

*[00:00:16]* Appreciate your prayers this weekend for a small little team of people from King Street that are down in Haiti this morning. For five years we've had a relationship with a church in our Chi a Haiti north of Port au Prince about an hour and a half and we have seen God do some amazing things there in Archaia. We've seen a beautiful church constructed with a balcony and a worshipping community a school building has been built. Couple hundred kids learning in this school everyday uniforms. We've sent training teams down there leadership teams. It's really been exciting what these last five years have held for us in our partnership with Archaia. And we're now looking to take another step. So Pastor J. Rodney Mose Rick Sanders are down doing an exploratory trip on the southern peninsula of Haiti. They are down there this morning. If you are a couple of years ago you might have remembered that we took up an offering because a hurricane blew through the southern peninsula of Haiti and just demolished a number of churches that were down there. And that's exactly where Jay and Rodney and Rick are this morning down in that town there are some pastors that I know that they've tried to rebuild a little bit but they still need some rules on a number of the buildings and whatnot so we're just looking at some next steps and they'll be there for next. Another couple of days so hold them in your prayers. I am very excited about where we're headed and what that will look like in the in the years to come. So exciting stuff. *[00:01:54][1:37.7]*

*[00:01:54]* We are told in Hebrews chapter four and verse 12 that the word of God is living an active and sharper than a double edged sword piercing to the very Joyent and bone marrow of a person's being. If I were to hand you right now a sword that was double edged and as sharp as anything that you have ever experienced unsheathed and if I were to hand that sword to you I'm going to ask you would you handle that sword. With respect I would think so. I don't think you'd want to know. I think I think we would all handle that sword with great respect and great reverence and a lot of ways and we are told that the word of God is is that sword fact in Ephesians 6 we're told that that the Bible is actually the sword of the spirit which is the word of God. And with that in mind and honoring scripture that way I don't ask you to do this often but those of you over in Baker here in the sanctuary. You know what even at home as you are listening right now I'm going to invite you to your feet as we pay honor to the Word of God. And I'm going to ask you to grab your bible I'll put it on the screen as well but there's something special about reading it. John Chapter One John Chapter One we're going to read together these first 18 verses of John with the thought in mind of honoring and reverence saying the holy awesome powerful living word of God. So together let's read what is known as the prologue of John verses 1 through 18. *[00:03:56][2:01.7]*

*[00:03:56]* This is out of the NIV in the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning through Him all things were made without him and nothing was made that has been made in him was life and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light so that through him all might believe he himself was not the light. He came only as a witness to the light the true light that gives light to every one was coming into the world. He was in the world and though the world was made through him the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him to those who believed in his name he gave the right to become children of odd children born not of natural descent nor of human decision or a husband's will but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory the glory of the one and only son who came from the father full of grace and truth. John testified concerning him. *[00:05:45][1:48.7]*

*[00:05:45]* He cried out saying this is the one I spoke about when I said He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given for the law was given through Moses grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God but the one and only son who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the father has made him known. *[00:06:26][40.6]*

*[00:06:26]* The word of god please be seated Amen. So. *[00:06:31][5.6]*

*[00:06:32]* I won't ask anyone in the room ever heard of osmium osmium. I see that hand we have a chemist among us. Anyone else. *[00:06:43][10.7]*

[00:06:43] Osmium two people know what it is. Well then it's good you came this morning because osmium is the densest chemical element. How about that of all the elements. Osmium is considered the densest closest act together with a metal osmium has a density of around 22 grams per cubic centimeter. About twice the density of lead. Now just to make this chest as clear as I can make it I want you to see I mean you look here and you say well there's no there's a D. [00:07:24][40.4]

[00:07:25] There is a d over the part that doesn't have the D in the parentheses part. And over here we can see the movement from homo. To O. [00:07:40][14.6]

[00:07:43] And it's got a little cool little thing he's there to show you. This is important. Osmium all right let me. [00:07:52][9.3]

[00:07:53] Let me try to make it a little simpler to understand. This is a paper bag. Grocery bag and if I were to fill this grocery bag almost to the top with osmium it would weigh a little more than a Ford f 150. [00:08:16][22.2]

[00:08:19] That's dense. [00:08:20][0.9]

[00:08:23] That's dense and as I thought about the prologue of John these 18 verses known as the prologue the introduction to the Gospel of John as I thought about preaching today about and out of John's prologue. I thought of density. I thought of a paper bag filled with the most densest 18 verses. [00:08:58][35.2]

[00:08:58] Really I would tell you in all of scripture I listened to a number of sermons from some great preachers through the years and preparing for this message today. I'm just loving digging into the Gospel of John with you and one of the sermons I listened to was of a great theologian author. R. C. Sproul some of you may have heard of of RC Sproul and there was a message RC Sproul preached that he was talking about John 1 1 through 18 the prologue and he said this. I was really struck. No portion of the New Testament captured the imagination and the attention of the Christian intellectual community for the first three centuries. Then the prologue to John's Gospel Kate let that one sink in for a minute. [00:09:51][52.0]

[00:09:52] The first three centuries the first three hundred years of the church. That's a long time 300 years and these were the foundational years. [00:10:03][11.4]

[00:10:04] Of the church working out there are statements of faith creedal statements the Apostles Creed the nice seeing creed the various creedal statements where they would come together and meet and discuss who is Jesus what is God's word to us. [00:10:26][21.6]

[00:10:26] What about the trinity what about. [00:10:28][2.3]

[00:10:29] So as the first 300 years the church was meeting. [00:10:32][3.7]

[00:10:33] No other portion of the New Testament captured the imagination and the attention of these folds than these 18 verses in the Church's attempt to understand the person of Christ in Trinitarian terms. [00:10:49][15.8]

[00:10:49] God the Father Son and Spirit. [00:10:51][1.7]

[00:10:51] The church was virtually check this out virtually preoccupied with this high view of Christ that is expressed in the prologue. Do you want to hear what he's saying here. He's saying that these first 18 verses are so dense so heavy that it took them three hundred years to even start to pull them apart. To start to understand who God is and who Jesus is when we look at the at the prologue. [00:11:27][35.7]

[00:11:28] It is incredibly powerful the great news is I'm going to be able to really unpack it for you in the next 18 minutes so you are in the right place now. [00:11:38][9.9]

[00:11:40] That's my point. [00:11:41][0.8]

[00:11:44] But let's at least give it a look. Let's at least pull out some of the big parts. [00:11:51][7.4]

[00:11:52] First 14 the word became flesh incarnation Christmas we can get that right. The word became flesh and made his a person dwelling among us what do we see in verse 14. The word is clearly Jesus. In fact word of God is one of Jesus names. Revelation Chapter 19 is describing don't look at it but I'll read it for you real quick verses 11 down to 13 is describing the return of Jesus at the end of times and John. John writes I saw heaven standing open there before me a white horse whose rider is called Faithful and True with justice. He judges and wages war his eyes like blazing fire on his head or many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself he is dressed in a robe dipped in blood and his name is capital W. word of God. The word is Jesus. [00:13:06][1:13.8]

[00:13:06] We have seen his glory the glory of the one and only son Jesus is the one and only son who came from the father. They were establishing some really basic truths. [00:13:22][15.2]

[00:13:22] The word is Jesus Jesus is the one to look at verses 1 through 5. In the beginning was the word. What do we see there Jesus existed in the beginning. Harkening back to the first four words of the whole Bible in the beginning Jesus but not only did Jesus exist in the beginning and the word was with God JESUS WAS WITH GOD. This establishes that there are two persons present in in this particular verse God the Father Jesus the son. We also know. That the Holy Spirit was present that's not part of this prologue because John is focusing on Jesus but we see Jesus was with God the Father and the word was God. [00:14:23][1:00.5]

[00:14:24] Jesus was not only with God but he was God. What does that mean. [00:14:29][5.6]

[00:14:30] In my basic layman terms it means that Jesus and the father and the Holy Spirit are all three made of God DNA god stuff not human stuff not mortal stuff non material stuff not created stuff but uncreated stuff uncreated DNA God DNA three distinct persons not the same person but all three made of the same God DNA together. [00:15:06][36.1]

[00:15:06] Jesus in the beginning with God the Father was God himself through him all things were made without him. [00:15:17][10.7]

[00:15:17] Nothing was made that has been made. What do we see there. Jesus created everything. [00:15:23][6.3]

[00:15:24] So when we read of creation in Genesis 1 1 we see clearly who's doing the creating Jesus the power of his word. [00:15:36][11.9]

[00:15:37] Let there be lie. [00:15:41][4.0]

[00:15:44] And there was light. [00:15:44][0.7]

[00:15:46] Fact In him was life and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. Jesus is the source of light and life jumped down to verse 12. Yet to all who did receive him. [00:16:04][18.1]

[00:16:04] To those who believed in his name he gave the right to become children of God. The power of the name of Jesus is the power of rebirth. [00:16:18][13.2]

*[00:16:19] Rebirth. [00:16:20][0.8]*

*[00:16:20] Children born not of natural descent nor of human decision nor of a husband's will but born of God. Anyone who receives Jesus who believes in his name is reborn as a child of God. [00:16:35][14.7]*

*[00:16:36] You talk about the F 150 in a grocery bag. [00:16:39][3.8]*

*[00:16:40] My goodness the power of what is being said and I ask this question why did John begin his gospel this way. Why. [00:16:51][10.6]*

*[00:16:52] Why did John introduce as gospel with such or such clear declaration of who Jesus is. How many of you are familiar with the words inductive and deductive. These two words are ascribed to all different ways of reasoning logic. There is inductive which is basically bottom up reasoning. You start with a question and you work your way through to you come to a conclusion deductive is the other way it is. Top down reasoning you start with a declaration and then you support it with various proofs that back it up. Bottom up top down. This is also true in the way people preach or the way that they write a good mystery is deductive or inductive. [00:17:49][57.2]*

*[00:17:50] There's a little quiz for you is a good mystery novel inductive or deductive the answer is inductive you start with a question what's the question in a good murder mystery whodunit. [00:18:02][11.9]*

*[00:18:03] I don't know. [00:18:03][0.4]*

*[00:18:04] And then you look at the clues and come to a conclusion. If you read a deductive version of a mystery model novel it would start with John killed Sam. Now let's get into the mystery of this novel. [00:18:17][12.9]*

*[00:18:20] Well no more mystery and or jonquils inductive preaching asks the question right bottom up. [00:18:28][8.0]*

*[00:18:28] You start with a question and you arrive at the answer. Toward the end of the sermon deductive is the opposite in deductive. See you didn't even realize this was going on. Did you. Head. Yet. Indeed octave preaching. You give the declarative statement up front and then support it. So the styles differ by whether the listener hears the point you're going to make upfront or they hear the question and then arrive at the answer through a progression of my making sense. Does this make sense. Why do I bring this up because it is absolutely pertinent as we enter the Gospel of John vs. Matthew Mark and Luke you probably didn't realize that Matthew Mark and Luke basically wrote inductive gospels. [00:19:16][47.3]*

*[00:19:16] They started all three of them started with a question. [00:19:21][4.1]*

*[00:19:21] That question was Who is Jesus. [00:19:25][3.7]*

*[00:19:26] Who. Let me give you an example. I know I'm not preaching out of Mark today but look with me real quickly Mark. Chapter 4 I'm going to just illustrate this for you real quick. So it kind of jumps off the page at you when you start seeing that you go check that out. [00:19:39][13.2]*

*[00:19:41] Maher Chapter 4 you've got Jesus Calling the disciples John being one of them. [00:19:48][6.7]*

*[00:19:48] Peter James and they are following Jesus but they don't really know who he is. [00:19:57][8.3]*

[00:19:58] They are betting on banking their life on the fact that he's important but they don't. How do I know they don't know who he is. Put put them in the boat with him. [00:20:11][13.4]

[00:20:11] Jesus they go out late at night and. [00:20:14][2.6]

[00:20:14] And a big storm blows up Verse 37 mark for the boats nearly swamp Jesus is actually asleep and the disciples rouse him and say teacher don't you care if we drown. [00:20:30][15.8]

[00:20:31] Can we tell you right now. They wouldn't have asked that question if they knew who he was. [00:20:36][5.0]

[00:20:37] Is God going to drown. [00:20:39][1.4]

[00:20:44] I'll answer that one. No. [00:20:45][1.5]

[00:20:48] He got up rebuked the wind and the waves quiet. Be still then the winds died down completely calm his disciple. He said to his disciples Why are you so afraid kill you. Do you still have no faith faith in white. [00:21:03][14.9]

[00:21:04] Who he was that he's God. [00:21:06][1.8]

[00:21:06] In fact they were terrified look at verse 41. They were terrified and asked each other. Ah. Who is this. [00:21:16][9.5]

[00:21:18] Right inductive starting with a question Who is Jesus then it moves to a gradual sense of awareness. [00:21:26][8.0]

[00:21:26] I will walk you through it but if you were to look at Mark Chapter 8 verses 27 to 29 for those of you taking notes on all we have. That's the description of Jesus intercessory Avila by saying to his disciples hey guys who do people say I am. [00:21:40][14.8]

[00:21:41] Who do people say I am. Oh well some say your John the Baptist others say your Alijah. Okay that's cool. What. What question does users ask next. What do you say. What about you. Who am I. It's the question of the Gospels. Who Emma Well Peter you got all love Peter. [00:22:05][24.0]

[00:22:05] He says what. [00:22:06][1.1]

[00:22:08] You're the messiah I'm going to tell you right now this is still gradual awareness because we come to a scenario in fact pointed out here in a minute where even if the resurrection Peter didn't fully understand what was going on but it was gradual awareness really the cool thing about the gospel of Margaritis billion cool things but one of them is you and look at Mark OK. [00:22:30][22.2]

[00:22:30] Taking notes at home. [00:22:31][0.7]

[00:22:31] Chapter 15 verse 30. Oh I have to look 39 38. Mark 15 verse thirty nine. [00:22:41][9.6]

[00:22:42] This is the cross and this is the whole point of the Gospel of Mark. [00:22:48][6.0]

[00:22:49] To answer the question Who is Jesus. [00:22:51][2.3]

[00:22:51] We've got gradual awareness. We've got the disciples answering the question but then we come down to the cross and we find at the cross. [00:22:59][8.1]

[00:22:59] And by the way I mean. Mark was written for a gentile audience. [00:23:03][3.6]

[00:23:04] A lot of people living in the Roman world gentiles us most and at the cross we have a Roman centurion that I just got to read for you. [00:23:13][8.8]

[00:23:14] And when the Centurion who stood there in front of Jesus saw how he died. [00:23:20][5.7]

[00:23:21] He said surely what did he say. Come on. [00:23:25][4.9]

[00:23:27] You are the son of God. Inductive coming down to a conclusion. [00:23:35][8.0]

[00:23:36] You flip it around and you look at John and John begins with the declaration you are Messiah I mean my goodness. Think of the grocery bag full of osmium. There has never been a more Powerpack description of who Jesus is ever penned in the history of the world three hundred years they're trying to figure this baby out. You are messiah. But then John then follows it with confirming signs I'm so excited this year to preach there John. We're going to look at all these signs that point back to this reality and ultimately John 2031. I have written these things so that you might not believe with what I started out with telling you that Jesus is the Christ the son of the living God and that by believing you might have a life in his name. John wants us to know in 18 verses what it took him three years to figure out. [00:24:42][1:06.1]

[00:24:44] What that would sink him. [00:24:44][0.8]

[00:24:46] He wants us to know in 18 verses what it took him three years to figure out and it took him three years. [00:24:56][10.4]

[00:24:57] Because we've come I preached on this mention this last Sunday at the at the tomb. [00:25:03][5.4]

[00:25:03] Peter and John are running to the tomb right. They get there. Peter goes in first John then goes in they look in the tomb. [00:25:10][6.7]

[00:25:10] They see the streets of London lying there and it wasn't until that moment that they fully believed what did they believe. [00:25:22][11.5]

[00:25:22] What did John believe him Son of God. [00:25:31][9.2]

[00:25:33] Death could not hold back John even gives us the parentheses since day him and Peter still don't understand even to this point up to this point from the scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead he still didn't get it until this point it took John three years to figure out exactly who Jesus was. And that's why he writes a deductive gospel. He's going to tell you right out of the gate who Jesus is let me impact the bag for you one more time. The word is Jesus Jesus is the one and only son who came from the Father Jesus existed in the beginning. Jesus was with God the Father and was God himself Jesus created everything Jesus is the source of light and life. And anyone who receives Jesus who believes in his name is reborn as a child of God Church. That's the good news. [00:26:41][1:08.2]

[00:26:42] Many a man. [00:26:45][3.2]

[00:26:47] And it doesn't get any more clear than dance but it's clear and that's exactly why John wrote his gospel you know what we don't need to waste any more time figuring this out. [00:27:10][23.0]

[00:27:12] You if you don't know who Jesus is over there and Baker at home if you don't know who Jesus is. I just told you one day one day every one will see him for who he is every knee will bow. One day the weight of the truth of who Jesus is. Will fall on every heart. [00:27:48][36.9]

*[00:27:50]* You know what it says on that day when Jesus comes back and the trumpet sounds it says and the nations will you know the next word is mourn. *[00:28:01][10.6]*

*[00:28:04]* Do you know why the nations will mourn because they hadn't believed if the opportunity today put your faith in Jesus Pleven who he is believed that he died for you believe that he rose again believed that he ascended to the father believe that he rules and Reigns believe that he is the source of light and life. *[00:28:33][29.1]*

*[00:28:33]* Believe that he can give you life believe that you're born again transformed when you invite him into your heart believe it humble your heart before Jesus and believe it. Confessed Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead and you shall now be saved. The man. *[00:28:59][26.4]*

*[00:29:00]* Jesus what a beautiful name it is worship team. Go ahead and join me on the platform. *[00:29:07][6.7]*

*[00:29:08]* Over and Baker saying what a beautiful name it is. Jesus the name of Jesus. *[00:29:15][7.5]*

*[00:29:16]* Jesus. That is the name of Jesus. Every Knee Shall Bow every tongue confess or do we put our faith in you right now. Jesus we cry out to you. *[00:29:25][8.8]*

*[00:29:25]* Save me filmy forgive me. Rescue me transform me we give you our hearts in Jesus name. *[00:29:38][12.2]*

*[29:21.6]*