

**Subject: *The Eternal Christ***  
**Scripture: *John 1:1-5, 10-14***

For the next several weeks we are going to look closely at the person and work of Christ. Our text reveals some of the deepest and most profound truths about Christ. John's Gospel is unique in many ways. There is no genealogy or birth story as we find in Matthew and Luke. John starts in the beginning, even before the creation of the world. These verses contain simple words, but they also contain profound truths.

## **1. THE GREATEST TRUTH**

The greatest truth is about Jesus Christ and it concerns who He is and what He does. John tells us that the God who made us came into this world and became like us.

- A. Christ is eternal – *in the beginning was the Word*
- B. Christ is God – *and the Word was with God, and the Word was God*
- C. Christ is the Creator – *all things were made by him...*
- D. Christ became a man – *and the Word was made flesh*
- E. Christ revealed the glory of God – *and we beheld his glory...*

All of these are amazing truths and all are foundational to the Christian faith.

If Jesus is not eternal, then He is not God.

And if He is not God, then there is no divine Trinity.

If Jesus is not eternal, then He made false claims and He was self-deceived.

**John 8:58** *Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.*

**John 17:5** *And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.*

If Jesus is not eternal, then Scripture is misleading and can't be trusted.

**Micah 5:2** *But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.*

This verse is the only place in the OT where the birthplace of Christ is revealed. It was Bethlehem, a small town just like the song says, "O Little Town of Bethlehem." But though it was small in size, it was great in honor. John Maxwell tells about visiting a small European village where he asked one of the local men: "Sir, have any really important men been born here?" The man replied, "No, only babies." Jesus was born as a baby, but He was no ordinary baby. Micah 5:2 says He was destined to be Ruler in Israel and that His goings forth (activities) are from of old, from everlasting (lit., from the days of eternity).

Spurgeon: "You may study, look, and meditate, but Jesus is a greater Savior than you think Him to be, even when your thoughts are at their highest."

## **2. THE GREATEST TRAGEDY**

The eternal One entered time and the Creator came to the world He created, but most people didn't welcome Him, and some didn't even know who He was.

A. The world didn't recognize Christ (vs. 10)

B. The world didn't receive Christ (vs. 11)

The prophet Isaiah predicted this response:

***Isaiah 53:3*** *He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*

What was the problem? They did not recognize Him and they did not receive him for two reasons: they were ignorant, and they were arrogant. They were not looking for a Suffering Servant as their Messiah. They were only interested in a Reigning Ruler. They wanted a Messiah who would meet their physical needs, but they didn't want a Messiah who would make any spiritual demands. When Jesus came and preached repentance and told them the demands of discipleship, they were not interested and rejected Him. They didn't want Jesus messing up their religious system.

## **3. THE GREATEST TRANSACTION**

To receive Him is to welcome Him with an open heart. We come to Christ not just for what He can do for us, but for who He is. We don't just receive salvation, we receive a Savior.

To receive Him is to believe on His name. The name of Jesus stands for all He is and all He does. To receive Him means to acknowledge His claims, trust Him completely, and surrender our lives to Him. "Receive" is the same word used in...

***John 14:3*** *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

When we receive Christ we become the sons of God and we are born again. The new birth is something that God does in us and for us, not something we do for ourselves. It is not of blood (family descent), nor of the will of the flesh (human desire), nor of the will of man (human determination), but of God. Being born of God means a new life, a changed life.

***2 Corinthians 5:17*** *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

Christ came from eternity into time. He came from heaven to earth, so that we might go from earth to heaven. He gave us physical life and He gives us new life, eternal life.