

CHRIST, THE LIVING WORD, REVEALED IN THE WRITTEN WORD

Rev. Bartel Elshout

Scripture: John 1:1-5, 14-18; 2 Peter 1:10-21

1. Christ: The eternal Word (logos) of God
2. Christ: The incarnate Word of God
3. Christ: The inscripturated Word of God
4. Christ: The focus of the preached Word of God
5. Christ: The eternal living Word of God

I. CHRIST: THE ETERNAL WORD (LOGOS) OF GOD

A. Christ: The Eternally Begotten Son of the Father

1. The Trinity: A covenantal love relationship—between the Father & the Son, in the Spirit

Mat 11:27 No man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

Luke 10:22 No man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him.

John 10:15 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father:

2. A preeminent theme of the gospel of John: The Father loves His Son

John 3:35 The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.

John 5:20 For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth.

10:17; 15:9; 15:10; 17:23; 17:24; 17:26

B. The Son of God: The Exact Image of His Father

1. God's Son: The brightness of His Father's glory...

Heb 1:3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power

2. God's Son: The Object of His Father's supreme delight

Mat 3:17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

C. Christ, the Living Word: The Exegesis of the Father

1. The profound significance of John 1:1—Christ is the verbal revelation of the Father

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

2. The profound significance of John 1:18—The Father is only knowable as He has revealed Himself in His Son

John 1:18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

3. Christ, the Father's Son, dwells in His Father's heart—which He knows from the inside out!

John 14:10 I am in the Father, and the Father in me.

II. CHRIST: THE INCARNATE WORD OF GOD

A. Christ: God Manifest in the Flesh

1. **The incarnation: The Father's eternal Word assumes the human nature**
John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.
2. **Christ: The visible—in the flesh—revelation of His Father's heart**
John 12:45 And he that seeth me seeth him that sent me.
John 14:7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also:
John 14:9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father;
3. **The Son, the Logos (!): The Person in Whom the Father interacts with man—and communicates with man**
John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

B. The Incarnate Son of God—Logos: The Unveiling of His Father's Good Pleasure

1. **Adam: The created son of God, bearing the image of the eternal Son of God**
Luke 3:38 ...Adam, which was the son of God.
Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son...
2. **The incarnation: God and man reunited in Christ—as our Immanuel (eternally!)**
Mat 1:23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.
3. **The cross: The foundation of a restored relationship with God—in His Son, the Logos!**
2 Cor 5:18-19 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ
1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God,

III. CHRIST: THE INSCRIPTURATED WORD OF GOD

A. The Written Word of God: The Record that God Gave of His Son (1 John 5:10-11)

1. **Man's fall and the need for the written Word of God**
Exo 31:18 And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, **written with the finger of God.**
2. **The Father's desire: To reveal Himself verbally (!) to fallen sinners**
Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.
Exo 34:5-6 And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. 6 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth
3. **The sole (!) medium for this revelation: The verbal & written Word of God**
Heb 1:1-2 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past2 hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son

B. The Spirit of the Living Word Is the Author of the Written Word

1. The intimate relationship between the Spirit of God and the Son of God—the Living Word of God

Isa 42:1 Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him.

Mat 3:16 Lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

2. The Spirit's objective: To glorify the Son of God by making Him known to men—to sinners

John 16:14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

3. The means whereby the Spirit achieves this: The inspiration (!) of the written Word of God

2 Peter 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

C. Christ's Own Testimony Regarding the Scriptures

1. John 5:39

John 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

2. Luke 24:27 & 44–45

Luke 24:27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

Luke 24:44–45 These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. 45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures

IV. CHRIST: THE FOCUS OF THE PREACHED WORD OF GOD

A. Christ: The Sum and Substance of Apostolic Preaching

1. Philip: And he preached unto him Jesus

Acts 8:35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

2. The apostles: They ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ

Acts 5:42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

3. Paul: Straightway he preached Christ

Acts 9:20 And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

Acts 28:23, 31 And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening... 31 Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.

B. A Fundamental Exegetical Principle: The Written Word is About the Living Word

1. Christ, the Logos: The key that unlocks the meaning and intent of the written Word of God

John 5:39 ... they are they which testify of me.

2. Our exegetical objective: To dig in the written Word till we find the Living Word

3. Our experiential objective: To speak to the heart of Jerusalem—about Christ!

Isa 40:1-2 Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. 2 Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins.

C. The Sacred Calling of the Church: To Honor the Living Word by Honoring His Written Word

1. To preach the Word: To unveil the glory and beauty of the Living Word: Jesus Christ

2. The sermon: The window through which we see the glory and beauty of the Living Word

Titus 1:3 God...hath in due times manifested his word through preaching.

2 Peter 1:20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

3. Christ-centered preaching: The only preaching that the Spirit of Christ delights in and will honor!

V. CHRIST: THE ETERNAL AND ENDURING LIVING WORD OF GOD

A. Christ Will Eternally Reveal His Father's Heart

1. A profound reality: Christ will eternally be the Logos—the revelation of the Father

Rev 19:13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

2. Christ, the Logos: The Person in whom God's redeemed people will eternally interact with the Father

Rev 21:3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

3. As the Living Word, Christ will eternally tabernacle in the midst of all who will bear His image perfectly

Rev 21:22-23 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. 23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

B. Christ Will Eternally Lead His Redeemed People Deeper and Deeper into the Heart of God

1. Christ, as the incarnate Logos, will eternally lead His people to fountains of living water

Rev 7:15-17 He that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. 16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. 17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

2. Heaven: We will eternally behold the glory of the Father in the face of His Son—His Living Word!

Rev 21:6 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

Rev 22:4 And they shall see his face;

3. The Living Word's unveiling of the heart of the Father: An experience that will never end!

C. Our Obligation Toward Christ: To Be Faithful Stewards of His Written Word

1. We must preserve the integrity of God's written Word—because of the Living Word.

2. Satan's stratagem: To corrupt the written Word in order to dishonor the Living Word

3. The written Word and the 2nd commandment—revelation, not imagination!

4. The need of this hour: Our unwavering commitment to the Father's record of His Son—His written (and preserved!) Word!