

Wonder - From Eternity

Message by Pastor Clay, The Naz

Week 1 - December 7th, 2025

[Link to Sunday Service](#)

Summary

In this message we explore the true meaning of Christmas through the Gospel of John, chapter 1. We contrast the substantial reality of Christ's incarnation with our sentimental cultural traditions. Jesus is the eternal Word (Logos) who created all things and came to earth as God with us. We live in tension between joy and sorrow, especially during Christmas, while questioning God's presence in dark times. This is because humanity fell from a perfect relationship with God in the Garden of Eden through sin, which brought spiritual death and separation. Christmas represents God's rescue plan - Jesus came as the light to overcome darkness, offering life to those dead in sin. Rather than a works-based system like Santa's naughty/nice lists, Jesus offers grace by taking our place on the cross and giving us His righteousness as a gift.

Jesus is not just a principle but a person who entered our suffering, conquered sin and death through His resurrection, and now offers eternal life. The darkness of this world - whether personal struggles, loss, or global chaos - has not overcome the light of Christ. Christmas answers our deepest questions about God's presence and love, showing that He came down to us rather than requiring us to reach up to Him. You and I are invited to know Jesus personally as Savior and Lord, recognizing that in Him is life, and that life is the light that illuminates our darkness.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather together to study Your Word, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us. Help us to set aside our preconceptions and distractions, and make us receptive to Your truth. We pray that through our discussion, You would deepen our understanding of who Jesus is and what His coming means for our lives. Guide our conversation and help us to encourage one another as we explore the profound reality of Christmas. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's one thing you've learned to do with your own hands that you're particularly proud of, and why was it important to you to do it yourself rather than have someone else do it?

Key Verses

- John 1:1-5, 14, 18
- Genesis 3:15; John 8:12

Questions

1. How does John's perspective on Christmas in John 1 differ from the traditional nativity accounts in Matthew and Luke? What does this teach us about the significance of Jesus' birth?
2. Pastor Clay mentioned that we often live on 'parallel tracks of blessing and hardship.' How do you experience this tension, especially during the Christmas season?
3. What does it mean that Jesus is the 'Logos' - the Word who was with God and was God? How does this impact your understanding of who Jesus is?
4. How does understanding the fall in Genesis 3 help us better appreciate the significance of Christmas and God's rescue plan?
5. Pastor Clay said 'Santa's entire scheme is works-based righteousness' while Jesus offers grace. How might we sometimes fall into a works-based mentality in our relationship with God?
6. What does it mean that 'the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it'? How can this truth encourage us during difficult times?
7. How does knowing that Jesus 'entered into our suffering' and 'knows exactly what you and I walk through' change how you view your current struggles or pain?

Life Application

This week, identify one area of darkness or difficulty in your life where you've been asking 'Where is God?' Instead of focusing only on the hardship, intentionally look for evidence of God's presence and light in that situation. Each day, write down one way you can see God working or one truth about His character that brings hope to your circumstances. Share your observations with someone you trust.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for this time of discussion and for the truth of Your Word that has been shared among us. We are amazed by the reality that You, the Creator of the universe, chose to come to earth as a baby to rescue us from our sin. Help us to carry the light of Your presence with us throughout this week. When we face darkness or difficulty, remind us that You have overcome and that You are with us. May our lives reflect the hope and joy that comes from knowing You personally. Transform our hearts to be more like Yours, and help us to share this good news with others who need to know Your love. We pray this in Your precious name, Amen.