

In The Beginning

John 1:1-5

Rock Hill Baptist Church
605 Rock Hill Road
Lexington, Tennessee 38351

Pastor David Buffaloe
731-845-6104
online at bibleteacher.org



FOCAL Read Responsively John 1:1-5 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. {2} The same was in the beginning with God. {3} All things were made by 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} And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

On my desk is a “fossilized crustacean” (fancy words for “a dead sea snail”) that is supposed to be 400 to 800 million years old. I purchased the little polished critter embedded in rock for about two dollars, not because I believed for one second that it is that old, but because it reminds me of the foolishness of man. A fossil is a dead thing that has become its own tombstone. No one really knows how old this thing is. Neither you nor I were there when it died, nor were we there when it was buried in silt. We were not able to realistically measure its lifespan. I can show you a lit candle and ask you to tell me how long it's been burning, but if you don't know how long the candle was before I lit it you really can't give a reasonable answer. So it is with the poor science they call “evolution”. True science is based on that which is repeatable and provable. Evolution and evolutionary dating methods are based on foolishness and faith in the *absence of God*. The evolutionist believes that there is no God, so he or she begins to calculate ways to disprove God and to prove the fantastic theory that all this we see “just happened”. Our society accepts this “just happened” because – quite frankly – if you take God out of creation you remove accountability as well. Without God morality and truth are fluid things.

Each person can have his own truth without infringing on the truth of another. Jesus said **“You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32)**. If you cannot know **THE truth**, that truth is as fixed as the law of gravity, then you shall never be free. Knowing **THE truth shall make you free**.

Who alone knows how old this little crustacean is? Whoever was there when the little creature died and was buried knows how old it is. The scientist was not there in the beginning. Neither you nor I were there in the beginning. Who was there?

“In the beginning was the Word”.

The Bible tells us that **“The Word”** was there. Who is **“The Word”**? Our text tells us

“the Word was with God”

This **“Word”** was distinctly separate from God. And yet our text hastens to tell us that

“the Word was God”

Was this **“Word”** lesser than God? No. The **Word was God**. Who is this **“Word”**? We read in

John 1:14 And **the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us**, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Who is this King of Glory? He is Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. He was here **“in the beginning”**. He was here when that little crustacean was formed. **“All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made”**. Jesus Christ, Eternal God, was there in the beginning. He **was made flesh** and dwelt among us. He gave life to the little sea creature, and was there when that little creature died. The evolutionary scientist wasn't there. As God asked the prophet Job:

Job 38:4-6 **Where were you when I established the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. {5} Who fixed its dimensions? Certainly you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? {6} What supports its foundations? Or who laid its cornerstone?**^{HCSB}

The Lord alone was there in the beginning. He alone knows how it all works together, and He alone knows how old this this universe is. He should know, for He made it. Jesus Christ alone is the Source of Life and of Light.

1. Jesus Alone Is The Source Of Life

FOCAL **John 1:3-4** All things were made by 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.

Jesus Christ is the Source of all life.

Jesus Christ is the Source of all *physical life*. He is also the Source of all *spiritual life*.

FOCAL John 1:3 “... **All things were made by Him**”

What does that mean, “**all things were made by Him**”? It means what it says. Before Jesus ever took on humanity, before He was ever “**made flesh**”, He was active in the creation of all that you see. Jesus Christ is very God of very Gods. He made everything that you see, every animal on this earth, every grain of sand. Jesus made Adam in the Garden of Eden, made Eve from Adam's rib, and gave them the duty of tilling and cultivating this perfect Garden called Eden. He gave both physical as well as spiritual life to Adam and Eve. Jesus Christ designed the marriage that He gave them. He designed the family. Jesus, the **express image of the invisible God, preeminent over all creation**, made it all. The Bible says:

Colossians 1:16 For **by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:**

God the Father may have planned creation, but Jesus Christ made it. It was **by Him that all things were created**. The Psalmist David was speaking of Jesus when he wrote:

Psalms 33:6 **By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.**

It was Jesus Who said “**Let there be light, and there was light**” (**Genesis 1:3**). It was Jesus Who made the sun, the moon, the planets, the stars.

It is Jesus Who put all things in place, and it was His Word that brought order out of nothing. It was Jesus Who made Eden, and Who walked and fellowshiped with Adam every evening. It was Jesus – the Maker of Eden - Who commanded Adam to eat of any tree *but* the tree of knowledge of good and evil. It was Jesus Whom Adam betrayed when he allowed Satan, that old liar, talk him into eating the forbidden fruit. “**The first Adam was made a living soul**” (**1 Corinthians 15:45**), perfect and pure, but he allowed sin to enter into creation. The Bible tells us:

Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as **by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:**

Jesus gave Adam spiritual and physical life, but Adam – *like Judas Iscariot* – betrayed his Creator. “**Lust conceived, giving birth to sin, and sin, when it was finished, brought forth death**” (**James 1:15**).

Just as Jesus promised Adam his poor choice brought *immediate* spiritual death on all, and as a result *eventual*

physical death. Why is there sickness in the world? Because Adam sinned. Why does God allow evil in the world? It is not here because of God, but it is here because of Adam.

FOCAL John 1:3 **All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.**

All things were made by Jesus – and *Adam messed up all things*. Now we come to a crossroad. Jesus discovers Adam in the Garden, hiding with his wife in the bushes, trying to cover up his sin. That which was life is now death. Will Adam apologize for following Satan?

What was Adam's response when caught by Jesus in sin? How does Adam's response mimic the response of the lost person trying to get out from under conviction?

Will he acknowledge his sin, and ask Jesus for forgiveness? No he doesn't. Adam looks at Jesus and says:

Genesis 3:12 **“The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat”.**

“It's really YOUR fault. It's someone else's fault. But it's not my fault, Lord. You gave me a faulty woman!” How the Lord's heart must have broken.

FOCAL John 1:4 .. **In him was life; and the life was the light of men.**

and yet Adam preferred to wallow in death. Confronted with his own failure he chose to wallow in that ditch. What would Jesus do? Jesus acknowledged that Adam and Eve brought the wages of sin on mankind. Then – looking forward to the day when He would once more right all things – Jesus took life from a few animals. The Bible says:

Genesis 3:21 **Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.**

Life could not be restored with a word, but Eternal Life would one day be granted by THE Word. **In the beginning was THE Word.**

Jesus Christ was the Source of Life in the beginning. He alone is the Source of Life now.

The world claims that there are many ways unto God and unto eternal life. But what does Jesus say?

Matthew 7:13-14 **Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: {14} Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.**

Wide is the gate and broad the way that leads to destruction. The world seeks life in many gods, many ways, many paths – and yet this broad way leads but to

death. There is but one Source of Life – and that Source is Jesus. Our Lord said:

Luke 9:24 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.

You must come to Jesus if you want to have life. Jesus told Nicodemus:

John 3:14-16 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: {15} That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. {16} For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

ILLUSTRATE Jesus Christ is the Source of Life. You can try and find life apart from Him, and all you will find is stupidity and loss. **Look at the addict lying in the gutter. Will Atheism or Evolution raise him up from that place of death? See that prisoner, the rapist or the murderer, sitting in his jail cell. Will humanism turn that dark heart toward the light of day? Look at that terribly depressed person, beaten down of life, considering suicide. Tell him that there is no life after death, no hope, no anything.** Tell him at the end of it all your soul rots in the grave with your body, and then tell me if he is lifted out of the drowning despair of depression.

Go to deep dark Africa and tell the native cannibal that he should stop eating his enemies. Tell him the reason he should do this is because man is inherently noble, inherently good.

All of the idiocies and philosophies of the alleged learned have done not one thing to bless the fallen or to raise the dejected to a better state. Our welfares have created more welfare babies. Our godless charities have elevated animal above human.

Go to man's wisdom thirsty, and come away like the deranged lost in the desert. You will find your thirst slaked with mouthfuls of mirage sand.

Yet go unto Jesus, the Source of Life. Go to Him thirsty, and find if The Word given is not true:

John 4:14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

From beginning to end, the Scriptures testify of Jesus – and Jesus alone – as the Source of Life. Jesus said:

John 5:39-40 Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. {40} And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

Oh dear Ones, do not delay. Come unto Jesus, surrender your dying shell unto Him, and He shall give you eternal life.

2. Jesus Alone Is The Source of Light

FOCAL John 1:5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

The **darkness, the unsaved among us, do not comprehend** Jesus as the Source of Light. But those who have called upon His Name and have been saved know Him to be the Light. Jesus Christ is not just called **The Word**, but He is also **The Light (John 1:7)**. There are many so called “lights” in the world, but Jesus alone is

John 1:9 ... the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

Is there any other light in the world but Jesus? Absolutely not! Jesus is:

John 8:12 ... I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Look at all the different types of darkness in this old sin riddled world.

People suffer under the darkness of sickness, the darkness of slavery to sin, the darkness of addictions, the darkness of false religion. Yet of all the darknesses,

the darkest dark that we can conceive of is that darkness called *death*.

Death is an unknown that worries us. Until the Coming of Jesus, until He took on Himself humanity, none had ever come back from the grave to tell us what was on the other side. The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ “**died for our sins, according to the Scriptures**” (1 Corinthians 15:3). But this wasn't the end of it. He didn't just die for our sins, then leave us wondering whether His death had conquered death or not. Jesus never did a thing half way. The Bible says:

1 Corinthians 15:4-8 {Jesus} was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures: {5} And that He was seen of {Peter}, then of the twelve: {6} After that, He was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. {7} After that, He was seen of James; then of all the apostles. {8} And last of all He was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

Jesus Christ suffered and died for the sin of Adam, for your sin and my sin. Then He rose again, and has ascended unto God the Father to continually make intercession for you and I.

Is the darkness gone from your life, or do you walk in darkness still? The heritage of those who love the Lord is Light, for our Savior is Light, and He calls us to walk in the Light.

Those who belong to Jesus are called to walk in the Light of His Presence. The **darkness does not perceive** the Light of Christ. Those Who belong to Jesus are not of darkness, but they are of the Light.

In our world today people are trying to find light apart from Jesus. How foolish! He is the Light. He is the Light that will bless your marriage. The marriage that keeps Christ at its center will never fall into darkness. Jesus is the Light that will guide your family.

Every day your children and grandchildren are tested by Satan. He offers them some *forbidden fruit* like drugs and says “**hath God said**”? Unless Jesus Christ is at the center of your family in time Satan – through peer pressure – will lead your children and grandchildren into the darkness.

Jesus Christ is the Light that guides all knowledge. Men like to believe themselves to be gods, and their ways to be godlike – but if Christ is not in it, it is of no avail. Jesus is the Light of the Church and its functions. When Christ is not at the center of everything we say and do, in time darkness will creep in. America has fallen into darkness because so many local Churches and individual believers have turned from the Light that is The Word and to other lesser lights. This we must avoid. When darkness grips a Church its members fall into division and fighting.

A Church fighting is like the smell of a run over skunk. Its stench sickens all around, and draws none but the buzzards and ravens.

Jesus Christ is THE Light of the world!

ILLUSTRATE The eagle flies above the hunter and his gun, but is not afraid of either. Though the hunter may aim, the eagle stays in the Light, high above danger. No bullet will reach him while he does what the God of nature has programmed him to do. Even so, little Christian, do as your God has programmed you to do. Cling to Jesus, the Light of the world.

Little Lamb, you will not die malnourished if you will stay near the Source of your milk.

Keep your eyes on Jesus. Keep Him as the focus of all you say and do. Let His Word guide you. Let His Spirit comfort you. Let His Father love you and provide your needs.

ILLUSTRATION I remember years ago in Georgia a terrible tragedy that occurred in our farming community. A teenager was part of a crew working the cotton fields not far from our local Church. At the end of the day the workmen noticed the young man was no where to be found. They contacted his home, but he wasn't there. His parents were frantic. Police were called, and yet, he was still missing. When the workers came back the next day they were surprised to find the young boy's lifeless body

under one of those large bales of cotton. Investigators determined that he decided to take a nap in the field. His body was hidden among the cotton plants when a huge bale of cotton was dropped from the harvester – directly on top of the sleeping lad.

He napped when he should have been alert.

Dearly Beloved, it is **“high time to awake out of sleep. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Cast off the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light” (Romans 13:11-12)**. Learn of Jesus. Hear His Word. Rest in His truth. Let your heart sing to Him.

**I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold;
I'd rather be His than have riches untold;
I'd rather have Jesus than houses or lands;
I'd rather be led by His nail-pierced hand**

**Than to be the king of a vast domain,
Or be held in sin's dread sway;
I'd rather have Jesus than anything
This world affords today.**

May God touch your hearts with His Word.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED