



Church Meeting at 9:30, Service at 10:30 with King’s Kids, Q&A to Follow.

NEWS

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JOHN 1:2 ~

This is not merely a restatement of verse _____, it is that all of that happened contemporaneously.

JOHN 1:3 ~

God the Father _____ creation through His spoken _____ that was propagated by His _____, Wind, Spirit, _____.

“All” to open verse 3, literally means _____. Everything came into being through the active agency of the _____.

John gave the information positively and then _____ to ensure that there is no exception at all. _____ that has come into being - has come into being apart from Him.

Everything, except God Himself, was _____ by God including the heavenly host and everything in an ongoing and interactive way.

All _____ is aberrant - it is death, or non-life that is _____. Death is - life must be sustained (Colossians 1:16&17, II Peter 3:5, Hebrews 1).

Fill out the other side, detach this part of the page, and place it in the offering plate or the prayer/suggestion box in the lobby or with an Elder or Deacon of the church.

God Bless You!

What is the most amazing, significant and important creative accomplishment from a human perspective?

_____, not just physical existence, but life _____ as well. _____ is not self-sustainable, but instead requires an underlying active force to enable it to begin and continue.

God grants _____, God actively sustains _____ moment by moment now and it will be moment by moment for _____.

JOHN 1:4 ~

To be alive is βίος (bē-ōs), here it is ζωή (dzō-ā). In this _____ it's what makes something alive - it is the fundamental life force - that which initiates and sustains life. It is in the _____.

"I AM the Resurrection and the Life." The utter defeat of _____ and the inextinguishable _____ force. This is the fundamental reality that _____ from God - _____ from the Word of God - there is no life, either in this world or the next.

The Light is that Truth, and it is that we are connected to God. Everything we have or will have, down to our very existence, is _____ to Him.

JOHN 1:5 ~

The Light of Truth shines forth into the darkness of human depravity...

God's Light of Truth shines upon us and we cannot _____ it. Well, that's annoying and so we try to put the Light out. Well, we can't do that either.

The concept that the "Darkness did not comprehend it," is rendered in the ESV, NIV, HCSB, and others as "Darkness has not overcome it." It is ambiguous intentionally. We can't _____ the Light of God's Truth and we can't _____ it to manipulate it, extinguish it or eradicate it.

Oh, we try, and as a result there's a load of _____ out there, but God's Light still shines... It all depends on what you're looking for as to what you'll _____.

Write a brief note – detach and place in the offering, or the prayer box, or give it to a Deacon or Elder.

Name _____ Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____



Alêtheia

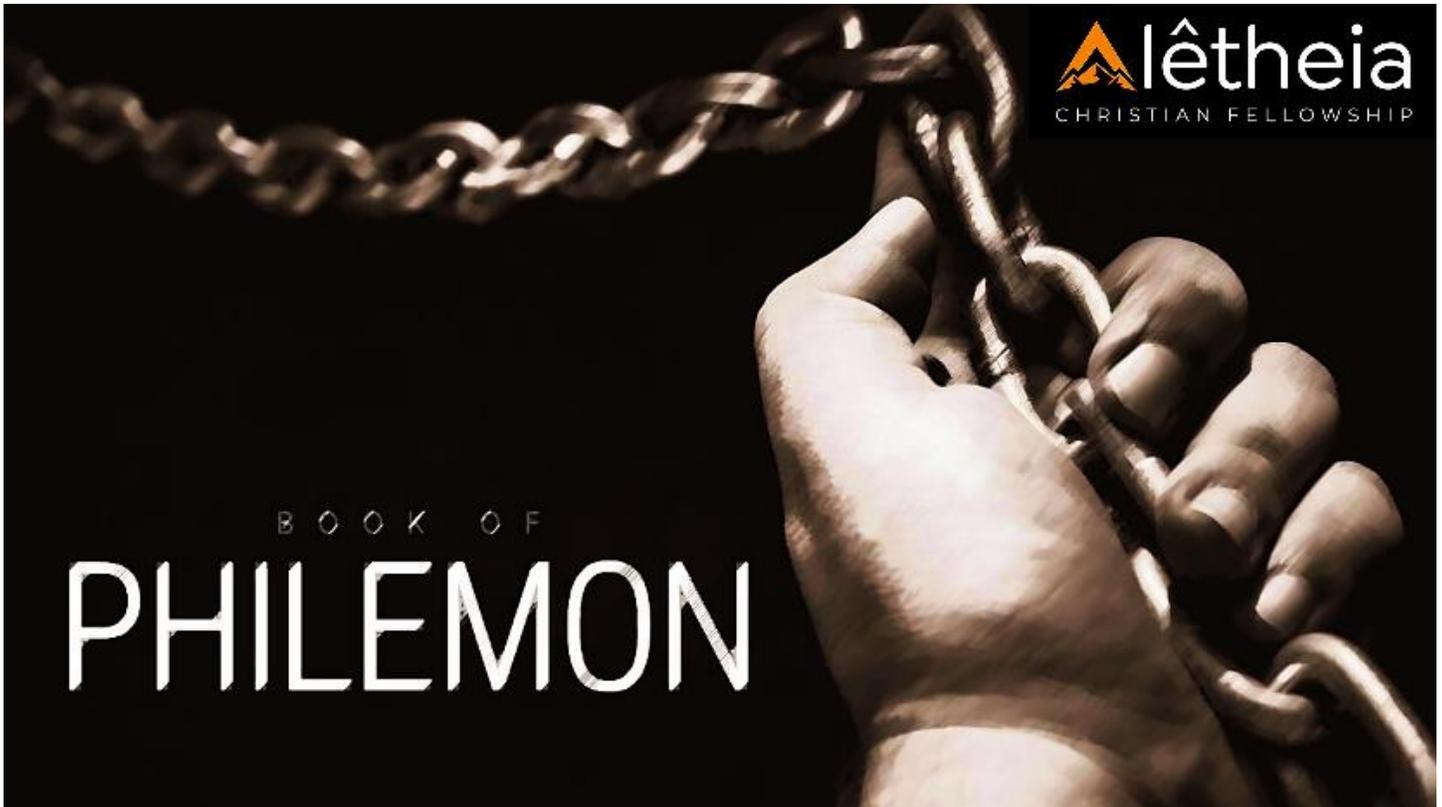
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP



Prior to 1973, each individual state passed and enforced their own laws concerning abortion - In some states, like California, it was legal. In other states, like Texas, it was illegal. On January 22, 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion-on-demand in all 50 states, leading to public demonstrations from both sides.



On January 13, 1984, President Ronald Reagan, recognizing the anniversary of that decision, issued a proclamation designating the third Sunday in January as Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. This year, the third Sunday is today.



Scott does not want to make anyone uncomfortable - I cannot say the same thing for Jesus. We recently studied Paul's letter to the slave owner Philemon. In going through that tiny Bible Book we recognized that while Christians must prioritize following Christ no matter our circumstances, part of following Christ is to alleviate human suffering where reasonable to do so.

We broke it down into the categories of slavery and sanctity of human life, because the letter dealt directly with the former, but really both categories are combined under the umbrella of doing what is reasonable to minimize human suffering.

When we couch it that way, we can easily see that slavery is a vile heinous institution because it creates human suffering merely for the ease, or profit of the slaver. As I said a couple of weeks ago, slavery is normal for fallen and depraved humanity. The powerful taking advantage of the less powerful is human nature. Christians have a new nature in Christ, and we must not only rise above taking advantage of others, we must advocate against such practices in principle.



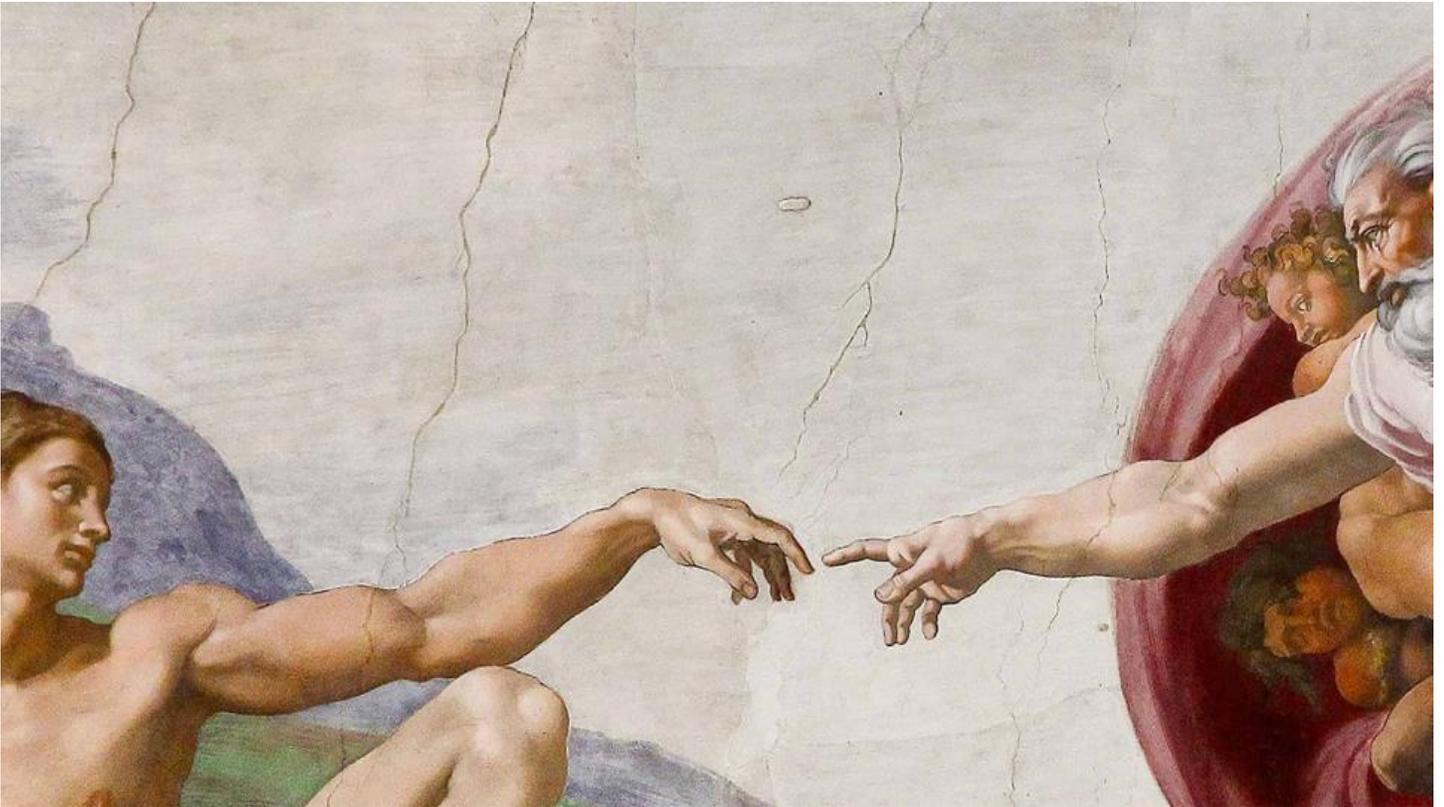
Where does it start? Please think about that. Where does the abuse and subjugation of people begin? Where does human suffering caused by humans

commence? Where does man's inhumanity to man originate? Think about this - please.

Fundamentally, it starts when humans abandon God. Don't think for a moment that I'm talking about the non-Christians in our world - of course they have abandoned God - by definition! I'm talking to us; to you and to me. We abandon God every time we focus more on the temporary than we do on the eternal - when we focus more on sight than on faith. In fact, that's what we started with this morning. "Christians must prioritize following Christ no matter our circumstances." Meaning no matter the suffering around us, love God first, love God best, focus there. Further we found that part of loving God and focusing on His Will and following Christ is to alleviate human suffering where reasonable to do so. The Key is to help mankind as part of loving God.



Never ignore God to help others, but never ignore helping others thinking that you're pleasing God by doing so - you're not - He's clear. Remember, the entire reason that our society is what it is today - a Godless, immoral, quagmire, is because the church ignored present suffering to focus exclusively on a future with Christ.



You might think, how bad could it be to exclusively focus on God... Well, it's bad and not because people suffer and then get mad at God and create a substitute. It's bad because the exclusive religious pursuit of God is a substitute for God. Most of what passes for Christianity today and certainly at the start of the Age of Reason is and was an illusion and some people back then began to notice.

The church as a whole, as an institution, was a self-serving cult, instead of a Christ honoring family. Karl Marx was right about one thing, for so many people, religion, and in particular Christianity, had become the

opium used to numb the suffering of this life. It was the balm that enabled multitudes of people to continue suffering under the oppression of the elites.

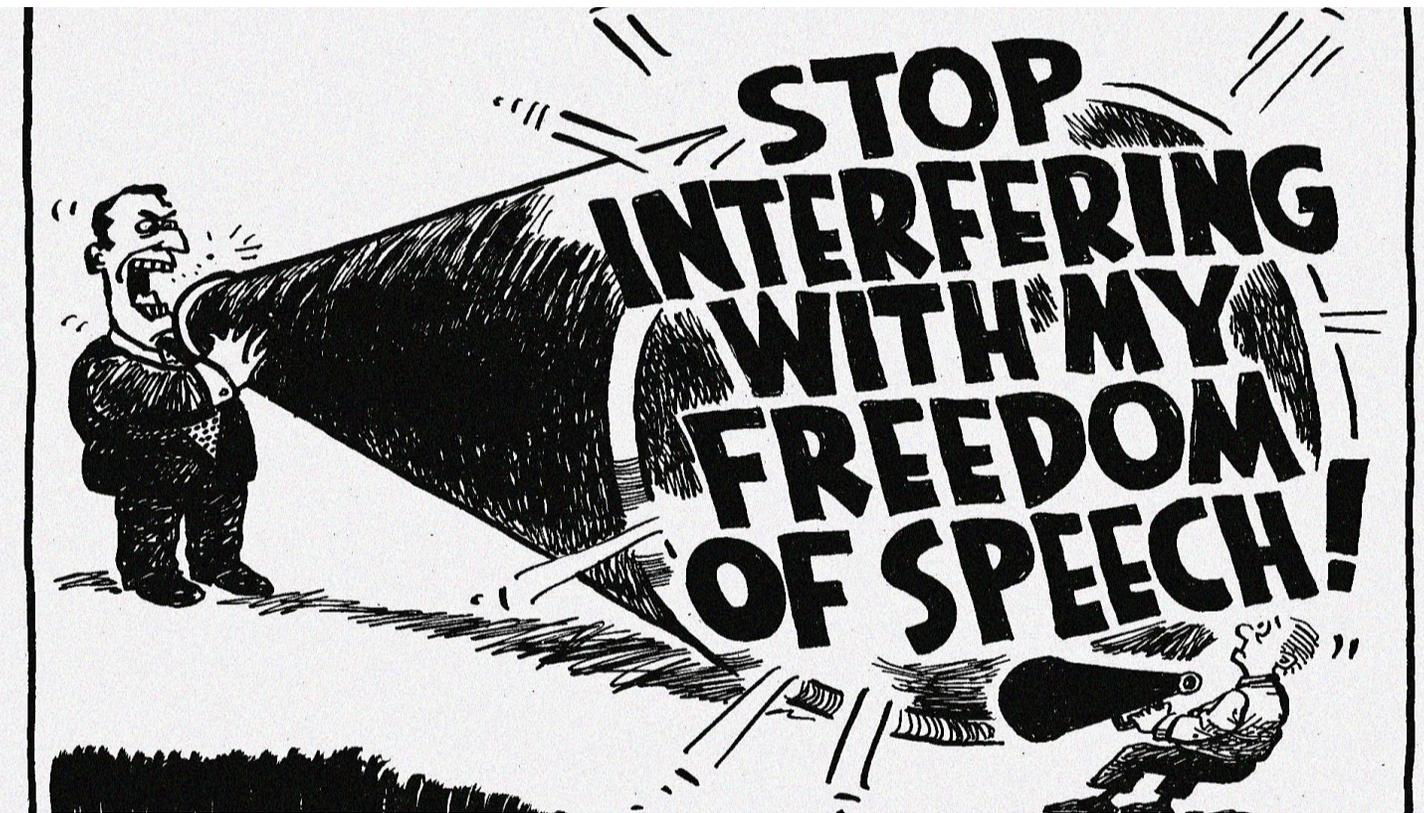
As the cult of Christianity kept people content in their misery, it made them unconcerned, and even happy, about the suffering of others. John Ray was right, "Misery loves company." My point is those people actually following the Christ of the Bible saw through the façade of the institutional church. In truly prioritizing God they saw His desire to Love people through people, here and now. Part of that was trying to improve their own lot in life, just as the Bible says in I Corinthians 7:21 NIV, "Were you a slave when God chose you? Don't let it trouble you. But if you can get your master to set you free, do it." As the Message puts it, "Slavery is no roadblock to obeying and believing." But "If you have a chance at freedom, go ahead and take it."



One of my all-time favorite movie quotes is “Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil. The Author of all things watches over me. And I have a fine horse.” It is full faith in the Lord to act, guide and protect as you step out in that faith with the conviction that what you are doing is right - Trust God and do right.

Whether it was the masses of Christians blindly following the cult message that nothing in this life matters when you have an eternal perspective, or whether it was the revolutionaries foolishly focusing on this life exclusively, both groups were really focused on

self. How can I get through today? On the one hand by dreaming of a better future without doing anything to attain it, and on the other hand by eliminating God and turning the tables on the oppressors. The first led to the second and the second led to victorious victims who became far worse oppressors than the world had yet seen.



That leads to a foundational concept. It is always conflict between competing parties. It is the slaver's right to pursue happiness at the expense of the slave's right to life and liberty. It is the property owner's right to their property versus the thief's right to take what they are able to take. It is the insulted, or frightened, or

angry man's right to kill another compared to that other's right to be insulting, threatening, or hostile. It is the pregnant woman's right to not be burdened with a long-term pregnancy, painful delivery, and dependent child at the expense of the existence of the baby growing within her.

Ultimately, it all comes down to our rights versus the rights of others. We can then put ourselves in our opponent's shoes and see how the transaction looks from that side. Seen in that light, it becomes easy to recognize what is right and what is wrong. Will we do that? The more important question is will we do that honestly.

The reason people could feed Christians to wild animals and use them as torches, is the same reason people could enslave others and beat them to death for disobedience or disrespect. It's the same reason that people could round up millions of Jews and murder them. The reason behind the genocides in the Soviet Union, in Cambodia, in Turkey, in Rwanda, in Mongolia, in Bangladesh, in the former Yugoslavia, in Congo, in Darfur, just in the 20th century alone far more than 100 million people obliterated all for the

reason of dishonesty... All for the reason of denial, rationalization and justification. Honestly put yourself in your opponent's shoes and see if what you're doing is right.



We all know very well that God has told us through the Apostle John in his First Epistle that it is impossible to treat God better than you treat your fellow man. You can't love the God you cannot see one tiny fraction more than the human being you do see.

The primary characteristic of the Christian focused on loving God and following Christ is an unnatural – a supernatural – love for others. A love that is clearly

seen, tangibly expressed, genuinely experienced, starting right here, right now.

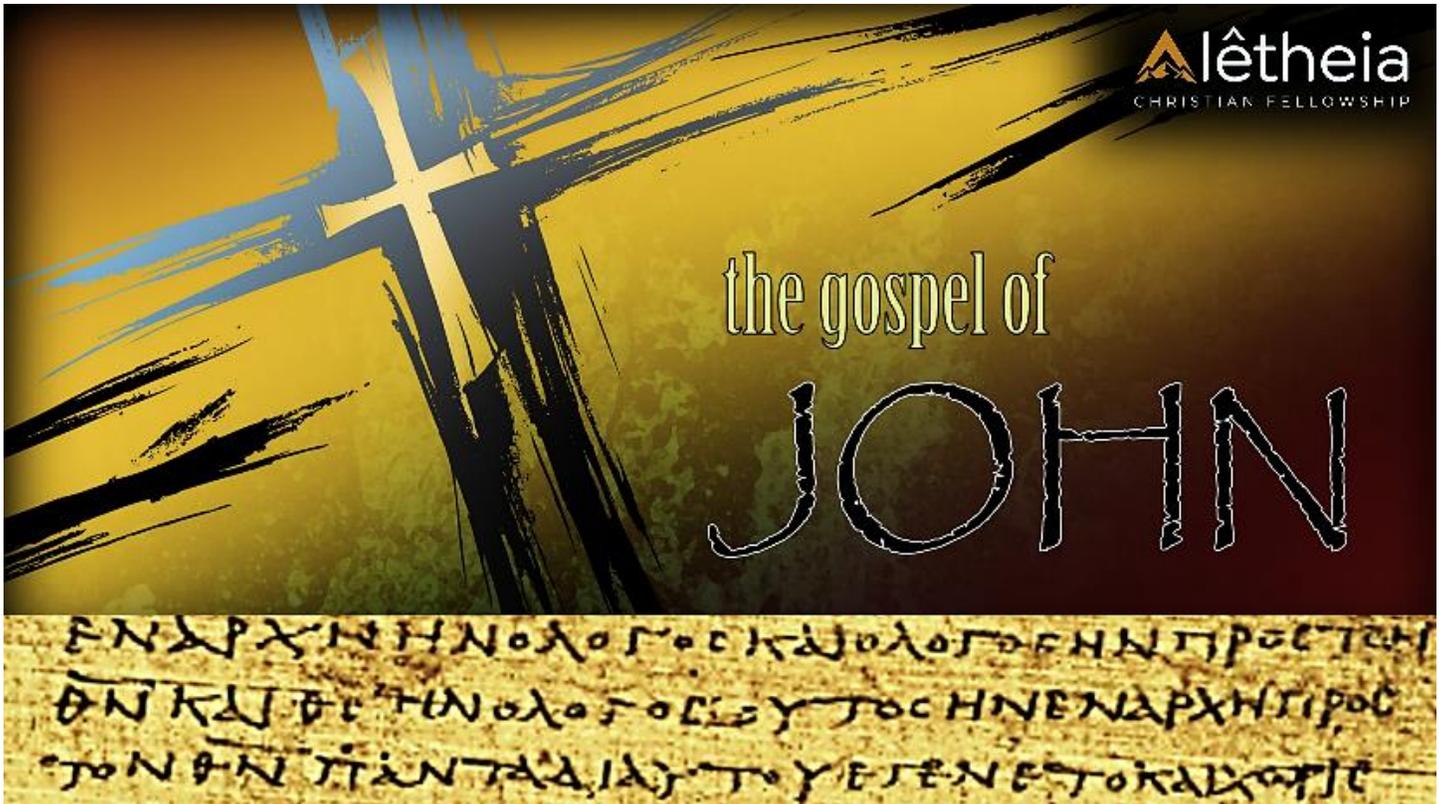
Whatever the situation, whether slavery, abortion, murder, oppression, whatever specific issue, it comes down to harming another to benefit yourself. It's the most natural thing in the world for a human to do - and that is precisely why no Christian should ever partake or condone.

All human life is sacred from conception to final breath. Be extremely careful how you deal with others likewise made in His image - be extremely careful and honor life - we will soon see again that Christ Jesus Himself is the Life - the Life generating and Life sustaining force. Life is precious.



Alanna Lynn Bellamy
September 25, 2021

Dedication to the Lord.



John 1:1 ~ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Before the angelic host, or the principalities of heaven, or the physical universe existed - before space-time-matter, before any created thing had yet been created, there existed the Word - the Logos. And the Word existed in close personal relationship with the One and Only God. And the Word was fully God. God being more than the Word alone, but the Word being entirely God in Himself.

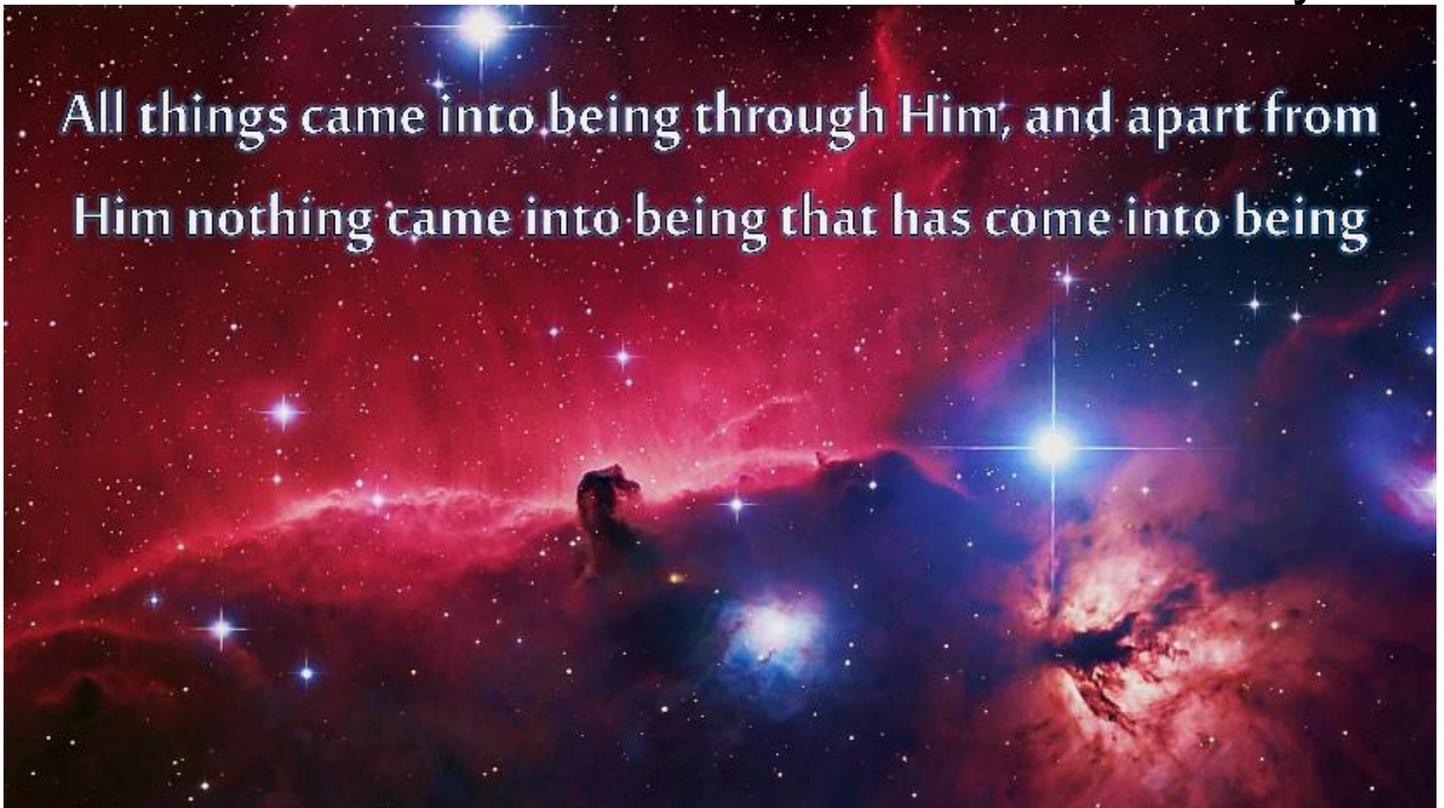
It's really unfortunate if you missed why all of that is true. Fortunately, part of why it is true comes from the next verse.



John 1:2 ~ He was in the beginning with God. This is not merely a restatement of what was said in verse 1. Beyond emphasis and clarification of an important concept, which it is, the main point is that all of that happened contemporaneously, the Word and the One and Only God were intimately unified together, before anything yet existed.

The next verse will confirm that interpersonal unification by making clear that they were also united in

purpose - they created, together. The Will, through the Word and the Word propelled by the Breath, speaking the universe itself and all that it contains into reality.



John 1:3 ~ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

It's an amazing verse to be sure and it confirms many similar verses throughout both the Old and New Testaments, reaching back to the opening chapter of Genesis and extending all the way through the end of Revelation. According to the full counsel of the Bible, God the Father Willed creation through His spoken

Word that was propagated by His Breath, Wind, Spirit, Power.

At this very moment, my mind is fairly active as I quickly consider what to convey to accomplish my will - my will is to allow God to speak to you for your edification and for His glory. As I formulate my message, I almost instantly send out to you by speaking words with my mouth and as I'm articulating those words I add my breath, my wind, my Spirit, my power to them so that they reach you.

Notice that without my breath, there is nothing at all to carry my carefully selected words. You cannot hear the words coming out of my mouth if there is no air, or wind behind them - if there is no power to push the sound waves, there are no sound waves. Without the words, there's nothing intelligible in my breath. You cannot know what I'm trying to convey if I don't formulate words and so my will is undone.

This is a Biblical analog to give us a glimpse of God. He is three individuated parts, so to speak. All fully God in their own right, all in complete harmony with each

other, all so perfectly unified they can collectively be called God, the One and Only.

When John uses his little words, they oftentimes have a larger impact than fancy highfalutin words would. “All” to open verse 3, literally means all. Not only all severally, but all collectively as well.

All things, everything, through the Word, came to be, became. The way it’s phrased, using 4 simple Greek words, it conveys the meaning that everything came into being through the active agency of the Word. Since we know that God created the “Heavens and the Earth,” and we know that the “Heavens and the Earth” is a merism used to mean literally everything, we now know, that the Word was the instrument used by God to do so. Going back to our earlier point, that means, that God had to have the desire and the power in combination with the activity of speaking words to create and once again we can easily see that Almighty God created by force of will - the Father, by Word of mouth - the Logos, by power of propagation - the Holy Spirit. One God - three persons.

John is unsatisfied to leave it there. He just gave the information positively and will now give it negatively to ensure that there is no mistake - no loophole - no exception at all. The “And” ties the positive and negative together to fully exclude any other possibility. Nothing that has come into being - nothing in our physical reality, not matter, not space, not time itself, has come into being apart from the active agency of the Word. Beyond that it is implied that everything, except God Himself, was created by God and that includes the heavenly host and any other supernatural elements that exist. Beyond that, it includes everything in an ongoing and interactive way.

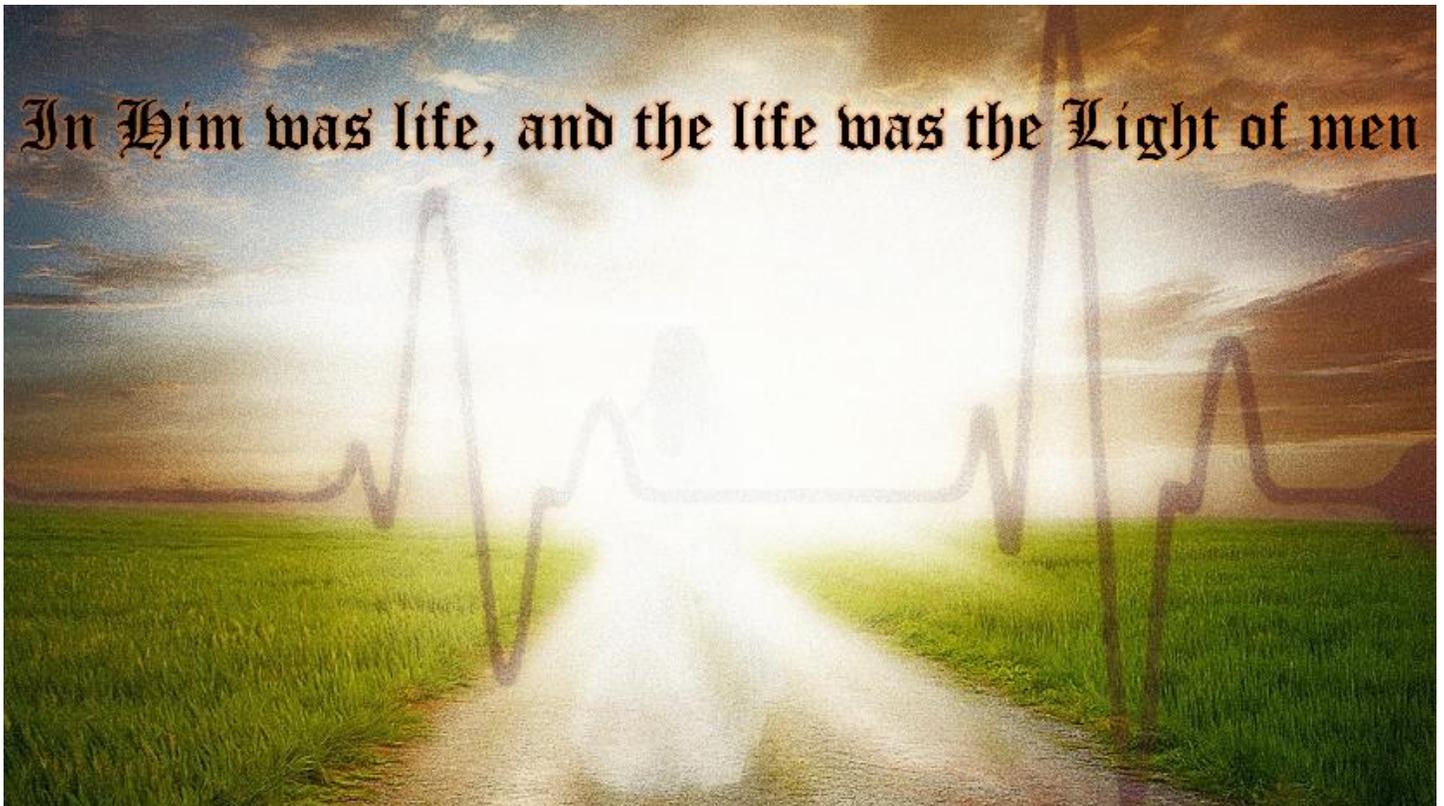
All life is aberrant - it is death, or non-life that is normal. Death is - life must be sustained. We'll get there. Excepting God Himself, all was and still is created by God - all created by God through the Word. The Logos is the One and Only Mediator between The God and the creation. That's taking the ideas regarding the Logos, put forward by Heraclitus and expanded by Philo, far beyond their imagining. Biblically everything that exists apart from the Triune God Himself was created by Him and now we know how He did it. Colossians 1:16&17, 16For by Him (the Word) all

things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. 17He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. Simple enough. Clearly anyone believing that Jesus was created by God, can't read.

II Peter 3:5b, "By the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water..." In the opening of the Book of Hebrews we see the Word spoken of as the One, "Through whom also He (God) made the world. And He (the Word manifested as the Son) is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power."

What is the most amazing, significant and important creative accomplishment from a human perspective? Life. Not just physical existence, not just a physical life beyond conception, but life eternal as well - that's created too and it fits within the "heavens and the earth."

We get this idea that life just happens and that we are eternal creatures in and of ourselves. Neither idea is even close to being right. Life is not self-sustainable but instead requires an underlying active force to enable it to begin and continue. God grants life, God actively sustains life moment by moment now and it will be moment by moment for eternity - although there won't be moments then.



John 1:4 ~ In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.

The first four words mean that "In the Logos, the life force existed." As I've mentioned before to be alive, or to be living is the Greek word βίος (bē-ōs), from which

we get all of our bio words like biology. Here we have the word ζωή (dzō-ā), instead. We get the girl's name Zoe' from it, as well as our zoo words. You keep live animals in a zoo and the dead ones in a museum. In this context it has to do with what makes something alive - it is the fundamental life force - that which initiates and sustains life. That is in the Word.

Some time ago, I mentioned Jesus' words recorded in the 11th chapter of this Gospel, "I AM", I AM that which I AM, I exist as "the Resurrection and the Life." I said that it is the utter defeat of death and the inextinguishable life force. Jesus went on to say as an amplification or an explanation, "The one who believes in Me will live even if he dies and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die." See that? If you believe in Jesus, you will live eternally even if you die - that's "the Resurrection". He went on to say if you live - meaning after Resurrection - believing in Me, you will never ever, ever die again - that's "the Life." "Do you believe this?" That's the very question Jesus Himself asked. "Do you believe this?" This is the fundamental reality that apart from God - apart from the Word of God - there is no life, either in this world or the next.

As the enabler of all life physical, spiritual, and eternal, John is now saying it is that very Truth that elucidates. The central Truth that all life - our most precious commodity - is continuously dependent on the active work of the Word of God enables us humans to comprehend the next logical Truth.

The Light is that Truth and it is that we are connected to God whether we like it or not, whether we acknowledge it or not, whether we accept Him or not. It is only when we understand that everything flows instant by instant from Him and that therefore everything we have or will have, down to our very existence, is owed to Him that we can see the reality of our relationship to Him. So this knowledge that Almighty God is actively providing everything down to our very breath is the first component of Truth. We need God for everything. Once we comprehend who God is, and who we are in comparison, we are able to grasp the next element of central Truth which is the fact that only God can set the rules, only He can say what is good, right noble, and just.



John 1:5 ~ The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

The Light of Truth shines forth into the darkness of human depravity... All people, although each individually and lovingly created in the Image of God, are nevertheless born as broken, fallen and depraved. You can blame your parents. Honestly, you can, but they can just as legitimately blame their parents and we can go all the way back to the beginning. Skip the line and just blame Adam and Eve. But here's the rub... You would have done no better than they and if you don't believe me you don't have an honest bone in your body - not really.

So here we are God's Light of Truth shines upon us and we cannot get it - we cannot accept it. Well, that's annoying and so we try to put the Light out. Well, we can't do that either. The concept that the "Darkness did not comprehend it," is rendered in the ESV, NIV, HCSB, and others as "Darkness has not overcome it." The NET is more direct, "Darkness has not mastered it." The word means to control or possess and so any of those ideas are possible. It is ambiguous intentionally. Another one of John's little tricks. It means just what I said. We can't understand and accept the Light of God's Truth and we can't control it to manipulate it, extinguish it or eradicate it.

Oh, we try, and as a result there's a load of misinformation out there, but God's Light still shines... It all depends on what you're looking for as to what you'll find.

His Light is here and for the person who takes advantage of God's Holy Spirit impetus and earnestly seeks Him and His Truth, it will be opened to them - opened to you.