

The Supremacy of Jesus
“Jesus, the Supreme Creator”

Passages: John 1:1–5
Col. 1:15–20

Today we start a new sermon series entitled, “**The Supremacy of Jesus**”. Why? Simply because, in just a month’s time we will be having our annual Missions Month. **This sermon series on the supremacy of Jesus will set the stage for our Missions Month!**

Think about it: Our Missions month is a time when we hear from a variety of missionaries and evangelists...people who are trying to communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ in all sorts of different cultures and social situations. It’s a time when we listen to their stories; when we hear about the difficulties and the successes in **presenting Jesus to an unbelieving world!**

But before we hear from them, we should ask ourselves a very important question: **Why should we present Jesus to the world?** I mean, why should missionaries go and tell people about Jesus? What makes Jesus so special that we should disturb people (who may be quite happy the way they are) by telling them to turn to Christ? Why should we shake-up the status quo of nations and cultures by telling them to consider the Christian worldview? Why should people who are already deeply engaged in their own religions and philosophies be interested in Jesus? Indeed, why should we support missionaries and evangelists to tell the world that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life; the only way to know God? Aren’t we being a bit narrow-minded? Aren’t we being a bit arrogant in our missionary zeal?

Let’s pray for God’s guidance.

You don’t have to go very far to discover that an increasing number of people around us have difficulty in seeing the relevance of Jesus to their lives today. Even in a “Christian” nation like the USA, belief in Jesus is in decline!

(Take a look at this YouTube clip!)

Often people will say things like, “Jesus lived 2000 years ago! He was a Jew who wore funny clothes, did a few miracles, and lived in ancient Palestine. Now, he’s just another dead historical figure...a

great prophet, or teacher, or guru, or mystic. There's nothing today that connects me to Him!"

If people only knew! You see, the Scriptures say that Jesus is relevant to all human beings... and to every living thing on this planet! Why? Because **He is our Supreme Creator!**

Let me exercise your imagination for a moment. According to Carl Sagan, one of the world's best-known scientists who died in 1996, "The information content of a simple cell has been established as around one trillion bits, comparable to about **100 million pages** of the Encyclopaedia Britannica". What Sagan was talking about is the information contained within the genetic code (DNA) of a microscopic E- coli bacterium...the one that lives in our intestines.

Now, with that idea in mind, stop and think about the informational complexity of **human beings!** Obviously, human beings more complex than the E-coli bacterium! But how much more complex? Well, did you know that each human being processes about 10^{24} bits of information each day? (That's all the information needed for language, the functions of your organs, your nervous and hormone systems, etc.). In other words, the daily amount of information needed to make you "you" is **higher** by a factor of 1 million than the total of all accumulated human knowledge (10^{18} bits) stored in all the world's libraries!

This is what human DNA is all about—information! On your DNA is written all the informational code that makes you "you"...and your DNA is replicated precisely, exactly, identically in every cell in your body. It's your genetic thumbprint! In fact, each cell in your body has around 2 metres of DNA! And you have around 100 trillion cells in your body.

Who is good at mathematics? If you were able to string every strand of DNA in your body together end to end – how far do you think it would reach? Here's the simple mathematics: If we multiply the 2 metres by 100 trillion, we get 200 trillion metres, or **200 billion kilometres** of DNA. So, how far would that take us? From Sydney to London is about 17,000 kilometres. To the moon and back is almost 4 million kilometres. To the sun and back is 300 million kilometres. This is getting exciting isn't it? But

no, that's still not far enough. If we could string your DNA end to end, it would reach to the sun and back **667 times!** Isn't that completely amazing?

Now, while I've got you pondering this amazing reality of your DNA and the biological information that is stored in it, let's take a look at **John 1:1-3**.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made."

John begins His Gospel by saying, **"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."** Now, John obviously chose the phrase, **"In the beginning"**, because it is the exact same phrase found in the opening verses of the Old Testament. In the first verse of Genesis 1 we read: **"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."** So it's not an accident that John copies these words—he deliberately wants us to reflect on the creation story found in Genesis 1!

But then, John adds one amazing twist to that ancient story! You see, back in Genesis 1, we were told that God brought the world into existence by speaking out His Word! **"Let there be light!"** In John's mind, however, the Word that was spoken by God into the void of nothingness...the Word which brought all things into existence...was none other than Jesus Christ! **"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."** And because Jesus is the "Word of God" ...the very Word that God spoke forth "in the beginning"... John insists that **He must, therefore, be God... the Creator of the universe!**

Now, at this point I want to take you into some recent scientific studies in biological information and information theory. One of the science's biggest proponents of information theory, **Claude Shannon**, developed the following series of 8 theorems which suggest that, for today's universe to contain so much information, there must have been a prior source of that information even before the universe came into existence.

'Shannon's law' says:

1. No information can exist without a code.
2. No code can exist without a free and deliberate convention.

3. No information can exist without the five hierarchical levels: statistics, syntax, semantics, pragmatics and apobetics.
4. No information can exist in purely statistical processes. (It's **dynamic!**)
5. No information can exist without a **transmitter**.
6. No information chain can exist without a **mental origin**.
7. No information can exist without an **initial mental source**; that is, information is, by its nature, a mental and not a material quantity.
8. No information can exist without a will. (It is **personal, relational!**)

I may not fully understand these 8 theorems, but as I read them, not only am I reminded of **Genesis 1** (where we're told that God created the world by His Word) but also of **John 1** (where Jesus, the Word of God spoken to create the universe is called the Word of God). **The combination of these ideas forces me to understand Jesus as the source of all of this universe's information!** Jesus, the Word of God, is the dynamic, relational, mental origin and source of all information, who continues to supply essential information to sustain the universe today! As Paul says in Colossians 1:17, **"He is before all things and in Him all things hold together."**

(In this light, it makes sense to say that God, the Father is the transmitter! To my mind, this is a wonderfully dynamic and very relational explanation of the Trinity, clarifying humanity's ongoing dependency on God!)

But, as big as that idea is, John doesn't stop there! In verses 4 and 5, he goes even further to establish the relational, cosmic identity of Jesus Christ! **"In him was life, and the life was the light of men."**

As we already saw, by calling Jesus 'the Word of God', John is implying that all knowledge, wisdom, intelligence and information in this universe has its origins in Jesus! He is the 'divine logos' of creation, sent from the Father as the organising principle that holds the universe together.

But now, John adds to that the idea that Jesus is also the **Life of God**. **“In Him was life and that life was the light of men.”** In other words, not only does Jesus hold the universe together but He is also the source of all life for the entire universe! (It’s no wonder why the incarnate Jesus raised people from the dead, and why Jesus said that, one day, **“the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear it will live!”**—see John 5:25)

But that’s not all! John ties one more idea to these concepts of **God’s Word** and **God’s Life**. John says that Jesus is **“the Light of men (mankind)”**. He has been shining on humanity “from the beginning”, and for those who receive His light, He has been slowly banishing the darkness of human evil, unbelief, lostness and despair!

Indeed, in verse 5 John goes on to say that, since the beginning of time, **darkness has never been able to overcome the all-powerful, all-pervasive light of Jesus**. He writes, **“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”** What this inevitably means is that the powers of darkness will never be able to stop Jesus! In the same way that the Word of God cannot be stopped from imparting information and holding the universe together and the Life of God cannot be stopped from giving life to all creatures, so too, it will be impossible for anything to stop the Light of God from shining into the darkness! **Jesus will shine, regardless of what the powers of darkness do to try to stop it!**

Do you remember the story of how Jesus came up to a demon-possessed man who lived amongst the tombs? As soon as Jesus approached him, the demons cried out, **“What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?”** They knew that a TIME has been already set for their destruction! They already knew that the Light of God will eventually triumph over darkness.

That’s why, later in John’s Gospel, Jesus will repeatedly insist that all people must come to Him. In John 12:46 Jesus says, **“I have come as light into the world that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.”** In John 12:36, Jesus also encourages

us: **"While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of the light."** The point is that, throughout the Gospels, Jesus is fiercely determined to bring the entire universe out of darkness and into the fullness of God's Light! Why? Because, when you believe in Him, not only do you leave the darkness and enter the light but you actually join **the family of the light**—you become "children of the light". All this is not simply wishful thinking—this will happen! As John said, **"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."** Ultimately, Jesus, the light, will triumph.

So, let's get back to our opening question-- Who is Jesus?

1. He is God's eternal Word that speaks to bring information and order into the chaos of this universe. And so, when people ask, "Who or what deserves the credit for the incomprehensible complexity and awesome beauty found in the living world around us, it's your chance to speak about Jesus, the Word of God!
2. He is also God's Life that has been graciously given to every living creature, whether we know it or not. And so, when someone asks you about the purpose and the mystery of life, it's your chance to speak about Jesus, the source of all Life.
3. He is the Light of Humanity that has come to shine into our darkness until we finally give in to it and accept it! And so, when you're talking with friends about evil and darkness and how messed up the world is, tell them about Jesus the Light of God who will be victorious over all sin, all evil and all death, and all darkness, ultimately eradicating it from God's good creation.

All in all, **He is the Supreme Creator of the Universe!** And that's why we need to tell the world about Jesus...and why we need to support missionaries who do likewise! Our calling in this world is to speak Jesus, the **Word of God**; to offer Jesus, the **Life of God**; and to shine Jesus, the **Light of God**... to our family, friends, neighbours and workmates.

May this Good News of Jesus Christ, our wonderful Creator, be proclaimed throughout the entire world!

Let's pray