

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: [John 1:1-14](#).
- B. I was given a suggestion by one of our good brothers that I should try to get away from the pulpit and preach out here in the middle. So I'm going to try it.
- C. Great to see that everyone who made the trip to Tulsa made it back to Decatur safe and sound, well I hope sound!
- D. Open your Bibles to John 1, the first 14 verses. We will look closely at this passage in just a few minutes.

I. MAN, BEASTS, AND THEIR RESPECTIVE ELEMENTS.

- A. In today's society many, many people have traded their manual for meaning for a survival kit.
- B. Included in that survival kit are drugs, pills, alcohol, etc.
- C. Problems in government, business, homes, and the church,
ARE PEOPLE NOT KNOWING HOW TO ACT AS PERSONS!
- D. Animals have their element to live in and can teach us about our element that we must live in.
- E. BIRD, man's attempt to fly, AIR is its element.
- F. FISH, man's attempt to swim, WATER is its element.
- G. You wonder what gets into a man to make him,
 - 1. Kill 8 nurses (Richard Speck).
 - 2. Kill and sexually abuse 30 young boys and bury them in his own house (John Wayne Gacy).
 - 3. Be such a leader of people that 900 follow him to a foreign land, and at his command commit suicide (Jim Jones).
- H. Man must understand, appreciate, and live in his element to be pleasing in this life. Man without his element is a life of survival, not meaning.

II. MAN'S ELEMENT IS GOD.

- A. One doesn't have to read very far to see man's element (Gen. 1:26,27).
- B. Mankind is seeking his element, and Genesis 1,2, and 3 says that we are made in the likeness, in the image, by the best and greatest, and wisest, and most powerful, entity ever revealed to man--God.
- C. No creature ever made reflects God like man does. That is why God said not to make any graven image and worship them, because they are nothing like God.
- D. Created for good works (Eph. 2:10).
- E. So what does all this have to do with John 1? Answer: Man has been living out of his element ever since his expulsion from the garden of Eden! We need HELP, we need an EXAMPLE, we need guidance.
- F. See John 1:1-3, 14.

III. JESUS, THE 'LOGOS', WAS GOD, AND WITH GOD.

- A. Both man and God had a slight problem, because God was perfect and spiritual, while man was physical and sinful. So God in His wisdom merged spiritual perfection with human physical imperfection.
- B. Jesus became flesh and dwelt among us to show us how to live and be persons.
- C. The Greek term used in John 1 is "logos" which is very interesting.
 - 1. Some 500 years before Christ the philosopher "hair-ee-clee-tus" said that "you can't step into the same river twice."
 - 2. Others disagreed, but he explained his words.

- 3. The universe is changing constantly but always in an orderly, systematic, planned way (not chaos), and the item that keeps it working is "Logos."
- D. Jesus was WITH God. Example of husband and wife. If we want; to know the very mind of God we do so through Jesus Christ.
- E. Jesus WAS God. He was God in the flesh (Jn. 1:18). Example of the mirror.

IV. WE MUST BELIEVE THAT JESUS WAS IN THE FLESH.

- A. We must believe this so that we might overcome temptation in our lives.
- B. If Jesus was not in the flesh when Satan tempted Him in the wilderness, then we can find no strength from Jesus in overcoming our temptations in the flesh (Heb.4:15).
- C. If Jesus was not in the flesh when He died on the cross we have no hope of overcoming the great equalizer, death (Heb. 2:14-15)!
- D. By knowing that Jesus was born in a stable, raised as a simple carpenter's son, tempted in every way possible, spit upon, hated, despised, mocked, and bled and died; He can relate with anyone and everyone who wants rest and life.
- E. Jesus said that He not only came to give life but give it ABUNDANTLY (Jn. 10:10)!

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. As long as man continues to sin, he is living outside his element and will never find happiness. Only in God can man have purpose and meaning in his life.
- B. Thanks be to God that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, read Jn. 1:1-5, 9-13.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.