

Valiant for Truth #2 – Christ the Eternal Word of God

Jer. 9:3 – “And they bend their tongues like their bow for lies: but they are not **valiant for the truth** upon the earth; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they know not me, saith the LORD.”

We can't expect to be called Valiant For Truth, if we are not in fact, valiant for the truth. What does that even mean? **How can we be valiant for truth?**

When Jesus said he came into the world to bear witness of the truth, Pilate asked, “What is truth?”. In Jn. 14:6, Jesus told his disciples, “**I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**”

Jesus is the Word, the Truth of God Revealed to Man.

In John 1:1-14 we are told that Jesus is the Word, God himself, the Creator, and the true Light; that in him (only) is life, and that he is the giver of grace and truth. As the Logos, he is the self-revealing, communicating God.

The Greek for “Word” is Λόγος (Logos). According to Thayer's Greek lexicon, it has all the usual meanings of “word”, as a distinct word, a saying, decree, order, promise, proverb, speech; the act of speech, faculty or skill or style in speaking; discourse, instruction, preaching, doctrine, narrative, etc. But it is used in a much more significant and higher way when applied to Jesus Christ.

“In several passages in the writings of John ὁ λόγος denotes the essential Word of God, i. e. the personal (hypostatic) wisdom and power in union with God, his minister in the 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 and shone forth conspicuously from his words and deeds” (Quote from Thayer's Greek Lexicon)

The word hypostasis means “*the underlying or essential part of anything as distinguished from attributes; the substance, essence, or essential principle*”, but in a theological sense it means one of the three “persons” of the trinity (God is one in essence but eternally manifests himself in three distinct “persons” (hypostases)). But there is also something commonly called the “hypostatic union”, that Christ is one person in whom the human and divine natures are fully united – he is fully God and fully man in one person.

In the Bible it is John only who refers to Christ as the Word of God, the very essence of God as the eternal Son in heaven, who at a definite point in time became a man (Jesus) through the virgin birth, and so now is united forever in a perfect union – not half man and half God, but fully God and fully man in one person. Any deviation from this has been seen throughout church history as heretical teaching. This is where we divide between groups with which we may have even serious disagreements (the various denominations), and those we refer to as false religious cults, not to be regarded as “Christian” in any sense, no matter what they may claim. E.g., Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, Masonry, Scientology, etc.

Jn. 1:1-2 – “In the beginning was **the Word**, and **the Word** was with God, and **the Word** was God. The same was in the beginning with God”

Jn. 1:14 – “And **the Word** was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”

1 Jn. 1:1 – “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of **the Word of life**; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)”

1 Jn. 5:7 – “For there are three that bear witness in heaven, the Father, **the Word**, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.”

Rev. 19:11-13 – “And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood; and his name is called **The Word of God.**”

For this reason we commonly refer to Christ as the Word of God. But why do we also refer to the Bible itself as the Word of God?

"The word of the LORD" is a phrase which is often used in the OT to refer to God speaking precisely, understandably, even audibly or in vision to men.

1 Sam. 3:1 – "And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision."

Ezra 1:1 – "Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia ..."

Ezek. 1:1-3 – (On a specific day) "The word of the LORD came expressly unto Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and the hand of the LORD was there upon him."
(in verse 1 – "the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God")

Hos. 4:1 – "Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because *there is* no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land."

Zech. 1:1 – "In the eighth month, in the second year of Darius, came the word of the LORD unto Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo the prophet, saying,"

It also is used to describe the literal reign of Christ out of Jerusalem during the Millennium.

Mic. 4:2 – "And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem." (also Isa. 2:2-4)

As Christ, the second "person" of the triune nature of God, was from eternity the Logos or Word of God, it is because God is self-revealing. He reveals himself to mankind, in general ways like observation of the wonders of creation, and by conscience, but also more directly, by dream and vision, or audible voice. He also speaks through his actions in history, showing to the world his omnipotent power and sovereignty by things like the Flood, the Exodus, and the punishment of his people by the Assyrians and Babylonians.

It was the pre-existent Christ who spoke to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and to the prophets. He was the wrestling angel of Gen. 32, and the "Captain of the LORD's host", and the "Angel of the LORD". He was the revealer of God's existence, will, decrees, and judgments throughout the OT. But in the Incarnation, he became flesh, and is now the revelation of Truth, Light, and Life itself to us who live in a dark world. In Christ we see light, and come to understand what we could NEVER have understood or experienced otherwise. If Christ had not come into the world to live and die and be raised, we would still be living in darkness, ignorance, and death.

The Bible is the written record of God's dealings and speaking to men in his various ways, and so now we do not individually need an audible voice to know God and his will – we can read about it in "the Word". When we read and meditate on the Word, and rely on the Holy Spirit to enlighten us, we can truly say that God is speaking to us through His Word. Christ speaks to us through that written revelation.

Heb. 11:4 – "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh"

Abel's righteous life still speaks to us today through the Word.

1 Cor. 10:1-6 reminds us of the Exodus, "how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted."

Christ still speaks to us through the record of all his dealings with Israel, the unbelieving world, and the church.

So in summary, Christ is the eternal living Word, the Logos, the second "person" of the trinity, and the Bible is the written Word of God, a record of God's dealings with man through the millennia, and is a faithful standard and guide for our beliefs, doctrines, and daily lives.