

Study notes for the message on 6th Dec 2020

Advent 2 - The Word Among Us

Scripture: John 1 verses 1 to 5

Today's message returns us to the Apostle John, as mentioned in our notes last time. His is what is known as a High Christology - a belief in an exalted position for Jesus. For John to come to this is remarkable. Imagine you have lived with Jesus for three years, walked with him, saw his sweat and tears and his blood at his death. To reflect on this human and decide that, yes, he is far more than anyone ever imagined, is an enormous development in John's thinking. Also as mentioned last time, this is reflected and developed further in the Epistles of John and in the book of Revelation.

Read **John 1 verses 1 to 5** again. Our message considers the difference between the Word of God in print (the Bible) and the Word of God in the flesh (Jesus). It also stated that using the Bible as the destination is detrimental, even dangerous, and it should always be used to point us to Jesus. We should never let the Bible hold the place of power that Jesus holds. In another way, this is reflected in living a life of Law or a life of Grace and Love.

Can you see any difference between the two? What examples can you give?

Reflecting on this idea, John's definition of love was mentioned from 1st John 3 verse 16.

Read 1st John 3 verse 16.

Our message said the outcome of this is that Christ-followers should always be prepared to die for a cause, but never kill for a cause.

Consider that statement. Are there any exceptions?

If you have time, consider the two paradoxes mentioned and discuss the three recommendations:

Paradox 1: The Bible says Jesus holds authority over everything, including the Bible itself. So Jesus can overrule what the Bible says.

Paradox 2: Scripture is the product of a community of believers who affirm that they, and not a book, are to be the repository of divine truth. The Bible gives guidelines, but the church itself - not the Bible - stewards the truth of Jesus.

Recommendation 1: Use your Bible the way Jesus did.

Recommendation 2: Use your Bible as the writers intended.

Recommendation 3: Use your Bible - become saturated with scripture.