



WOW: Word Of the Week

Transcendence

December 23, 2024

December—the world is thinking, wondering, worshiping, celebrating...the birth of a child... the birth of THE child... simple yet profound. The Nativity accounts in Matthew and Luke have been read often this month. Words on a page fail to communicate the majesty and Splendor. As I seek to understand the Majesty of the Messiah and the Splendor of the Savior, I am amazed at how many overlook the Gospel of John. How did the Apostle John wrestle the Nativity into words?

With its revelation of the cosmic Christ, John 1 is usually overlooked as a Nativity passage. *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*

Logos, the Word. Jesus' coming not only brings order out of chaos, it also makes everything logical. Same root word! God communicated with his human creation in a new, fresh, intimate way. What is happening? Transcendence is made intimate. Majestic God high and lifted up comes to dwell among us. God is revealed afresh, both high and nigh. Glory to God in the highest, because grace has appeared on earth.

What is the appeal, magic, mystery of Christmas? Is it not God with us, Immanuel? Indeed! Transcendence is brought down to our level. What was beyond us (transcendent) is now among us (immanent), one of us. Now we can understand. God reveals himself and his nature in a living Word-Logos, consistent with his written Word-Logos.

John Wesley observed that focusing on the Christ born in a Bethlehem house will make little difference in your life unless He has been born in your heart, taking up residence. The question for us at this season? Has Christ been born in your life? The Word became flesh, like us, not to remain distant, but to take up residence among us, within us, dwelling in our hearts by faith.

Many things may come to your mind when you think of Jesus' birth. John's description of the Incarnation challenges you to go deeper as you seek to understand and contemplate what God was doing in the coming of Jesus. God is telling you who he is and inviting you to share in his life and light.

Merry Christmas friends—brothers and sisters in Christ, neighbors, friends and family. May you in this season make room in your hearts, lives, and families for the Word, the Logos, the One who is for us who believe, all at the same time, Preexistent God, Babe in a manger, and Savior of the world.