sources and scientific facts.

Then we considered that God is the Trinity.

- He is one God, but One God that exists in three persons.
 - God the Father.
 - God the Son.
 - God the Holy Spirit.

Then we considered God the Father.

- And we looked at His attributes or as we called them His perfections because He does not just love, but He is everything Love is and nothing that love is not.
 - We saw that in His perfections and also in His names that He chooses to be called that they revealed to us so much of who God is.

Well tonight we move on to the second part of the trinity and that is God the son.

- Now we know Him by the name Jesus.
 - Which by the way means – **Jesus = “Jehovah is salvation.”**
 - Remember last week we looked at the main names for God in the Bible – YHVH or Jehovah and Elohim and Adonai, and then we consider many of the compound names for God.
- Jehovah Jireh – the Lord will provide.
- Jehovah Rapha – the Lord our healer.
 - Well really Jesus is another compound name of God meaning – God, YHVH is salvation – and how appropriate that name is for we owe our salvation to God the Son and His death on the cross for our sins.

But who is this Jesus?

- Many people make the mistake of assuming the life of God the Son began with His birth as recorded in Matthew chapter 1 and Luke chapter 2.
 - But really God the Son, like God the Father has always existed.

Jesus Himself talked about the time before He took on flesh and lived among us in John chapter 17

“And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.” – John 17:5

- Before the world ever was, before Genesis 1:1 ever happened...
 - God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit were together in eternity passed. They were in that perfect fellowship of 3 yet one known as the Trinity.

Jesus was part of the creation of the world as we read in Colossians chapter one.

“For by Him (Jesus) all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.” – Colossians 1:16-17

- Jesus was active in the creation of the world.
 - And He was active in the history of the Old Testament.
 - Again He didn't take on the name of Jesus until He was born into this world, but in the Old Testament we see God the Son working in the pages of scriptures.

It is something that theologians call a “Christophany” – an Old Testament appearance of Jesus Christ, God the Son.

- Many times when you see this in the Old Testament, the title He is given is “The Angel of the Lord” – Genesis 16, with Hagar and Genesis 22 the offering of Isaac.

Now you might read that and think, “That can't be God the Son because He is called an angel, and angels are lower than God.”

- And you are correct. Angels are lower than God.
 - But the word “angel” doesn't mean little baby with wings, or something subservient to God.
 - **The word “angel” means, “messenger.”**
- And when you read about The Angel of the Lord as opposed to an angel, or when you see The Angel capitalized – it is referring to more than just a normal message of God.
 - It is referring to an Old Testament appearance of God the Son.

Now we know this for one main reason.

- When “The Angel of the Lord” appears – He accepts worship, while normal angels do not.
 - Many times we read of angels appearing to men, and men worshipping them. (They are radical creations of God) – Revelation 19:10 – John, “fellow servants.”
 - But when men do, the angels pick them up and tell them not to worship them.
- But when “The Angel of the Lord” appears – He accepts and encourages worship.

We talked about God when we looked at the Trinity.

- One of the things that is confusing to some people about the Bible is that God declares, no man can see my face and live.

“You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.” – Exodus 33:20

- And yet Jacob wrestles with God (Gen 32:30), Moses talks God face to face, how are those two things possible?
 - Is it a contradiction? – no it's the Trinity – God exists as God the Father, which is that part of God that no man can see and live.
- And then there is God the son, that part of God that walks and talks and sometimes wrestles with mankind.

But eventually the part of God, God the son, took on our human flesh in something we call the incarnation, God becoming flesh.

- And this miracle of God becoming flesh happened through another miracle that is so often attacked and that is something we call the Virgin Birth.

“And the angel answered and said to her, “*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.*” – Luke 1:35

- The Holy Spirit, as the Bible said, “overshadowed Mary, and she was with Child.
 - Jesus came to earth not thru normal means, the way you and I entered existence.
 - He came to the world thru no help of a man.

Now we all know that and we have heard that before.

- But have you ever wondered why it had to be that way – it is not because marital relations are bad – God designed it.
 - The answer is found in understanding how sin and curses are passed.
 - Jesus had to be born of a virgin if He was going to die for our sin.
- He had to be born of a virgin in order to be the King of Israel.

And to understand it...

- We need to go back into the Old Testament.

If you remember God told David that his sons would rule Israel – and the Messiah would come through him.

- But not all of David’s sons were good boys.
 - In fact one was really, really bad – He led Israel into all types of idolatry and sin.
 - His name was Jeconiah.

In Jeremiah 22:24 we learn that he was so bad, God brought a curse upon him and said – no more, there will be no more sons of yours on the throne of Israel.

And we might read that and think big deal.

- But I believe when God uttered this judgment there was a party in Hell.
 - Because you see God promised David his sons would have the legal right to the throne, and thru Jeconiah this right had come.
 - God has also promised the Messiah would rule in Israel.
- And now, if God was going to keep His word, and He always does – There could be no Messiah, there could be no forgiveness of sins.
 - God had backed Himself into a corner.
- But as you can image God was not worried.

When we get to the gospels you notice there are two different genealogies concerning Jesus.

- One gives you the background of Jesus thru Joseph.
 - One gives you the background of Mary.
- Thru Joseph Jesus had the right to the throne of Israel.
 - If you look at Matthew’s genealogy you will see it goes from Abraham, thru David, thru Solomon, thru Jeconiah to Joseph – to Jesus.
- Because Jesus was Joseph’s adopted son He had the complete legal right to the throne of Israel.

But in the gospel of Luke we read of the genealogy of Jesus through Mary.

- She is also in the line of David.
 - From Abraham, thru David, but then instead of Solomon – she is a descendant thru Nathan, missing Jeconiah.

So from Mary Jesus has clean blood line, a bloodline, from David to Jesus untouched by the curse of God upon Jeconiah - So if you are following me.

- Jesus has the legal right to the throne because of His adopted Dad – Joseph.

- But He does not have the curse upon Him because Joseph is not his real dad.
- Jesus inherits a clean bloodline through Mary.
 - But the curse of sin – past from fathers to their children, and the curse of God upon Jeconiah passed to all who would be his son – Jesus did not have an earthly dad.

Therefore as God the Son became flesh, He did it through the method of a virgin birth.

- Not because there is anything wrong or dirty about sex between a man and his wife.
 - But so He would be the first and only man ever born with no curse of sin upon His life.

God became flesh – but what does that really mean?

- It means when Jesus came to earth He was fully God and fully man.
 - This is so important for you to understand.
- **It is called the Hypostatic Union.**
 - **It is a technical term but it simply means that Jesus was fully God and fully man at the same time.**

We see this clearly taught in scripture.

“But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your Kingdom.” – Hebrews 1:8

- Jesus as we have seen before is clearly God.

We also see that Jesus was very human in the sense of emotions and feelings.

“And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.” – Matthew 4:2

We learn that He was thirsty in John 19.

- He went through many of the things that we went through, being tired in John 4, weeping in Luke 19.

But this idea of Him being fully God and fully man at the same time is seen in a great picture known as the “Kenosis” doctrine.

“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation....” – Philippians 2:5-7

Paul says Jesus was God, did not consider it anything strange that He was equal to God.

- But then Paul said that Jesus made Himself of no reputation.
 - Some have denied the deity of Christ by saying this means that He emptied Himself, or stripped himself of His deity.
 - And they understand the word correctly, but where the word “kenosis” comes from not only teaches us great things about the Incarnation, but it clears up this misunderstanding.

The word “kenosis” comes from Roman war. When the battle was fierce, a centurion, who was the commander of 100 soldiers, a very skilled warrior – would strip Himself of the marking of a Centurion.

- He would then go to the front lines of the battle, where the fiercest fighting took place.

The word they used when they would strip themselves of the markings was the word “Kenosis.”

- They would do it so they wouldn't be singled out – it makes sense.

But when he did that he didn't lose rank, he was no more less a centurion.

- He simply appeared to be a normal soldier, and he would face everything a normal soldier would face.

But the difference was He was no ordinary soldier.

- And these centurions would do this, strip themselves of what marked them as a centurion, and they would come to the front.
 - Because they were the only ones who could handle the job.

And so to with the God the Son.

- He became flesh.
 - When He did, it was not that He was no longer God.
 - He simply looked like us, felt what we feel, and faced what we face.
- Yet He was still fully God.
 - But He came to the front lines – Because He was the only one who could do the job.

Jesus was God and everyone but the Bible critics seem to know it.

The Apostle Thomas knew who Jesus was.

“And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!” – John 20:28

Isaiah the prophet knew who Jesus would be.

“For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” – Isaiah 9:6

Paul knew who Jesus God was.

“looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,” – Titus 2:13

Jesus knew who He was...

“I and My Father are one.” – John 10:30

Jesus used the name of God “I Am” of Himself.

“Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.” – John 8:58

The Religious leaders were not confused at who Jesus was saying that He was...

“Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.” – John 5:18

God the Father knew who Jesus was.

“But to the Son He (God the Father) says: “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.” – Hebrews 1:8

So we need to come on board with Thomas and Paul and Jesus and God the Father.

- Jesus was God in the flesh.
 - When Jesus became flesh, it was not that He was no longer God.
 - He simply looked like us, felt what we feel, and faced what we face.
- Yet He was still fully God.
 - But He came to the front lines – Because He was the only one who could do the job.
 - What job???

Why God became flesh?

- It is an interesting question that we so often don't take the time to consider.

Why would God become flesh – He was in Glory, Praised 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

- Why would you want to leave that, come to earth and get spit upon, suffer, and be lonely?
 - Well God did it for a couple great reasons.

Why did God become flesh?

#1 – To reveal God to us.

Jesus said in John 14...

“He who has seen Me has seen the Father; Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me?” – John 14:9-10

- The author to the Hebrews calls Jesus, **“The express image of God” – Hebrews 1:3**
 - It means like Jesus was like God in every way.

One of the key reasons that God became flesh was to reveal to mankind what God was really like.

- If you want to know what God is like, it is real simple – look at Jesus.
 - Look at the way He lived, look at how He felt for people, Look at the way He felt about sin.

God became flesh to reveal Himself to us, to share with us His heart in a way we would understand it.

I heard of a story of a man who didn't believe in the Incarnation – He believed in God, but not that God came to earth as a man. He didn't understand why God would do such a thing. This man was a farmer, and one cold winter night he watched a bird, suffering from the cold night. Being compassionate the farmer went out to his barn and opened it up. And He tried to show the bird in – but the bird wanted nothing of this. After a while the man in frustration thought to himself – “If I only could become a bird, and show this bird the way.” – And thinking on that he realized the truth and the important of the Incarnation. – God became one of us to reveal His heart and show us the way.

Why did God become flesh?

#1 – To reveal God to us

#2 – To fulfill Old Testament scripture

The Old Testament from the book of Genesis to Malachi speaks of a time when God would come down to them.

- In Isaiah is says that the Messiah would be called Emmanuel or “God with us.”
 - In Micah 5:2 it speaks of where He would be born – Bethlehem.
 - In Psalm 22 it speaks of how He would die.
 - In Isaiah 53 – there are all kinds of prophecies about His life.
- All of these spoken and written down years before Christ walked the earth.
- And God is a man of His word.
 - Jesus came to fulfill those scriptures and to testify to you and to me – that He is God.
 - And that He will be faithful to His word.
 - Jesus came to reveal God us.
 - He came to fulfill OT scriptures.

Why did God become flesh?

#1 – To reveal God to us

#2 – To fulfill Old Testament scripture

#3 – To be a sympathetic High priest

- God came down and experienced everything you and I experience other than sin.
 - Jesus knew what it was liked to be tired.
 - Jesus knew what it was liked to be tempted.

- Jesus knew what it was like to feel sorrow and rejection - He has experienced our experiences.
- Yet He has done this without sin.

**“For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. – Hebrews 4:15-16
God became flesh so He could sympathize with us and better minister to us.**

- And I’m glad He did, Can you imagine if He did not.

Can you imagine if I as a Youth pastor had never experienced any pain or any hard times – How would I effectively minister to you.

What if you came in my office and were asking about girl problems, and my response was “I don’t know what that feels like, every girl I ever known has fallen in love with me.” – What if someone died in your family – and everyone I have ever known or heard about was alive and well. What if you were struggling with temptation and my response was I had never been tempted in my life.

- You heart would be – I want to see someone else – This guy has no understanding of what it feels like to be a normal teenager.

That wouldn’t work.

- And it wouldn’t work well with God either.
 - And so He became a man, dwelt among us, felt the things you and I will feel.
 - So when we cry out – He know what it feels like, He knows what to do.
- He became flesh to reveal to us the Father, to fulfill OT scripture, to be a sympathetic High Priest, and one other – the most important....

Why did God become flesh?

#1 – To reveal God to us

#2 – To fulfill Old Testament scripture

#3 – To be a sympathetic High priest

#4 – He came to die

- The most important reason that God became flesh was not to reveal Himself, to fulfill prophecy, or to be a sympathetic High Priest.
 - He came to die.

Sin as we will study later requires death for payment.

- But it must be the death of the innocent.
 - And it could not be you or me be the one to die for the sin of the world.

Because you and I have blown it – we have done things wrong.

- So He had to come and pay the price, He came to pay His own penalty.
 - How do we really know Jesus rose from the dead?

But how do we know that really happened?

- I mean Easter is a cool day – springtime, chocolate bunnies and eggs (what do they have to do Jesus anyway) – study for another time.
 - But how in the world do we know Jesus actually rose from the grave.

Paul writing to the Corinthians said this...

“For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,” – I Corinthians 15:3-4

- Paul lays out the foundation of our faith.
 - That Christ died for our sins was buried and rose again on the third day.
 - And without the Resurrection, verse 18, he says we are in big trouble.

“And if Christ is not risen, your faith *is* futile; you are still in your sins!” – I Corinthians 15:18

- So the resurrection is key, but is there any good reasons to believe Jesus rose from the dead.

- I believe the Resurrection is one of the most provable facts in all of human history.

Reasons to believe the Resurrection

#1 – The presence of Roman guards

After the death of Jesus, the chief priest asks for guards to be stationed outside the tomb.

- And this makes perfect sense, if the disciples were going to steal the body, this would have definitely prevented it.
 - But unwittingly – these chief priests were creating one of the best evidences that the Resurrection was true.

Understand it was the penalty of death if a Roman guard fell asleep on watch.

- And if the prisoner or body in this case, was to escape or be gone...
 - Then the soldier would have the same penalty of death put on them.
 - So you see this made them not just soldiers, but highly motivated soldiers.

So these soldiers would have been killed, maybe even crucified if they went to sleep and let the disciples take the body.

- So understandably they go to the chief priests – in Matthew 28.
 - If there is any one who would want to keep the Resurrection quiet as much as the soldiers, it was the religious leaders.

So these religious leaders pay them to make up this story.

- And then in turn they would help them out with the consequences from the governor.
 - But think about their story for a minute...

If they were asleep – how did they know it was the disciples?

- If anyone stole away the body why did they leave the grave clothes perfectly still wrapped behind.

And how did they do that???

- How did they roll away the stone without waking the guards?

Some hold to the theory that the enemies of Christ stole the body, so the disciples wouldn't.

- That is just plain stupid because the disciples start sharing about the resurrection; people start believing by the thousands.
 - It gets worse for the religious leaders than when Jesus was alive.
 - Why wouldn't one of them reproduce the body and say, "Here He is, He is not risen!"

Some hold to the theory that the disciples stole the body.

- Now even once you get past the idea of a bumbling group of disciples getting past a well trained and motivated group of Roman soldiers you then have even more interesting facts to consider.

Reasons to believe the Resurrection

#1 – The presence of Roman guards

#2 – The death of the Apostles

- All of the disciples, except John, who was boiled in oil and banished to the island of Patmos.
 - Except him and he had no easy ride, all the disciples died for their belief in Jesus.
- So What???? – Not one of them ever recanted the truth of the Resurrection.

- Think that though for a second...

Nowhere in History – though out the Bible

- Nowhere are we told of His disciples at the threat of death, and torture to them and their families, ever cracked.

And that is a huge thing even if they knew the resurrection to be true

- But can you imagine if they had faked it?
 - Oh – we can understand why a group of men who had left their professions to follow Jesus would be embarrassed that He was dead, and would try to fake His resurrection.
- But then why would they all go to their graves, and let many of their families go to their graves, without one ever recanting the truth.

More than just them...

- Paul tells of more than 500 people that witnessed the resurrected Lord.
 - And we do not read of them recanting their beliefs many of them dying for their faith as well.

Why would so many die for a lie?

- People will die for the truth; they will die for what they believe in.
 - But who dies for what they know is a lie, in those numbers????

You see – no one does

- The reason they were willing to die.
 - The reason they were so changed – remember they had all forsaken him.
 - Now they are preaching in Jerusalem – why?
- Because Jesus did rise from the dead.

If you want an easy way to remember when you in conversations with people – remember – R-O-S-E

- **R - Radical death of the apostles**
- **O - Origin of the Christian faith in Jerusalem**
- **S - Sabbath worship**
- **E - eyewitness, un-recanting testimony**

You see Jesus did rise

- And in doing so – it backed up everything He ever said to be true.

Now we need to consider that – because just as He said ‘after three days I will rise again.’

- And that was true – so He said...

“I am the way the truth and the life, and no one comes to the father, but by me” – John 14:6