

Saint Timothy Lutheran – Edmonds, WA
December 6, 2009 – Preschool Christmas Service
Rev. Craig A. Patterson

“The Word Became Flesh And Dwelt Among Us.”

(Text: John 1:1-14)

Context: The Apostle John wrote his gospel account with an eye on the heretical teaching that was being promoted by a man by the name of Cerinthus. Cerinthus contended that Jesus was not truly God. Cerinthus pointed to the Deuteronomy passage that states, “The LORD our God is one God,” (Deut. 6:4). John gives reference to Moses when he writes, “For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ” (John 1:17). In a very clear manner, the Apostle John taught how God has revealed Himself to be Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In Jesus, God became human and dwelt among us. Jesus has made God known to us. It is the God-Man, Jesus, who has revealed God to us. Jesus has explained God to humankind. Not only this, but the God-Man Jesus (totally God and totally human) offered Himself up for us on the cross dying for our sins and being raised again for our justification. All glory be to God!

- I. **During The Apostles’ Lifetimes, Some Taught That Jesus Was Not Truly God.**
 - A. This error would put into question what Jesus taught.
 - B. This error would put into question the meaning of His deeds.
 - C. This error would negate the sufficiency of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross for sinners if He were only a man.
 - D. Today, also, some teach that Jesus was only a man.
 1. Some say that He did some good things, taught some good ideas, but, they say, ‘He was not God.’ --- What do you believe???

- II. **John Declared, Boldly, That Jesus Was: “The Word,” “With God,” “And God,” Himself. (And As God, Jesus Was The All-Sufficient Payment For Mankind’s Sins.)**
 - A. The Old Testament Scriptures declared God to be One, and yet, more than one.
 1. In Genesis we read, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...” (Genesis 1:26).
 2. In Psalm 2:7, we read, “He said to Me, ‘Thou art My Son, Today I have begotten Thee.’”
 3. The blessing that God commanded Aaron to give over the children of Israel was pronounced this way, “The LORD bless thee and keep thee, The LORD make His face to shine upon thee, The LORD lift up His countenance upon thee and give thee peace” (Numbers 6:24-26).
 - a. The LORD is mentioned three times in this blessing
 - B. Jesus teaches, “I and the Father are one,” (John 10:41).
 - C. Jesus taught His disciples to be baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
 1. In His great commission statement to the apostles, Jesus said, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit...” (Matthew 28:19).
 - D. At the baptism of Jesus the Scripture describes how Jesus (the Son) was baptized by John the Baptist in the River Jordan, the voice of God (the Father) spoke from heaven, saying, “Behold, this is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him,” and the Spirit of God (the Spirit) descended upon Jesus as a dove (Luke 3:21-22; Mark 1:9-11; Matt. 3:16-17; John 1:32).
 - E. Jesus called Himself God before the Pharisees when He said, “Truly, truly I say to you, before Abraham was born, ‘I AM’” (John 8:58).
 1. In Hebrew the term “I AM” is God’s name (i.e., Yahweh or Jehovah).