

Existing One – Sunday 3rd May, 2015

***“ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through Him, and apart
from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.” John 1:1-3***

Beloved in The Lord,

From time to time someone will ask me why is Jesus so important? Isn't it enough to just believe in God The Father? The simple answer is no, because apart from Jesus we cannot know God The Father. Jesus clearly taught:

***“I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”
(John 14:6)***

Jesus states it very clearly – no-one can come to the Father apart from Him. He is the only way, there is no other. Jesus also stated: ***“He who has seen Me has seen the Father.”*** (John 14:9) and also ***“I and the Father are one.”*** (John 10:30)

God is a Triune God and He is not divisible. If we want to know God then we must come to Him through Jesus and we know Jesus through the work of The Holy Spirit. This is how God The father has ordained it to be.

It is of utmost importance that we understand the truth that Jesus and The Holy Spirit have always co-existed with The Father. Before Jesus was born as a human being (His incarnation), He was not called Jesus, but He always was. John tells us that He was known as The Word (Logos). Our text says;

***“ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through Him, and apart
from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.” John 1:1-3***

The words in the beginning here, really mean eternity past. God has always been. This is something that we find very difficult to comprehend with poor human mind. We are used to all things having a beginning or origin. God does not have an origin. He has always been. This is why in The Old Testament God revealed Himself to Moses simply as “I AM”. God is the great “I AM” or the “Existing One”. HE IS. We read in the Psalm of Moses:

***“Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.
2 Before the mountains were born
Or You gave birth to the earth and the world,
Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God (Psalm 90:1-2).***

God is from everlasting to everlasting. He is the existing one. He is the “I AM”.

It is important for us to see that Jesus used this title of Himself. We see this most clearly in John's writings. In John's Gospel there are a number of “I AM's “. Jesus used this name to describe who He is.

For example: “Jesus said to them, ***“I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.”*** (John 6:35)

Jesus meets all of our needs, both physical and spiritual. He is The Living Bread – The Bread of life. In Him is all that we need in life. This is so beautifully stated by Paul in his letter to the Philippians: ***“And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” (Phil.4:19).***

When we are in Christ Jesus,; when we believe and trust in Him; then He meets all of our needs.

The next “I AM” is in John chapter 8 in verse 12: ***“Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.”***

The one who does not believe in Jesus gropes around in darkness. This world is getting darker every day, because more and more people are rejecting The Light – rejecting Jesus who is The Light of the world. Where Jesus is not uplifted, there darkness takes over. It is important to remember, however, that light is always more powerful than darkness. Even the tiniest light is visible in the dark. Jesus is Light and the one who abides in Him, lives in the light of truth.

Jesus also taught that He is The Door. We read:

“I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.” (John 10:9).

Jesus is the only door that leads to salvation, that leads to Heaven and life with God eternally. There is no other door to life here or the hereafter. Jesus has always been and will always be the only door. This door opens to all who would believe in Him.

Now one of my dearest “I AM” sayings:

“I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.” (John 10:11)

Jesus is The Good Shepherd. Every single person in the world follows a shepherd, but there is only one who is Good and that is The Lord Jesus Christ. He so loved His sheep that He sacrificed His own life in order to save those who would follow Him. He gave His life for all people. No-one else is so good. Jesus loves His sheep with an everlasting love. These words need to be read in conjunction with the great Gospel message: ***“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:16).***

Jesus is The Good Shepherd who loves His sheep. He cares for; He provides for; He saves His Sheep. Our life could not be in better hands than the hands of Jesus. This is so clearly stated in Psalm 23. I encourage you to read it over again.

In the next chapter of John we read: ***“Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, “ (John 11:25).***

Praise God. Jesus is the resurrection and the life. He gives life to all who believe in Him. This is why Jesus is so important. All other founders of religions are dead – their bodies lie in the grave. Not so in the case of Jesus. He lives. He was dead, but rose again never to die again. He was laid in the grave, but the grave could not hold Him. He is the resurrection and the life. He Himself says: ***“Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last,¹⁸ and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.” (Rev.1:17b-18).***

Jesus is the first and the last and the living one. Our Lord lives. He holds the keys of death and hell in His hands. He has the power to save from death and hell. This is why Jesus is so important. No one else can ever save us from eternal death, from the pits of hell, which we all deserve by reason of our sin.

Now we come to a text we already mentioned: ***“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.” (John 14:6)***

Here we have three “I AM’s” joined together – I AM the way; the truth and the life. These are clear in themselves and need little clarification at this point. Jesus is the way of truth that leads to the Father. Outside of Jesus we cannot get to the Father, for there is no other way to be saved, to be reconciled to God. Peter stated: ***“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12).***

Please understand this and be clear about it – there is no other name by which we must be saved. there are no exceptions, there is no other way, no other means. Jesus Alone.

Now a passage that we are all familiar with:

I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)

In order for our life to be useful, to bear good fruit, to honour and glorify God, we must be abiding in Jesus as a branch is attached to a vine. If we are separated from the Vine, then the life giving sap (The Holy Spirit) does not flow through us and we wither and die and bear no useful fruit.

I hope that our reflections today have given you all a greater understanding of who Jesus is and why He is so important. All of these “I AM” passages show us how vital He is for all of us.

A person who rejects and denies Jesus; rejects and denies the one who created him and who sustains him. This is so foolish. Our text told us that all things were created by Him and nothing is created apart from Him. He is the great “I AM” – the “Existing One.” This is why the confession of the Apostles was: ***“for in Him we live and move and exist,”.(Acts 17:28).***

The final thing I would mention today is what we heard in our reading today and that is that Jesus has been given the name that is above every name. One day every knee shall bow before Him and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. (See Phil.2:5-11).

Those who rejected Jesus will bow the knee and have to confess that He indeed is Lord, as they are eternally separated from Him in hell, because they did not accept His Lordship in life. May no one who hears me or reads this be in this category. May we be amongst those who proclaim here in this life; and who will proclaim in Heaven for all eternity that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God The Father.

Amen.

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All Bible quotations taken from New American Standard Bible.