Series: Christmas Gifts (John 1)

**Title: The Gift of Knowing God**

Text: “In the Beginning was the Word”

Preaching Date: December 6

Key Verse:   
John 1:1a

“In the beginning was the word.”

Intro:

John discipled Polycarp

Polycarp discipled Irenaeus of Lyon

Irenaeus said John wrote his gospel in response to Cerinthus.

(Wikipedia) Cerinthus ([Greek](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_language): Κήρινθος; fl. c. 50-100 AD) was an early [gnostic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gnostic) [Christian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity), who was prominent as a [heresiarch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heresiarch) in the view of the early [Church Fathers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_Fathers).[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cerinthus#cite_note-ReferenceA-1) Contrary to the Church Fathers, he used the [Gospel of Cerinthus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gospel_of_Cerinthus), and denied that the Supreme God made the physical world.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cerinthus#cite_note-ReferenceA-1)[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cerinthus#cite_note-2) In Cerinthus' interpretation, the Christ descended upon Jesus at [baptism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baptism_of_Jesus) and guided him in ministry and the performing of miracles, but left him at the [crucifixion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death_and_resurrection_of_Jesus).[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cerinthus#cite_note-Gundry-3)[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cerinthus#cite_note-4) Similarly to the [Ebionites](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ebionites), he maintained that Jesus was not born of a virgin, but was a mere man, the biological son of Mary and Joseph

Organizational Sentence:

Outline:

1. **Jesus has always been.**
   1. In the beginning
      1. Before time.
      2. Before space.
      3. Before matter.
      4. Before energy in any of the forms we think of.
      5. Before change.
      6. Before anything other than God.
   2. Jesus is eternal
      1. No beginning
      2. No end
      3. Nicene Creed: “…And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only‐begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made…”
      4. EFCA SOF: “We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.”
   3. God the Trinity including Jesus has always been. But things other than God did not always exist to enjoy and worship God.
2. **Jesus is the supreme revelation of God to humanity.**

Note: The reverse is *not* true. The Word of God (the Bible) is *not* Jesus.

* 1. God graciously makes himself known:
     1. Persons of the Trinity – God presenting the glory of God to God for God’s enjoyment.
     2. Speech
        1. “And God said”
        2. Conversations with Adam
     3. Angels
     4. Physical Creation
     5. Prophets
     6. Dreams
     7. Visions
     8. Jesus.
  2. Jesus is the Word. Logos.
     1. Logos in its most basic form is a spoken word, speech, or line of reasoning.
     2. Speech is more powerful and impactful than written words.
        1. A written word merely communicates your thoughts and perhaps your interpretation of your own feelings.
        2. Speech communicates with your whole self and thus communicates yourself.
     3. Greek Thought:
     4. Definition: “In John, denotes the essential Word of God, Jesus Christ, the personal wisdom and power in union with God, his minister in creation and government of the universe, the cause of all the world's life both physical and ethical, which for the procurement of man's salvation put on human nature in the person of Jesus the Messiah, the second person in the Godhead, and shone forth conspicuously from His words and deeds.”

Bottom Line:

**If you want to know God, start with Jesus.**