

## See This Thing: "In the Beginning"

John 1:1-5

In the last week and in the next few weeks to come, you will be invited by the world, the flesh and the Devil to see several things. You will be invited to see food, presents, parties, sports games, vacations, entertainment, relaxation and much else. None of that is bad, unless you have not first begun to 'see this thing' that the Scriptures mention. How do you prepare for Advent? What has kept you in the past from 'seeing this thing'? That can change this year.

1. What implications does it have on your life that Jesus was pre-existent before Creation and that He is self-existent? What difference does that make?
2. How can you use this Advent to enjoy all the pleasures of Christmas: time off, relaxation, food, entertainment, parties, etc., yet still have a sense of Lent and self-denial? How might you navigate the two and vividly celebrate, but also practically consecrate your life more to Christ?
3. As you anticipate Christmas, what are you preparing most for? What is that gut 'I'm so looking forward to this' thing that has you excited during this season? How would you like to see the things you most look forward to turn more to Christ-centered things?
4. What are some ideas on your heart right now that you want to incorporate into your worship season during Christmas, to make it more spiritually meaningful for you and your family? What do you want to accomplish this year that has never been accomplished spiritually before during this easily distracting season?
5. Have you ever pondered what kind of glory must be culminating for God that it would use the investment of Himself becoming man to accomplish? A called nation, a wayward nation, a simple couple celebrating a birth, the death of the God-man, all equally pointing to a great manifestation of the glory of God. Is that something that riddles your heart and causes you wonder, admiration and anticipation?
6. Since Jesus Himself is the Word, what ramifications does that have as you counsel with the Word of God? What should your intention and mindset be when sharing the Word?
  - a. When giving biblical principles of the Word, we are really leading others to \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. When using the Word of God to give hope, we are really giving \_\_\_\_\_ as the answer
  - c. When we are using the Word to rebuke or correct, it is really \_\_\_\_\_ doing the correcting.
  - d. When we use the Word to talk about consequences of sin, we are really seeing and telling others that \_\_\_\_\_ has been hurt by their / our sin.
  - e. When we encourage with the Word of God, we are telling others that \_\_\_\_\_ wants them to persevere and grow.
  - f. When we tell others that obedience to the Word is their biggest issue, we must be telling them that obedience to \_\_\_\_\_ is the issue.
  - g. Do you encourage intimacy with a text or intimacy with \_\_\_\_\_?

***Do you equate the Word of God and Jesus as you use the Word in other's lives?***
7. How has Jesus invaded your great darkness? What darkness is going on in you right now that He longs to invade? Is He invited to do so by you?