



## *Repentance Tabernacle Church*

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### **The Word of God!**

**Scripture:** John 1, 14; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

The word “beginning” in each case (Genesis 1:1; John 1:1) carries us back beyond Creation into an eternity inhabited by God alone. Scripture simply affirms that God is, was, and always will be. He is the eternal, immutable, immortal, only wise God, to whom we owe honor and praise forevermore. Far from detracting from a high view of Jesus’ nature, John strongly affirmed the full deity of this man who was the Word made flesh.

“*And the Word was made flesh*” means becoming human. By doing so, Christ became (1) the perfect teacher—in Jesus’ life we see how God thinks and therefore how we should think (Philippians 2:5-11); (2) the perfect example—as a model of what we are to become, He shows us how to live and gives us the power to live that way (1 Peter 2:21); (3) the perfect sacrifice—Jesus came as a sacrifice for all sins, and His death satisfied God’s requirements for the removal of sin (Colossians 1:15-23).

When Christ was born, God became a man. He was not part man and part God; He was completely human and completely divine (Colossians 2:9). **After Christ came, people could know God fully because He became visible and tangible in Christ.** Christ is the perfect expression of God in human form. **The two most common errors people make about Jesus are to minimize His humanity or to minimize His divinity.** Jesus is both God and man.

What does John mean by the **Word**? The *Word* was a term used by theologians and philosophers, both Hebrew and Greek, in many different ways. In Hebrew Scripture, The *Word* as an agent of creation. In Greek philosophy the *Word* was the divine essence that held all things together, God’s ideal pattern for creation. John’s description shows clearly that he is speaking of Jesus (John 1:14)—a human being he knew and loved, but at the same time the Creator of the universe, the ultimate revelation of God, the living picture of God’s holiness, the one by whom “all things consist” (Colossians 1:17). This new understanding of the Word was the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus Christ. **If we cannot or do not believe this basic truth, we will not have enough faith to trust our eternal destiny to Him.**

The whole Bible is God’s inspired Word. Because it is inspired and trustworthy, we should read it and apply it to our lives. The Bible is our standard for testing everything that claims to be true. It is our safeguard against false teaching and our source of guidance for how we should live. It is our only source of knowledge about how we can be saved. God wants to show you what is true and equip you to live for Him. In our zeal for the truth of Scripture, we must never forget its purpose—to equip us to do good. We should not study God’s Word simply to increase our knowledge or to prepare us to win arguments. We should study Scripture so that we will know how to do Christ’s work in the world. Our knowledge of God’s Word is not useful unless it strengthens our faith and leads us to do good.

The Word of God is not merely a collection of words from God, a vehicle for communicating ideas; it is living, life-changing, and dynamic as it works in us. With the incisiveness of a surgeon’s knife, God’s Word reveals who we are and what we are not. It penetrates the core of our moral and spiritual life. It discerns what is within us, both good and evil. The demands of God’s Word require decisions. **We must not only listen to the Word, we must let it shape our life.**

James advises us to get rid of all that is wrong in our lives and be humbly glad for the salvation message we have received (“**the engrafted word**”) because it alone can save us (James 1:21). Our lives are mortal, but God’s Word is eternal and unchanging. Public opinion changes and is unreliable, but God’s Word is constant. Only in God’s eternal Word will we find lasting solutions to our problems and needs. In this life, we walk through a dark forest of evil. But the Bible can be our light to show us the way ahead so we won’t stumble as we walk. It reveals the entangling roots of false values and philosophies.

**“For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven”** (Psalm 119:89).