
Keeping the Main Thing, the Main Thing

The background of the slide is a night scene of a city. A bright star is visible in the dark sky, with a beam of light shining down from it onto a building in the city. The city lights are visible in the distance, and the overall scene is dark with some light from the city and the star.

**THE
MESSIAH'S
MISSION**

John 1:1-18, Col. 1:15-20

John 1:1

**In the beginning the Logos
already existed.**

**The Logos was with God,
and the Logos was God.**

John 1:2

He existed in the beginning
with God.

John 1:3

**God created everything through
him, and nothing was created
except through him.**

John 1:4

The Logos gave life to everything
that was created,
and his life brought light
to everyone.

John 1:5

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never
extinguish it.

John 1:9

**The one who is the true light,
who gives light to everyone,
was coming into the world.**

John 1:10

He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him.

John 1:11

He came to his own people,
and even they rejected him.

John 1:12

**But to all who believed him
and accepted him, he gave the
right to become children of God.**

John 1:13

They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

John 1:14

**So the Logos became human
and made his home among us.**

**He was full of unfailing love
and faithfulness. And we have
seen his glory, the glory of the
Father's one and only Son.**

John 1:16


From his abundance we have all
received one gracious blessing
after another.

John 1:17

For the law was given through Moses, but God's unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ.

John 1:18

No one has ever seen God.
But the unique One, who is
himself God, is near to the
Father's heart. He has revealed
God to us.

A person is silhouetted against a night sky filled with stars and the Milky Way galaxy. The person is standing on a small rock or mound in the foreground, looking up at the stars. The sky is dark with a gradient of colors from blue to orange near the horizon.

**Christ
is the image of
the invisible
God**

Colossians 1:15

Colossians 1:15

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth.

Colossians 1:16

He made the things we can see and the things we can't see— such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him.

Colossians 1:17

He existed before anything else,
and he holds all creation
together.

Colossians 1:18

Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body.

He is the beginning,

supreme over all

who rise from the dead.

So he is first in everything.

Colossians 1:19-20

For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross.

Keeping the Main Thing, the Main Thing

A night scene of a city with a bright star in the sky and a beam of light shining down on a building. The text is overlaid on this scene.

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“It is impossible for us to maintain our schedule if we are always having to stop and pick up passengers.”

PROLOGUE: THE INCARNATE WORD

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. HE WAS A LIGHT THAT GAVE LIFE TO EVERYONE WHO BELIEVED IN HIM. HE CAME TO HIS OWN PEOPLE, BUT THEY DID NOT RECEIVE HIM. HE GAVE TESTIMONY ABOUT HIMSELF, THAT ALL WHO BELIEVED THROUGH HIS NAME, HE GAVE THE RIGHT TO BECOME CHILDREN OF GOD. HE CAME TO HIS OWN PEOPLE, AND HIS OWN PEOPLE DID NOT RECEIVE HIM. HE GAVE TESTIMONY ABOUT HIMSELF, THAT ALL WHO BELIEVED THROUGH HIS NAME, HE GAVE THE RIGHT TO BECOME CHILDREN OF GOD. HE CAME TO HIS OWN PEOPLE, AND HIS OWN PEOPLE DID NOT RECEIVE HIM. HE GAVE TESTIMONY ABOUT HIMSELF, THAT ALL WHO BELIEVED THROUGH HIS NAME, HE GAVE THE RIGHT TO BECOME CHILDREN OF GOD.

LOGOS

THE LOGOS OF GOD

THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND DWELT AMONG US

JOHN 1:14

Definition of *Logos*:

In theology (the study of God), the *logos* is the second member of the Trinity. He is divine reason, He is the immanent power of God, implicit in the cosmos, ordering it and giving it form and meaning.

The Trinity:

The Father, the Logos and the Holy Spirit are not three beings, they are one being. Even though they are one being, they are not identical. All three are of the same essence, yet in some sense, they are distinguishable.

Principle #1

The main thing about the Incarnation of the Logos is that you understand, believe, live in light of, and share with others that the Logos, the Savior of all mankind is Jesus Christ, God in the flesh.

Genuine belief in the scandal of Christ's preexistence, descension, person, work, purpose, miracles, crucifixion, resurrection, and re-ascension, is what distinguishes every true believer.

Principle #2

The main reason the Logos descended to earth is because we are a fallen and sin ravaged people, where sin is not a series of bad choices, but a helpless state of being from which sinful, evil, and wicked choices continually flow.

Creation itself gives us every reason to believe in an intelligent life force, but since nature sheds no tears for human beings, we could not, until the birth of Jesus Christ, know that the brilliance of the Creator is love.

Remembering the Messiah's birth reminds us that God chooses to join us on this curious, broken, blue planet full of angst and wonder.

Principle #3

The main thing about the Logos' arrival into our world in the form of a baby is the revelation that each human being is the result of God's purposeful, creative power. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, and each of us is necessary.

The humble arrival of the Messiah teaches us that everyone's life has great value in and of itself, totally apart from what the world thinks of him or her. God loves us even if no one else does.

When Jesus gave up His glory He deliberately chose to be born in a cave to a poor family, and He made shepherds the first witnesses of His coming. Each year remembering His birth reminds me that my weaknesses and my “status” are unimportant in God’s eyes. I do not have to earn His love, only return it.

- James Sherk

Principle #4

The main thing about the Logos becoming flesh is that in Jesus Christ, God reveals His face, He reveals His unconditional love, and He reveals that He is Immanuel, God with us.

John 1:18

No one has ever seen God. But the unique One, who is himself God, is near to the Father's heart. He has revealed God to us.

Colossians 1:15

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth.

Colossians 1:19-20

For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross.

Principle #5

The main thing about the Gospel of Jesus Christ is that it is not one of many nice messages but that it is God's personal, intimate, and self-spoken invitation regarding humanity's only hope for salvation.

Principle #6

The main thing about the Incarnation is that Christ is God in the flesh, and as such, He has the power to forgive sins, to heal, to bless, to show mercy, to redeem, and to give eternal life (starting today) by grace thru faith.

Principle #7

The main thing about how we celebrate Christmas is that it reveals our priorities, our affinities, and what it is we hold most dear.

**Celebrating the arrival of King
Jesus into the world by
participating in all the decorating,
festivities, gift giving, and caroling
of Christmas without knowing,
understanding, or keeping the
main thing as the main thing, is
comparable to straightening
chairs on the Titanic.**

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The background of the slide is a night scene of a city. In the center, a bright star with a four-pointed cross pattern shines in the dark sky. A beam of light from this star shines down onto a building in the city. The city lights are visible in the distance, and the overall scene is dark with some stars in the sky.

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