



SERIES: September 2022 – February 2023 Believe

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Monday, September 5, 2022

Scripture: John

TITLE: Non-Negotiable

Words are powerful. Words can build up or tear down a person's spirit. Words can fortify or destroy a person's reputation. Words can tell a story or sell a lie. Words hold intrinsic meaning that does not change. Words are powerful.

But think about the power of the words of God. God spoke the world into existence. Jesus spoke, and the dead came back to life. With just five Hebrew words, the people of Nineveh turned from their sin. According to Romans, the Gospel is the power of salvation to all who believe.

So our words matter. God's words matter. And there is one more Word that is non-negotiable in its meaning and power. What...no, who...is that Word?

Let's begin our study of the book of John in John 1:1-5 (ESV).

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 any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

In just five verses, the apostle John conveys a non-negotiable truth: Jesus Christ is God. John says, "In the beginning." The Greek reads, "*en arche*." John echoes Genesis 1:1. In the beginning God... In the beginning was the Word. What we miss in English is the clarity the Greek brings. John is saying, from before time began was the divine Word - The Logos. The Word is the incarnate power and revelation of God.

In these 5 verses, John says, before time began, the Logos – or the divine Word who is Jesus was with God and was God. Jesus has always been God. He's always been with God. Through the divine Word, the created world began. In Jesus Christ is the light of mankind. Light and light are two descriptors of the same reality. Jesus Christ is the source of light and life. He came into the world to be the light and expose what is in the darkness.

Jesus came to seek and save the lost. He came to defeat Satan's realm of darkness.

John's point in these opening 5 verses is to make clear that Jesus Christ is God incarnate revealed to the world to overcome the darkness. This is a non-negotiable truth about Jesus.

So here's my challenge for you today: settle this non-negotiable. Today it's popular to create Jesus in our image or the image we can tolerate. However, Jesus' Christ is non-negotiable. He is God. Always has been and always will be. So today, settle the matter.

When we know and believe who Jesus Christ really is, we will win the day.