



REAL GOD, REAL CHURCH, REAL LIVES

REAL GOD - Week 4.

God the Son; who He is (His being)

These notes support the current sermon series; both of which are designed to help us focus anew upon God and to seek His will for our future as a Church. They can be used by individuals, two to three people or within a house group. They can be read through reasonably quickly or form the basis of deeper consideration and meditation.

Readings

Isaiah 9: 1-7, Psalm 110, Hebrews 4: 14 – 5: 10 & John 1: 1-18

The Light and Life of the World (Read John 1: 1-18)

Recall last week's reading in Ephesians 2: we considered how humankind's condition without God is one of death, enslavement and condemnation; God makes us alive in Christ though (Eph 2: 5). John describes this life in Christ as the light of the world. Meditate upon/discuss what this life is, how we receive it, how Jesus is that light and life and the depth of meaning there is in the terms of light and darkness (see also Is 9:2). What does darkness offer that so attracts humankind and causes the rejection of Christ (John 1: 5 & 11)? What are the truths and benefits of receiving this life (John 1: 12, 16-17)?

Fully God and Fully Man

John displays the pre-existence of Christ (vs.1): He was there in the beginning; He was with God; and was God. Think upon the relationship between God the Father and Son; how do these facts assist, what questions do they generate?

Read also Colossians 1: 15-17 together with John 1: 3 and consider the role in Creation God the Father and Son played.

Do these two areas convince you that Jesus Christ was and is fully God; do you find any aspect difficult?

As fully God we are also told that Christ is fully man (John 1: 14, Is 9:6a); we are able to see the Father in Him (John 1: 18. Col 1: 19). What impact does this have on you (that Jesus is both God and man)? Jesus shows us how God would live the life He has given us; what should we do with this knowledge?

As Jesus is both God and man He is able to sympathise with us and help us (Hebs 5: 14-16); how could this impact upon our worship and prayer life as a Church and individuals?

Ponder our studies upon the Throne room of God (Rev 4), the fact that God has raised Christ & us to the heavenly realms (Eph 2; 1-10) and the connectivity of grace and truth in these passages together with John and Hebrews. How much of God's Sovereignty, love for His creation and salvation plan do you see?

High Priest and Messiah (read Hebrews 4: 14 – 5: 10)

A High Priest is one who is appointed for humans on matters concerning God, they have to be at one with humans; and they must be appointed by God. In the Hebrews passage identify how Christ fulfils these requirements; what does this mean in practice for us?

What do you draw from the fact that Jesus was appointed as a Priest in the order of Melchizedek (Gen 14: 18, Ps 110; 4 and Hebs 5: 6) and not the Levitical line (the tribe of Levi as Priests under Aaron) (civil and religious powers were normally kept separate)?

In this way Jesus mirrors Melchizedek and joins the two offices of High Priest and Messiah. How does this impact on Church and individual Christian lives (Col 1: 18-20)?

1 Peter 2: 9 brings together the themes of light and darkness and new life in God where we become a Royal Priesthood under Him. Focusing on the **Real God**, God the Son, finish by considering how a **Real Church** might mirror Christ's role as High Priest and how individuals might live **Real Lives** as a chosen people within that priesthood.

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