

Understanding the “Word” (Logos)

John 1:1

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

1. **Background**

A. The prologue/the Hymn (1:1-18)

- written in honor and in celebration of the Christ

B. The Concept of the Word

1. The Reality: Christianity became more Greek/Gentile than Jewish
2. The Problem: Growth brought about challenges. “How do you communicate the gospel to the changing world?” Christianity had to change its language to speak to a wide world.
 - a. this became John’s issue around 100 A.D.
3. The Solution: The concept of “the Word”
 - a. The Jewish Background
 - “Word” as a unity of energy (Jacob & Esau)
 - Word as wisdom (Sophia)/ reason (see Proverbs 3:13-19)

b. The Greek background:

Logos – that which controls the constant flow of the world. The order that holds the universe together (Heraclitus)
(see Colossians 1:17)

Logos – Word as creative force
Word as intermediary (Philo)

2. Meaning: The nature of the Word according to John 1:1

A. The Pre-existence of the Word – Eternality

“In the beginning was...”

- “was” not “became”
- See John 8:58, John 17:5

B. The Partnership of Christ – intimacy

“The Word was with God...”

- a relationship of intimacy means we can trust the revelation
- See John 1:2
- implies a distinction between the Word and God

C. The Personality of Christ – essence

“...and the Word was God”

- same character and essence
- See Colossians 1:19, 2:9
- Who God is and what God has been and will be is in Jesus