

In the face of darkness our Great God has something to say. His saying goes against the darkness and the darkness can't comprehend it nor can it overcome God's Speech. God's speech is a victory over the darkness and it is the light and hope to all people.

Calvin in his reading and interpretation of this text writes, "In the beginning was the Speech..." Some of you may look at me and say, "The Speech? But we just read 'the Word'" In the Greek the word for Word is *logos* it can be translated as the reason, the principle, the calculation, etc. Philosophers at time this gospel was being written and even before then were obsessed with the reason for the universe, the principle for all being. Some may have asked, well was this reason this principle was it found in Jesus, well yes, but that doesn't encapsulate everything that Jesus was. Jesus was more than just a calculation for the problem of darkness, no, he was very God of very God. As the Nicene Creed puts it, We believe

in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
begotten from the Father before all ages,
God from God,
Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made;
of the same essence as the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation

Well what does that mean anyway? When we say Jesus is the Word, Jesus is the Speech, we are saying that Jesus is more than just a reason. Jesus is more than just God's reason for the universe, the principle for all being. Reason has its limits, yes, it can explain the world around us, but it doesn't explain everything. Sometimes farmers will go out and plant a seed, take care of the seed, do everything reasonable, but the seed fails to sprout. Reason fails us in these situations. Reason can lead us to commit heinous crimes against humanity, you don't have to look far to see this to be true. During the 2nd World War German citizens were thought to be following the reasonable course of progress as they sent millions of Jews to the concentration camps. Moreover, the Soviet Union thought itself to be the more reasonable nation as it committed atrocious crimes against their own people in the gulags, all in the name of progress and reason.

Reason looks at these historical realities and it tells us that God is indeed dead in the heart of the humanity. Reason tells us we are abandoned and left to face the darkness alone. Last, reason tells us, if there is a God there is an enormous gulf between us and him, and we are left hopeless, without grace. No, Jesus is not just the reason, but is that which goes beyond human reasoning and reveals a loving and gracious God. Brothers and Sisters this is the good news of the Gospel. God makes himself known through his speech, and this speech is taken on flesh and is revealed in a person. Jesus Christ, the Speech, the second person of the trinity, God of God, Light of Light.

This God makes himself known in his Speech, and this Speech, this Word, takes on flesh and is a light to all humanity. Humanity now has a reference point to know who God is, has grace, has hope, and knows what the ultimate good actually is. We don't know what is good,

we think we have an idea, we think our good intentions could lead to some sort of good.

However, it leads to more depravity. Again, History tells us we're not great at doing what we think is good. However, in the person of Jesus Christ we now have hope, we now have a reference point for our desire to live a good life, and to know the truth.

In commenting on this passage, Augustine in his grand work *The City of God* writes, "The grace of God could not have been more graciously commended to us than it was in that the only Son of God, while he remained immutably himself, put on humanity and, by the mediation of a man, bestowed upon men the spirit of his love. By this love a way was opened for men to come to him who was so distant from men—as distant as the immortal is from the mortal, as immutable is from the mutable, as the righteous is from the ungodly, as the blessed is from the wretched." In other words, this Word becoming flesh, this Speech of God taking on humanity, is an act of amazing grace of God toward all people. Only God could close the gap between humanity and God, only God could speak to the darkness and then it would retreat.

Only in God, brothers and sisters do we find our hope. "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it." That is to say, all the evil in the world can't snuff out the power of God's love, grace, and hope for humanity. Brothers and sisters this is where we find our good. The psalmist in Psalm 16:2 says "my goodness is nothing apart from thee." This brothers and sisters is the speech we need after facing the hard year that was 2020. Like every year 2020 started out hopeful. It was then we only heard rumors of a highly contagious virus that would soon turn our world upside down.

This virus would bring our economy to halt, those in the service industry would be laid off and millions faced the possibility of eviction because they couldn't pay their rent. We

watched as politicians went to war with one another as to what the truth of the matter was in regard to this virus. We then had a contentious election in which both sides only ended angrier at the other. The era of fake news only spiraled further out of control, and many of wondered what the truth was. We felt as if there was a great darkness over us.

However, the Word for all of us today is that in this darkness, God speaks a Word, and in that Word is found our Hope. No virus, no matter how dark, can ever shake us from this hope, this hope of life and life eternal. This is why the author of John says, "From his fullness, we have received grace upon grace." No matter how dark a situation may be, there is always the light of Jesus which showers us with grace. There is a sea of confusion out there all claiming to be truth, however, in Jesus we have but one solid truth and this truth does not confuse but illuminates.

This Word, this Speech, of God is worthy of our ultimate allegiance. Yes, we all have our politics and I'm not going to tell which is right or wrong. What I will tell you is that our ultimate allegiance is to Jesus Christ who came so that we be the light to others in world. So many things, not just politicians, will vie for your allegiance. Money does this too, after all it was Voltaire who said, "When it comes to money all men are of the same religion." However, when you stand before God, as we all must at some point we will give account as to where our allegiance lies, is it in darkness, or is it to the light?

In closing, I want to leave you all with this. In the darkest of times God speaks a Word, and this word is our everything. It is more than a reason it is our God, and it is our goal in life. You may wonder, "How do I get a handle on this thing I need?" Good news! The grace of God has brought you here to come to know the goodness and salvation there is in Christ. Others may already know all this, however, the question still remains, are you putting this light at the

center of your life? If so, how does our life speak to this reality? Simply put, we center our lives on the Word of God. That Word is found in the Scriptures, and we believe that God speaks to us all today, through this text. In him we find life, in him we have our hope in the face of darkness.