

5. How can you sustain an awareness that in God's Word the Creator and Sustainer of the universe is speaking to you?

6. How does the personal nature of God encourage you today?

7. If Christ is the Logos, how should this impact your prayer life?

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

Beyond the Manger - Part 1

"The Word on the Word"

John 1:1-5

Christmas can be the beginning of a great journey this winter by looking beyond the manger to the Christ of Christmas, the Light- and Life-giver who overcomes the _____.

The opening of John's Gospel never mentions the _____, but it helps us to see beyond the manger into the deeper and profound mysteries of Christ and Christmas.

6 Attributes of Christ that Overcome the Darkness

1. Christ is the λόγος (= Logos = "the _____").

"At the very beginning of everything, the cause of everything there is, the reason why everything exists, the power that created the entire universe, and the principle from which we derive all wisdom and goodness and beauty was contained in one personal and spiritual being who was there at the beginning but now has taken on flesh, has walked among us, and was even born in a _____."

Ἐν ἀρχῇ = "In the _____."

"In the Beginning" transports us to _____.

In first-century philosophy, primarily in the writings and teachings of the _____ (the most popular philosophy in that day), logos refers to the basic principle of reason that holds the entire universe together.

For the Jews, logos represents the powerful _____ of God that creates the heavens and the earth, the Wisdom of God for living a good and beautiful life, and the Bible.

In Jesus you have the powerful Word of God that calls the universe into existence, you have the beauty and truth of God's wisdom, you have the embodiment of Scripture, you have the most basic principle of reason that holds the entire universe together. And because of all that, he is the light that _____ can't overcome.

All that power and majesty and wisdom is contained in a baby in a _____.

Two Profound and Encouraging Implications:

- The ultimate power and principle behind the universe is _____.
Until you've _____ with someone, you can't really say you know them.

What if, because of this COVID winter, you spent more time in God's _____ than at any other time in your life?

- The ultimate power and principle behind the universe _____ on your behalf.

When you pray, asking God to act through healing, through bringing justice, through awakening someone you love to his love...when you pray for someone else or for yourself, you are actually praying for God to _____.
His words change things.

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Read John 1:1-5. What opening words to a song, a book, a poem, or other media stand out in your memory?
3. What terms today come loaded with meaning and/or emotion?
4. How would you summarize what John is implying or communicating with his use of the word logos?