

## **“The Logos – God”**

John 1:1-5

Hello friend and welcome to *Hope for Today*. My name is J. Mark Horst, your host. The program you’re listening to is produced by Heralds of Hope, an international Gospel radio and literature ministry.

At Heralds of Hope we believe that true and lasting hope is found only in God, the Creator. He is revealed to us the Word of God, the Bible. It is our privilege to come to you each week with a message based on a portion of God’s Holy Word, a message that reveals the truth of God to us. One of the primary reasons for our confidence in God’s Word is this – it never changes!

Some people refuse to believe the Bible. They spend a lot of time and energy trying to disprove it. They try to discredit its historical record, or its scientific observations. They look for supposed contradictions and they often completely discount the supernatural.

But the early church theologian, Tertullian, a Roman of considerable ability and intellect, had this to say to such people; “I believe because it is ridiculous.” The Bible is not illogical; it goes beyond human logic and into the realm of the miraculous. Its teachings and its principles are ridiculous to our natural way of thinking.

But it is not smart or intelligent NOT to believe the Holy Scripture. In fact, the most intelligent response you can have to the Bible is to accept it for what it is – God’s Word.

Faith in God’s Word will open great doors to your understanding. Whole new fields of truth will be opened to you. So, why deny yourself this great opportunity, when you could, by simple faith in God’s Word, have great doors of understanding opened before you?

On today’s program we are beginning a new series of study from the Gospel of John, the fourth book of our New Testament. The teaching for this series comes from our archives and is presented by the late, Dr. J. Otis Yoder. He was the founder of Heralds of Hope and its first Bible teacher. I know you will be blessed by this teaching.

The Gospel of John begins like this; “*in the beginning was the Word...*” The Word, with a capital w, is the *LOGOS*. As we learn what the Bible has to say about this Word, the Logos, it will open that great door of understanding that I talked about earlier.

I hope you will stay tuned now for Dr. Yoder’s teaching titled, “The Logos – God.” The text is John 1:1 to 5.

The idea of God has puzzled many people, especially the fact that God became man, in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. I was speaking to a friend of mine once, a Jewish friend, and he raised a real question about this. I can understand well why he raised the question. He said, "I cannot understand how another Jew can be God." Well, I can't either, really, but that is not the problem or the question. It is not how a man can become God but the question is can God become man? That is the question to which we must address ourselves.

We have the right to ask these questions. Who is the Logos, the Word? Where did the Word come from? What did the Word do?

I don't believe any other questions are any more puzzling than these. I would like to say, dear friend, that we must take our starting point from God if we are going to find our way in this world. You see, my friend, it's not so smart or intelligent not to believe the Bible. I believe the Bible is the way to get to God. In fact, the most intelligent response you can make in life is to take the Bible for what it is, God's Word. Faith in God's Word will open great doors to your understanding. Whole new fields of truth will open to you. So why deny yourself this great opportunity when you could by simple faith in God's Word have doors of understanding open before you.

When I turn to the book of John and begin to read, I notice an important word. It is the word, "Word". "In the beginning was the "Word." Some writers tell us that this Greek word, "Logos," is a special kind of word in this particular passage. It does open a tremendous door, as I said, of understanding to us once we hear what the Bible has to say. A great depth of meaning is contained in this word, "Logos". So my message is entitled THE LOGOS - GOD.

Let us read these five verses from the 1st chapter of John: John 1:1-5.

- 1 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*
- 2 *The same was in the beginning with God.*
- 3 *All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*
- 4 *In him was life; and the life was the light of men.*
- 5 *And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.*

In these five verses the writer lays down three basic PROPOSITIONS about the Word to lead us to a fuller understanding. Here are great doors of understanding immediately before us.

The first Proposition:

### **The Word is God.**

That is a basic proposition. The writer proceeds to support this proposition by pointing out that the Word was there in the beginning. Saying it in another way, there never was any time when the Word was not. This emphasizes that the Word is eternal. I readily recognize that in our human expression we find it difficult to think of the meaning of the word, eternal. The reason is we are bound constantly by time considerations, by minutes, hours, days, months, years and centuries. But the Word is God because He was there in the beginning. This is proof of the proposition.

The writer further supports His proposition, the Word is God, by stating “the Word was with God”. The Logos was there beside God; He was in His presence. He was there face to face with God.

I must insist, dear friend, on this particular translation of the clause because in my study of the Greek language of the New Testament I have found that the pro per way to translate this passage is “The Word was God.”

We find in other passages similar truth, clear and certain. The Word is God is a basic proposition you must accept to enter this door of understanding.

The Second Proposition:

### **The Word is Creator.**

Observe carefully verse 3: “All things were made by him.” That immediately clears up our understanding of the beginning of matter. This one called the “Word” is the Creator of everything, all things visible and invisible. In fact, the verse goes a bit further to say, “All things were made by him; without him (apart from Him) was not anything made that was made.” This verse then establishes the proposition, the Word is Creator.

If we were to turn to Genesis 1, we would see how God created the heavens and the earth. He made all things, He made everything. Whether it be the general or the details of the creation, the Word was active as Creator. Here the Scripture clearly asserts and affirms this proposition, the Word is Creator.

The Third Proposition:

### **The Word is Revealer.**

This fact is established by the statement, “the life was the light of men.” Rationality, the power to think, in the human race is light. We often refer to it as the light of reason and God has so made us that we have this light of reason. In Him, the Word, was life and no overpowering darkness could ever subdue that light. The darkness could not overcome it.

A great many attempts have been made to put out the light. But because He is the Revealer, the light still shines. The Word is the Revealer is our third proposition that opens a great door of understanding for us.

In these five verses by these three basic propositions, we must clearly see who the Logos is: He is God; He is Creator; He is Revealer.

Now, friend, it is of utmost importance that you accept these propositions if you are going to enter into understanding of the great truths of the Bible.

My friend, were you blessed by this teaching by Dr. Yoder? If so you can request an audio CD or a printed copy of this complete teaching, just request it by its title, “The Logos.”

The quickest way for you to contact me is to send an e-mail to [mail@heraldsofhope.org](mailto:mail@heraldsofhope.org). That e-mail address is [mail@heraldsofhope.org](mailto:mail@heraldsofhope.org). That email address again is, [m-a-i-l@heraldsofhope.org](mailto:m-a-i-l@heraldsofhope.org). Or you may write to *Hope for Today*, Box 3, Breezewood, Pennsylvania 15533. Remember, you can request a printed manuscript or an audio CD of this teaching, “The Logos.” I’d be happy to send one to you.

Once again, the quickest way for you to contact me is to send an e-mail to [mail@heraldsofhope.org](mailto:mail@heraldsofhope.org). Or you may write to *Hope for Today*, Box 3, Breezewood, Pennsylvania 15533. Remember; you can request a free copy of this teaching, “The Logos.” It’s available in print or on an audio CD.

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Now friend, I urge you to tune in next week as we continue our study in John’s Gospel. And until then, keep looking for that blessed HOPE.