

**"THE PROLOGUE OF
JOHN'S GOSPEL"**

Introduction

1. The Person + ministry of Christ given in 4 Gospels
2. They begin each at a different point
3. John makes clear that Christ is God

1. JESUS IS GOD

- 1) "Beginning": see Genesis 1:1. Christ was there then.
- 2) Explain: "Word" – only in John. Meaning
- 3) "With God..., was God". Cp all heresies, especially Arius v. Athanasius (terms – the importance of one little letter 'i'!)
- 4) Christ is joint-creator: "all things" – so He is not Himself a mere creature
- 5) Christ's relationship to mankind: v.4-5
- 6) Christ is the Light of the world: v.7-9
DOCTRINE: Only as you have His light can you know God in a saving way.
- 7) V.10: again: Creator
- 8) Lord of the Jews: v.11 – and rejected
- 9) Mediator + Saviour: v.12-13

2. JESUS IS MAN

- 1) v.14: a most amazing verse:
 - (i) Not "Kenosis" (self-emptying of the divine nature

(ii) but the addition of a human nature

- 2) "He became what he was not..."
 - (i) he must become man to save us
 - (ii) he retains the human nature in glory forever
 - (iii) a perfect Mediator who has gone through and experienced
APPLICATION: Jesus understands us.
- 3) One Person with two natures:
 - (i) two perfect entire natures
 - (ii) a far greater than Adam
OBSERVE: One who cannot fail in the covenant
- 4) All the obedience and suffering of Christ is of infinite value:
 - (i) because he is God in our nature
 - (ii) and so can put right all that Adam put wrong
 - (iii) we are better off in Christ than Adam at the first
OBSERVE: "posse non peccare": "non posse peccare"

3. JOHN'S WITNESS IS A RICH COMFORT: v.15-18

- 1) a testimony to Christ's godhood: v.15
- 2) a testimony to Christ's infinite fulness: v.16
- 3) a testimony to Christ's saving power: v.17
- 4) a testimony to Christ's intimacy with God the Father: v.18
ILLUSTRATION: Scott of the Antarctic – failed!

CONCLUSION

1. To believe in Jesus as Lord is to be eternally saved.
2. It is to be eternally safe – none can pluck us from God's hand
3. It is to be assured of God's love – for Christ is the Beloved Son of God.

PSALM

23: 1 – 6

40: 5 – 8

89: 25 – 29