

JOHN 1:1-3
THE DEITY OF JESUS!

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to John chapter 1 as we are embarking on an in-depth study of the Gospel of John.

Last week we began our study with an introduction to this Gospel, showing you why John wrote it and then we spent the rest of our time looking at how the Gospels; Matthew, Mark, Luke and John give to us a picture of Jesus Christ and the camp of Israel.

This morning, as we begin in John chapter 1, we are going to deal with a very hot topic, one that the cults focus on, and that is the deity of Jesus. You see, the cults deny that Jesus is Almighty God, and that is a very important issue, as we will see.

Let me give you a few examples from various cults and you will see what I mean.

- **The Baha'i Faith (The Bab; Baha'u'llah)** - "Jesus was not the only-begotten Son of God come down from Heaven, crucified and resurrected, nor the unique Saviour."
- **Christian Science (Mary Baker Eddy)** - "Jesus Christ is not God, as Jesus Himself declared, but is the Son of God."
- **Church Universal and Triumphant (Elizabeth Claire Prophet)** - "God the Father did not require the sacrifice of His son Christ Jesus or of any other incarnation of the Christ, as atonement for the sins of the world."
- **The Divine Life Society/Integral Yoga Institute (Sivananda, Satchidananda)** - "Remember that Christ is not a person. It's an experience—Christhood. Like Nirvana or Buddha. It's an experience."
- **International Society for Krishna Consciousness (A. C. Bhaktivedanta Prabhupada)** - "Christ's claim to be the only son of God is often misunderstood. . . . When Jesus Christ taught His doctrine in the Middle East, he appeared to be God's only son, or pure devotee. . . . [But] why should God have only one son? . . . God can have billions and trillions of sons and . . . each and every one can be His 'only' son."

- **Jehovah's Witnesses (Charles Taze Russell)** - "The incarnation is scripturally erroneous. Indeed, if he (Christ) had been an incarnate being, he could never have redeemed mankind."
- **Love Family/The Children of God (David Berg)** - "[There is] no reason why He [Jesus] shouldn't enjoy the sexual fellowship of Mary and Martha! AND HE DID BECAUSE I SAW MARY MAKING LOVE TO HIM in a vision."

When I was in Junior High School my friend took me to one of their meetings, I believe it was for the youth, and it was great. I had no basis for if this was right or if it was wrong at that time, but I thank God that I did not get sucked into this cult!

- **The Masonic Lodge** - Masonry has had a significant impact within the Church, especially in the southern US (particularly the Southern Baptists) because it falsely claims it is not a religion, or that it is incompatible with the Christian faith and sometimes even that it is compatible with biblical faith. But the important Masonic ritual called the Maundy Thursday Ritual of the Chapter of Rose Croix declares in the official ceremony, "We meet this day to commemorate the death [of Jesus], not as inspired or divine, for this is not for us to decide", and former 33rd degree Mason Jim Shaw observes that according to Masonry, "Jesus was just a man." Another former Mason reports, "Freemasonry 'carefully excludes' the Lord Jesus Christ from the lodge and chapter, repudiates His mediatorship, rejects His atonement, denies and disowns His Gospel, frowns upon His religion and His church, ignores the Holy Spirit. . . ."
- **Mormonism (Joseph Smith)** - "Christ is the firstborn spirit Son in the eternal family, and while yet in preexistence he advanced and progressed and became like the Father in power and intelligence; that is, he became a God."
- **Scientology (L. Ron Hubbard)** - "Neither Lord Buddha nor Jesus Christ were OTs [Operation Thetans, enlightened beings] according to the evidence. They were just a shade above clear [relatively low on the Scientology scale of spiritual advancement]."
- **The Unification Church (Sun Myung Moon)** - "It is a great error to think Jesus was God Himself. Jesus is no different from other men."
- **Unitarian/Universalism** - Unitarian Universalist minister Waldemar Argow teaches: "They [Unitarian/Universalists] do not regard him as a supernatural creature, the literal son of God who was miraculously sent to earth as part of an involved plan for the salvation of human souls."

- **The Way International (Victor Paul Wierwile)** - “Trinitarian dogma placing Jesus Christ on God’s level degrades God and leaves man UNREDEEMED!” (advertisement for Wierwile’s book, *Jesus Christ Is Not God*). “Our very redemption . . . is dependent on Jesus Christ’s being a man and not God.”
- **The Yoga Fellowship (Swami Kriyananda)** - “What is Christ? St. Simeon the new theologian wrote, ‘I move my hand, and Christ moves, who is my hand.’”
- **Zen Buddhism** - *The Gospel According to Zen* quotes Meister Eckhart: “Who is Jesus? He has no name,” and “Jesus” declares, “Split wood: I am there. Lift up the stone, and you will find me there.”

As you can see, and we could spend a lot more time on this, but the issue of Jesus being Almighty God is important and I want to focus on what God’s Word has to say. This is a warning because some Christians get involved with these groups and they are leading you away from the Jesus of the Bible and to one that came from the imagination of their own heart.

By the things that these cults said, what they believe, it is impossible for them to be Christian.

Now some may be taken back by that, but, as you will see, if you deny the deity of Jesus Christ you are still lost in your sins, you are not saved.

So this is a very important topic and one that John is going to open up his Gospel with and the reality is, it is the reason for this Gospel or as he tells us in John 20:30-31, “**And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.**”

Now, some may ask, “*Who is this Christ that you are speaking of?*”

We are told in Revelation 19, **“Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called *The Word of God*. . . . And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: *KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS*.”** Revelation 19:11-13, 16.

That is who we will be looking at this morning, Jesus Christ, Almighty God, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity who is called *the Word* and, in the Incarnation, He is called Jesus, the Messiah!

Keep in mind that in John 1:1-18 we have a prolog, kind of an introduction to what this Gospel is going to be all about, and, as I have said – ***THE DEITY OF JESUS CHRIST!***

Keep in mind that this is the groundwork, the foundation and if you miss this, then the foundation will be weak, and the structure will not stand.

And the foundation is always built upon Jesus, the Rock, and John is showing us that Jesus is Almighty God and that He is not a created being but has always existed!

I know I have said this a few times already this morning, but this is the foundation for what we believe and if you are off on the foundation, like I have said, the rest of what you believe is going to be off as well.

As one writer tells us,

Every single cult denies the deity of Christ. Why is this so important? Because if you begin to say Jesus is simply a created extension of God, you open the door to every other heresy.

But even more important than opening the door to other aberrations, if you deny Jesus is God, you minimize the work God did on your behalf when He became a man. . . .

In order for a person to be saved, he must confess that Jesus is Lord (Romans 10:9).

What does it mean to confess that Jesus is Lord? . . .

. . . to confess Jesus as Lord means to realize that Jesus is God – that He is your Creator, Redeemer, and King . . . your everything.

To confess Jesus as Lord means to recognize He is God in the flesh – eternally God, equally God, essentially God.

If you deny that, you are a heretic. The Way International is heretical. Jehovah's Witnesses are heretics. Mormons are heretics.

What are we to do with heretics?

According to Titus 3:10, after a first or second warning, we are to have nothing to do with them. . . .

Keep centered, gang.

How?

By keeping focused on the Word and on Jesus Christ.

Truly Jesus is God. Love Him. Learn about Him. Talk to Him. Walk with Him, and you'll do well.

- Jon Courson, Jon Courson's Application Commentary – NT, pp. 446-447

Now bear with me, I know we are taking our time just starting out our study in John, but once we have a firm foundation of who Jesus is, then as we read the rest of the Gospel, these things will fall into place and they will make sense to us.

As Erdman points out to us regarding this Gospel, *"Its stories are so simple that even a child will love them, but its statements are so profound that no philosopher can fathom them."*

I have broken the verses we will be looking at this morning, here in John chapter 1, into four main points. They are,

THE PRE-EXISTENCE OF CHRIST – JOHN 1:1a, 2

THE EQUALITY OF CHRIST – JOHN 1:1b

THE ONENESS OF CHRIST WITH GOD – JOHN 1:1c

THE OMNIPOTENCE OF CHRIST – JOHN 1:3

With that as our introduction, let's begin reading in John chapter 1, beginning in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study through the Gospel of John this morning. And I am going to read these three verses through and then we will take a look at what John is trying to show us.

JOHN 1:1-3

VERSE 1a, 2

What we are going to look at here, and it is so important because some of the cults will try to twist what John is saying, and that is – ***THE PRE-EXISTENCE OF CHRIST!***

One of the attributes of God is that He has always existed, and He will always exist, He is eternal! And I believe that is why John starts out by telling us that Jesus, the Word, has always existed because again, he is showing us that Jesus is Almighty God!

One writer put it like this in speaking of Jesus being eternal and what it means to be eternal. He wrote,

The word eternal means “everlasting, having no beginning and no end.” Psalm 90:2 tells us about God’s eternity: ***“Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.”***

Since human’s measure everything in time, it is very hard for us to conceive of something that had no beginning, but has always been, and will continue forever.

However, the Bible does not try to prove God’s existence or His eternity, but simply begins with the statement ***“In the beginning God...”*** (Genesis 1:1), indicating that at the beginning of recorded time, God was already in existence.

From duration stretching backward without limit to duration stretching forward without limit, from eternal ages to eternal ages, God was and is forever.

When Moses was commissioned by God to go to the Israelites with a message from Him, Moses wondered what he would tell them if they asked him what God’s name was. God’s reply is most revealing: ***“God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you’”*** (Exodus 3:14).

This signifies the real being of God, His self-existence, and that He is the Being of beings. It also describes His eternity and immutability, as well as His constancy and faithfulness in fulfilling His promises, because it includes all time, past, present, and future. The sense is, not only I am what I am at present, but I am what I have been, and I am what I shall be, and shall be what I am. God’s own words about His eternity speak to us from the pages of Scripture.

Jesus Christ, God incarnate, also verified His deity and His eternity to the people of His day by declaring to them, ***“Before Abraham was born, I AM”*** (John 8:58).

It is clear that Jesus was claiming to be God in flesh because the Jews, upon hearing this statement, tried to stone Him to death.

To the Jews, declaring oneself to be the eternal God was blasphemy and worthy of death (Leviticus 24:16).

Jesus was claiming to be eternal, just as His Father is eternal.

The apostle John also declared this truth regarding the nature of Christ: ***“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God”*** (John 1:1). Jesus and His Father are one in essence, they exist sans [without] time, and they share equally in the attribute of eternity.

- <https://bit.ly/3m9XKWH>

Now here’s the thing. If God is eternal, and He is, then if Jesus is also eternal or that He has always existed, then He is God! I hope that makes sense. You see, if you can show that Jesus is not eternal, that He was created by Almighty God, then He is not God and thus, He is not to be worshiped and for that matter, if He is not God we are in trouble. We are still dead in our trespasses and sins!

That is why John starts out by saying, **“In the beginning was the Word.”** And the idea here is that the Word, Jesus, existed before creation or even time!

How can I be so sure that is what John is saying?

Can’t he just be telling us that before creation the Word existed, but He is not eternal?

Not at all. You see, the verb “**was**” in the Greek is EN and it is in the imperfect tense and it means that the Word always existed.

In other words, there was never a point when He came into being!

Think of it like this. John is telling us, “*When all things began, the Word already was.*”

Now wait a minute. What about when the earth was created?

The Word existed!

What about when the angels were created?

The Word existed.

I may not understand how that can be, but it is what the Scriptures teach!

And for many, they struggle with this, that God is eternal. They want to know who created God! Let me share this with you, it may help. We are told,

A common argument from atheists and skeptics is that if all things need a cause, then God must also need a cause. The conclusion is that if God needed a cause, then God is not God (and if God is not God, then of course there is no God).

This is a slightly more sophisticated form of the basic question “Who made God?” Everyone knows that something does not come from nothing. So, if God is a “something,” then He must have a cause, right?

The question is tricky because it sneaks in the false assumption that God came from somewhere and then asks where that might be. The answer is that the question does not even make sense. It is like asking, “What does blue smell like?” Blue is not in the category of things that have a smell, so the question itself is flawed. In the same way, God is not in the category of things that are created or caused. God is uncaused and uncreated - He simply exists.

How do we know this? We know that from nothing, nothing comes.

So, if there were ever a time when there was absolutely nothing in existence, then nothing would have ever come into existence. But things do exist.

Therefore, since there could never have been absolutely nothing, something had to have always been in existence. That ever-existing thing is what we call God.

God is the uncaused Being that caused everything else to come into existence. God is the uncreated Creator who created the universe and everything in it.

- <https://bit.ly/2PmHPs6>

But where did God come from? Many want to know that answer and let me try to explain it like this. I am paraphrasing how someone answered this question.

First of all, the God of the Bible is not affected by or limited at all by *TIME*, *SPACE*, or *MATTER*!

If He is impacted by *TIME*, *SPACE*, or *MATTER* then He is not God!

TIME, *SPACE*, and *MATTER* are what we call a continuum. All of them have to come into existence at the same instance.

Think about it. If there was matter and no space, where would you put it!

Or, if there was matter and space but no time, when would you put it!

You cannot have *TIME*, *SPACE*, or *MATTER* independently of each other. They have to come into existence at the same time, simultaneously!

And the Bible does answer that, in just ten words. Genesis 1:1, “**In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.**”

Look at how this plays out.

In the beginning – time.

God created the heavens – space.

And the earth – matter.

And thus, the God who created them has to be outside of them and He is, He is eternal!

If He is limited by time – He is not God!

If He is limited by space – He is not God!

If He is limited by matter – He is not God!

The God who created the universe is outside of the universe. He is above it, beyond it, in it, through it, He is not affected by it!

If we can place an infinite God into our three-pound brain, then He would not be worthy to be worshiped!

But let me show you that God is outside *TIME*, *SPACE*, and *MATTER*!

In Isaiah 44:6-7 listen to what God tells us. We are told, **“Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: ‘I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God. And who can proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me, Since I appointed the ancient people. And the things that are coming and shall come, Let them show these to them.’”**

Because God is outside the space/time domain, He knows the beginning from the end. I have used this picture before, but I think it gives us the correct perspective.

Imagine a long parade, it goes for miles. For us, we are on street level standing in the middle of the parade route. And thus, we can see what is in front of us. We can't see the beginning, we can't see the end, we can't even see what is farther ahead of us or behind us. Thus, we can only speculate what is coming.

Now picture God. He is above the parade route, you might say. He is looking down upon it and thus, He can see the beginning of the parade, the middle of the parade and the end of the parade all at the same time.

Not only that, but He can tell us what is coming and that is our God. He knows the beginning from the end!

In Psalm 147:5 we are told, "**Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite.**"

I think we are all in agreement that God is all-knowing, He knows the beginning from the end, and He has told us what is coming to show us He is God, and we have nothing to fear, He is in control!

But what about Jesus, is He Almighty God or a lesser god as some like to say, or just a good teacher, a moral person, someone we can learn from?

And there are many today who try to deny the deity of Jesus and say that He was a created being, but that is not what the Scriptures tell us. You see, no matter how far back in time you go, Jesus was there, He was there before time began!

Now some would like to argue with that statement, that Jesus is eternal, that He has always existed, but let me tell you this. Instead of listening to what others are telling you about Jesus, why don't we let Him speak for Himself?

What do I mean by that?

Let the Scriptures tell us about Jesus and keep in mind that Jesus is called the Word, so I think we can be confident that what He is telling us is truth and what others say, if they contradict the Scriptures, it is not true.

You see, by saying Jesus is eternal, that He has always existed, it goes along with what the Scriptures teach us.

We see that in Micah 5:2, in speaking of the birth of the Messiah, **“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The one to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.”**

That phrase, **“from everlasting”** speaks of being beyond the vanishing point or that He is eternal!

Who was born in Bethlehem?

Jesus was!

Who was to be the ruler in Israel?

Jesus is!

Thus, who is it whose goings forth are from old, from everlasting?

Jesus!

In other words, the Word is eternal for He is Almighty God. I know I am going to say that a lot in our study of John, but it is important, it is foundational for us to understand that Jesus is Almighty God!

Now this Greek word that is used for **“word”** is LOGOS and it speaks of a collection of ideas or words.

For example, ancient Hebrew editions of the Old Testament change Exodus 19:17 (*Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God*) to *“Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet the word of God.”*

Why did they do that?

Because, in the mind of the ancient Jews, the phrase *“the word of God”* could be used to refer to God Himself.

Also, **“logos”** means word, but specifically, it means the spoken word or a statement. Jesus is God’s spoken word, according to John.

Let me sum this up for you with these words. I want to drive home this point of who Jesus is, Almighty God!

We are told,

Much as our words reveal to others our hearts and minds, so Jesus Christ is God’s “Word” to reveal His heart and mind to us. “He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father” (John 14:9).

A word is composed of letters, and Jesus Christ is “Alpha and Omega” (Rev 1:11), the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet.

According to Heb 1:1-3, Jesus Christ is God’s last Word to mankind, for He is the climax of divine revelation.

Jesus Christ is the eternal Word (vv. 1-2). He existed in the beginning, not because He had a beginning as a creature, but because He is eternal. He is God and He was with God.

“Before Abraham was, I am” (John 8:58).

In saying that, look at how John 1:1 could be translated here. ***“In beginning was continually the Word, the Word was continually toward God., and the Word was continually God.”***

In other words, Jesus is Almighty God, that is what John is trying to show us!

So, I think we have clearly seen – ***THE PRE-EXISTENCE OF CHRIST!***

VERSE 1:1b

As we have seen, Jesus is eternal and then John goes on to tell us that He has always been with God the Father.

That should just make sense. If Jesus has always existed, He has always been with the Father!

You see, there is only one God who is manifested in three distinct persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

That phrase, **“and the Word was with God”** can literally be translated, ***“the Word was continually toward God.”*** They were equals, God the Father did not create the Word because the Word always existed as does the Father and they saw eye to eye! They were equals!

Also, not only is Jesus eternal, not only has He always been with the Father, but He is also God, as I have said and we will deal more with this issue as we move to our next point in a few minutes, because it is controversial. And it really should not be unless you want to twist the Scriptures to believe what you want.

What I want to focus on here, like I have said, is that Jesus is equal with the Father, which again would make Jesus God just as the Father is God! But do the Scriptures support this statement, that Jesus is equal with the Father? Yes, they do. Let me show you what I mean.

In John chapter 5 we are told, **“Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God. Then Jesus answered and said to them . . . that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.”** John 5:18-19, 23.

Why did the Jews want to kill Jesus?

Because He, being a man, made Himself equal with God! They at least were honest about why they wanted to put Jesus to death.

And Jesus tells them that they should honor the Son just like they honor the Father, and what He is telling them is that the Son and the Father are equal! If you don't honor the Son then you don't honor the Father and the reason that we honor the Father is because He is God, and thus, we honor the Son because He is God!

Also, in John 12:45 Jesus tells us, **“And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me.”**

Here we see Jesus stress the unity that He has with the Father, they are equal.

Also, in John 14:9-11 we are told, **“Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.’”**

Philip wants to see God the Father and Jesus explains to Philip and His other men that if they have seen Him, then they have seen the Father!

Listen again to what Jesus tells Philip, this is important, “**. . . He who has seen Me has seen the Father . . .**” In other words, if you want to know what the Father is all about, look to Jesus, He is the perfect representation of the Father! To know Jesus is to know God the Father!

In fact, in Revelation 1:5 we are told that Jesus is “**the faithful witness**” of the Father.

Also, in Hebrews 1:1-3 Paul tells us, “**God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the *express image of His person*, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.**”

Paul tells us here in Hebrews that He is “**the express image of His person**” or that He is an exact likeness to God the Father. In other words, Jesus is God!

And listen to what Paul tells us in Philippians 2:6 about Jesus, “**who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God.**”

Paul is telling us that Jesus did not try to steal His deity from God, He didn't try to take away something that was not His.

You see, Jesus is God, equal with the Father; He is not “*a god*” like some teach, but Almighty God!

Thus, he didn't have to take it because it was already His!

But what about John 14:28, doesn't that say that the Father is greater than Jesus? Listen to what Jesus tells us, “**You have heard Me say to you, ‘I am going away and coming back to you’ If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, ‘I am going to the Father,’ for My Father is greater than I.**”

The Amplified Bible puts it like this, **“You heard Me tell you, I am going away and I am coming [back] to you. If you [really] loved Me, you would have been glad, because I am going to the Father; for the Father is greater and mightier than I am.”**

So if the Father is greater than Jesus, is Jesus equal with the Father?

We can't ignore that question or try to avoid it. So what does it mean?

Please understand that when Jesus said that the Father is greater, He did not mean it in terms of His essence but instead in His role and by virtue of status in heaven. Keep in mind that when Jesus spoke these words, He was on the earth and had assumed the position as a servant.

I hope that makes sense.

If not, listen to what Paul tells us in Philippians 2:5-8, **“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”**

In the Incarnation, Jesus emptied Himself of some of His Godly attributes and surrendered Himself to God the Father. He was still fully God and fully Man in the Incarnation!

And that should just make sense, that Jesus is God. You see, if the Father is God, then the Son must be God if they are equal and that is what we are looking at here – ***THE EQUALITY OF CHRIST!***

VERSE 1:1c

In this verse we see – ***THE ONENESS OF CHRIST WITH GOD!*** We can make this very simple and just say – ***JESUS IS GOD!***

I know we have covered some of this and really, all these points interact with each other because they are saying or pointing to the same thing, the deity of Jesus!

This is pretty simple. We see that Jesus Christ claimed absolute equality with God.

Thus, He could say, “**I and the Father are one.**” (John 10:30)

“**He who sees Me sees the One who sent Me.**” (John 12:45)

“**He who has seen Me has seen the Father.**” (John 14:9-10)

And thus, we can conclude that “**in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.**” (Colossians 2:9)

And we can worship Him accordingly as “**our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus.**” (Titus 2:13)

But make no mistake about it, the cults love to put Jesus down to a mere man or a lesser God.

One group that tries to do this is the Jehovah Witnesses. They try to negate this fact by translating the last part of John 1:1 like this, “**And the Word was a god.**”

You see, they don’t believe in the Trinity, they don’t believe Jesus is God, but just a god, and thus the reason for their translating this verse like this. It is not Scripturally based as we will see.

You see, the only problem with that is there is no Greek scholar who would agree with the way they translated this verse, Christian or non-Christian.

Now to try and make their point, they quote Dr. Mantey, a Greek Scholar, but he wrote them a letter back in 1974, which I have a copy of, saying that he requests not only their apology for misquoting him for the past 24 years, but to remove this from their material!

He wrote, “A **GROSSLY MISLEADING TRANSLATION**. It is neither scholarly nor reasonable to translate John 1:1 ‘the Word was a god.’ But of all the scholars in the world, so far as we know, none have translated this verse as Jehovah’s Witnesses have done.”

Another Greek scholar wrote, “I can assure you that the rendering which the Jehovah’s Witnesses give John 1:1 is not held by any reputable Greek scholar.” (Dr. Charles L. Feinberg)

And lastly, one commentator wrote, “The deliberate distortion of truth by this sect is seen in their New Testament translations. John 1:1 is translated: ‘. . . the Word was a god,’ a translation which is **grammatically impossible**. It is abundantly clear that a sect which can translate the New Testament like that is intellectually dishonest.” (Dr. William Barclay)

But do the Scriptures teach us that Jesus is Almighty God and not just “*a god*” as the Jehovah Witnesses try to tell us?

You bet they do, and we will look at a few of them so you can see what the Bible says of the deity of Jesus!

In Isaiah 42:8 we are told, “**I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images.**”

God is not going to share His glory with anyone, not even a lesser god, if there was such a thing, and there isn’t!

And, of course in Deuteronomy 5:7 we are told, “**You shall have no other gods before Me.**”

Do you see how foolish it is to say that Jesus is a lesser god? I hope so. God says that He will not have any other gods before Him and thus, if Jesus was a lesser god, which the Jehovah Witnesses say that He is, then God the Father would not recognize Him!

I think those two verses we just read and what John says in the first two verses of his Gospel are very clear.

The Son is distinct from the Father and the Father from the Son, and yet they are equally God, one God manifested in three distinct persons!

So, Jesus can't be "*a god*" but is He Almighty God, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity?

I do love what we are told in Isaiah 44:6. We are told that there is only one God manifested in two distinct persons, and in other parts of the Bible we see that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Holy Trinity.

Now, what does Isaiah say that makes Jesus Almighty God?

We read in Isaiah "**Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God.'**" Isaiah 44:6.

This is so clear to me and hopefully to you.

First, we see God the Father or *Yahweh the King of Israel*.

And then we see Jesus, the Word, God the Son as we are told, *His Redeemer the Yahweh of hosts!*

You see, not only Yahweh of Israel, but there is the Redeemer, Yahweh of hosts!

I think it is very clear that it is not saying that God the Father is the Redeemer as it reads, "**And his redeemer, the LORD of hosts.**"

I do love how clear that is unless you reject it and then you have to come up with all kinds of crazy ideas of what this means! And believe me, they do!

In Titus 2:13-14 we are told, **“looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.”**

Jesus can't be *“a god”* for the Lord said that we are to have no other gods before Him. Thus, Jesus must be Almighty God and He is, and we are awaiting His return!

In Matthew 1:22-23 we are told, **“So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ‘Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,’ which is translated, ‘God with us.’”**

Did you see that? Who is with us in the Incarnation? It is God. Jesus is Almighty God!

Then, in II Peter 1:1 we are told, **“Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ.”**

Who is our God and Savior? Jesus Christ!

I hope this is clear to you because we are living in the day when even the Protestant church has begun to deny the deity of Jesus and many other foundational doctrines!

And remember what Thomas said as he saw the risen Lord, in John 20:28, **“My Lord and my God!”**

Not *“a god”* but God!

And if you are still struggling with this or are unsure, we see God the Father call Jesus God in Hebrews 1:8-9.

Paul put it like this as he quotes out of the Old Testament, **“But to the Son He says: ‘Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.’”**

Now if you want to deny that God the Father has called Jesus God and not *“a god”* you have bigger problems!

You see, in John 8:24 Jesus said, **“Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins.”**

The *“He”* was added for clarity, but it is not there in the original.

It should read, **“if you do not believe that I am, you will die in your sins.”**

In other words, Jesus is saying that He is the Great I Am, the voice from the burning bush in Exodus. Thus, if you reject the deity of Jesus Christ, then you will die in your sins. This is very serious, it is a matter of life and death!

I don’t see how you can come to the conclusion that Jesus is not God unless you come with preconceived ideas or you have other material besides the Bible to deceive you down that path. It is very clear; Jesus is God, the second person of the Holy Trinity!

As one writer put it, *“The simple sentence of verse 1 is the most compact and pulsating theological statement in all Scripture. Jesus was always existing from all eternity as God, in perfect fellowship with God the Father and (though not mentioned) the Holy Spirit.”* (R. Kent Hughes, John, p. 17)

I think you can see – ***THE ONENESS OF CHRIST WITH GOD!***

VERSE 3

And our last point is – ***THE OMNIPOTENCE OF CHRIST!*** And what I mean by that is that Jesus is all powerful!

If Jesus is eternal. If He is equal with God the Father. If He is God, then what John says here should just make sense. Jesus was actively involved in creation.

And if you doubt that, then listen to what Paul tells us in Colossians 1:16-17, **“For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.”**

Not only did Jesus create all things, along with the Father and the Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:1-2), but He also holds them all together.

How do I know that?

Because the word **“consist”** literally means ***“held together.”***

I understand that those in the science community laugh at that fact, what we believe, that Jesus is the One who holds not only our lives together, but everything!

But think about Coulomb’s Law of Electricity that shows like charges repel each other and opposite charges attract each other.

Now think of an atom that has protons in the nucleus and electrons orbiting around it.

What holds those protons together?

We aren’t sure and the scientists tell us that maybe it is ***“atomic glue”*** or something like that. They laugh at us believing that Jesus holds everything together and, since they have no explanation for how they are held together, they say it is ***“atomic glue!”***

And we need to understand that there is a tremendous amount of power in that nucleus of the atom!

Let me put this into perspective for you on how powerful these forces are and even more amazing, how in the world do they even stay together.

If you were to take one tablespoon of positive charges and place them on the North Pole and then take another tablespoon of positive charges and place them on the South Pole, keeping in mind that like charges repel each other.

Also note that the diameter between the poles, if you could cut right through the earth, is 7,899.80 miles apart.

In saying that, it would take 30 thousand tons of pressure on each of the poles to keep them from pushing away from each other!

So what holds them together?

Not what but who, and laugh if you want, but it is Jesus Christ and when He let's go, well, there is a big bang!

Peter speaks of this in II Peter chapter 3, prior to the creation of the new heavens and the new earth with the new Jerusalem, all of this will be destroyed!

Peter put it like this in II Peter 3:10, **“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.”**

Think of the power of Jesus, holding together all of the atoms in the universe!

By Him all things are held together!

The wonderful power of Jesus!

Again, people laugh when we speak of creation and how God has created everything. But what they believe is funny, if it was not so sad. They believe that everything came from nothing and that nothing became more and more complex, adding more and more information and presto, life from non-life!

Before I share with you the immensity of our universe, let me show you what evolution has to say in regard to how things got started, or their version of the Big Bang! We are told,

The Big Bang is a scientific theory about how the universe started, and then made the groups of stars (called galaxies) we see today. The universe began as very hot, small, and dense, with no stars, atoms, form, or structure (called a “singularity”).

At its simplest, it talks about the universe as we know it starting with a small singularity, then inflating over the next 13.8 billion years to the cosmos that we know today.

In the first second after the universe began, the surrounding temperature was about 10 billion degrees Fahrenheit (5.5 billion Celsius), according to NASA. The cosmos contained a vast array of fundamental particles such as neutrons, electrons and protons. These decayed or combined as the universe got cooler.

- Rishabh Bishnoi

So, you have this very dense singularity that explodes and bingo, we have the universe, the earth with all life forms? ***“Oh, but you need billions of years to have this happen!”***

Were you there, did you see it happen? And when does an explosion cause order and life? It causes destruction and death!

I realize that many people, even Christians believe in evolution, not sure how, but they do. Let me share this with you to show you what the heavens are like, the enormity of it all. We are told,

There are about 100 billion stars in the average galaxy, and there are at least one hundred million galaxies in known space. Einstein believed that we have scanned with our largest telescopes only one billionth of theoretical space. This means that there are probably something like 10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 stars in space (ten octillion).

How many is that? 1,000 thousands = a million; 1,000 millions = a billion; 1,000 billions = a trillion; 1,000 trillions = a quadrillion; 1,000 quadrillions = quintillion; 1,000 quintillions = a sextillion; 1,000 sextillions = a septillion; 1,000 septillions = an octillion. So ten octillion is a 10 with twenty-seven zeros behind it. And Jesus created them all! [In fact, He knows them all by name, the stars He created!]

Not only is he the Creator of the macrocosm of the universe, but also the microcosm in the inner universe of the atom.

- R. Kent Hughes, John – That You May Believe, p. 17

That is our God, that is our Jesus, He created all things and in Him all things consist or are held together!

I don't know what you are going through this morning. Maybe it is pain, disappointment, heartache, loss of someone or whatever. But here is the thing that I do know. That Jesus is eternal, He has always existed. He is equal with God the Father. He is One with God because He is God.

And because of all that, because He is God, He not only holds this universe together, but He holds our lives together. Look to Him, let Him guide you, direct you, give you that peace that surpasses all understanding. He loves you more than you will ever know.

Jesus is our God, and as John lays down this foundation for us in John 1:1-18, he then will build upon that foundation with the life of Jesus, and we will see that as we go through this Gospel!

And I will close with this, reminding you again why John wrote this Gospel, “**And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.**” John 20:30-31.