

**Isaiah 9:6 – ‘And His name will be called . . .’**

John 1.1-18 - Mighty God

This rich theological passage has been called the prologue to John’s Gospel. It introduces many of the major themes that John will treat, especially the main theme that “Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God” (vv. 12–14; cf. 20:31). Commentators say that although John wrote this passage with the simplest vocabulary in the New Testament, the truths that are presented are the most profound. Lots of people have differing ideas about who Jesus was and is. What are some of the more common ideas about the identity and nature of Jesus among people with whom you associate?

John MacArthur gives the following six basic truths about Christ as the Son of God:

The eternal Christ (vv. 1–3)

What a way to begin the Gospel – by portraying the life of Jesus in eternity.

Compare with Genesis 1v1. What does this teach us about Jesus? What does ‘the Word’ mean?

v1&2 ‘with God’ –literally ‘face to face’ – What do we learn more about Jesus?

v3 Note also Genesis 1v26 ‘Let Us’ and ‘Our image’.

Colossians 1v16-17. What further truth about Jesus are we taught in this verse?

The incarnate Christ (vv. 4–5)

‘In Him was life’ – note ‘in’ not ‘through’ - - but why past tense? (was life)

What is significant about the fact that Christ is the source of light and life? (John 8v12 and 11v25-26)

What is the ‘darkness’ he is referring to? (see also 1 Thessalonians 5v4-7 & 1 John 1v5-7)

The forerunner of Christ (vv. 6–8)

What was John the Baptist’s role? Why is that significant?

‘Sent’ with a purpose –what was that? (see v29 and v35-36)

It is worth contrasting John’s ministry in these verses (& v15) with Jesus in v1, 2 & 9

The unrecognized Christ (vv. 9–11), that is, His rejection

v9 better rendering –‘the true Light which, coming into the world, gives light to every man’

‘true light’ –compare with v5 – what does this mean?

v11 ‘His own’ – His creation –that which belonged to Him. 2<sup>nd</sup> ‘His own’ – His people –the Jews.

They did not recognize Him as creator nor receive Him as the Christ (Messiah).

This is the prime example of unrequited love.

The omnipotent Christ (vv. 12–13)

What power do you see here? (the right to become children of God) See also 1 John 3v2

What is meant by ‘receive Him’ and being ‘born of God’?

Who are these verses addressed to? (Praise the Lord it does not finish at v11)

The glorious Christ (vv. 14–18), that is, His deity.

These verses show us His glory in the incarnation.

What profound truth is being given in v14? What are the implications of this? (Hebrews 1v1-3a)

‘Full of grace and truth’ (see v14 & 17) – how does this show in Jesus’ life and ministry?

v16 Constantly receiving from the Lord Jesus. How does this encourage us?

v17-18 Moses had enjoyed the very great privilege of meeting God ‘face to face’ – but never seeing God.

How different with Jesus (v18 and Colossians 1 v 19). Also compare this with 1 John 4 v 12.

Having been through these verses – how would you now answer someone who said that Jesus was just a good man or just a wise teacher?

‘What a mighty God we serve’ (747 CMP)

D.J.

**PRAYER POINTS:**

General Church Meeting – Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> November

Momentum and Active8 – especially in respect of gospel outreach

Surrey Smarties Toddler Group