SUGGESTED PASSAGE: Matthew 1:18-21 (NASB)

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.

19 And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly.

20 But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

MESSAGE GOAL: The goal of this message is to bring you into a life-changing encounter with the personal name of Jesus as your Savior, Deliverer, and Rescuer.

INTRODUCTION: When we speak about the name of a person, we’re giving their identity away. If I would ask for Bill to raise his hand, Ralph would not do so because “Bill” is not his name or his identity. Names are far more than mere nomenclature, a way to distinguish one person from another. A name has to do with identification. Names really mattered in the Bible because a person was given a name that often reflected the parents’ hopes and dreams for that child, or identified what that child was destined to become.

There are some names that live in infamy. You don’t see parents today naming their child Hitler or Judas or Jezebel or Benedict Arnold, because these names are synonymous with great evil and treachery. Other names represent more than just identification. The name Bill Gates brings to mind the subject of wealth. The names Barack Obama or Donald Trump immediately bring to mind the office of president. And most of us would guard our name and what it represents against those who would try to defame it.

Now if names matter this much among people, imagine how much names matter to God. In the Bible, God named several people Himself—none more important, or with a more significant name, than His only begotten Son, Jesus. Jesus is the Name that is above every name, as Paul wrote in Philippians 2:9, and He was also given or took upon Himself other names that signified who He is and what He came to do.

In this series we’re going to look at the predominant names of Jesus—what they mean and why it matters to you today. We’re going to start with our Savior’s personal name: Jesus. We often speak the name of Jesus, but do we fully understand the name we speak, and why it matters that we speak it and how we speak it? Let’s look at God’s Word together.

SERMON POINTS:

1. JESUS’ NAME MEANS THAT HE IS OUR SAVIOR, RESCUEER AND DELIVERER:
   - Jesus’ name was given to Him by His Father in heaven (Matthew 1:18-21; Luke 1:26-31).
   - The name “Jesus” defines our Lord’s role as the Savior who delivers us from our sins and our enemies (Matthew 1:21; Luke 1:68-79).
   - A lot of people want to use the name and power of Jesus to rescue them from everything but their sins.
   - Jesus wants to deal with sin, because everything negative in our lives is related, directly or incorrectly, to the presence of sin.
   - When you call on the name of Jesus, you are asking Him not only to deal with the fruit of your problem, but the root of your problem.

2. JESUS’ NAME TELLS US SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT ABOUT THE NATURE OF GOD:
   - God is perfect in all of His attributes and actions, and He demands perfection to satisfy His holy standards.
   - But we have failed to meet God’s standards, resulting in His judgment of physical and eternal death—separation from Him forever.
   - God sent Jesus to earth, and gave Him the name “Savior,” to address our inability to meet His standards on our own.
3. JESUS IS GOD IN THE FLESH WITH THE ABILITY TO FORGIVE SINS AND DELIVER FROM DEATH (MARK 2:1-12):

- Like the paralyzed man in Mark 2, our greatest need is not healing, but forgiveness of sin.
- Jesus is God’s representative to deal with the sin we have to face.
- Sin is such a big issue because it always brings death (Romans 6:23).
- Death in Scripture doesn’t mean the end of our existence, but rather separation.
- The goal of sin is always to bring separation, to separate us from God and from one another.
- Jesus’ ability to forgive sins is important because we are all going to die, by appointment (Hebrews 9:27), because we have all sinned (Romans 3:23).
- If you’re a Christian, the instant you close your eyes on earth, you will open them in heaven, forever with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:8).

4. JESUS CAME TO DEAL WITH SIN AT ALL OF ITS LEVELS (ROMANS 5:12-14; 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21):

- Jesus has rescued us from sin in all of its three primary manifestations or levels.
- The first level is known as imputed sin (see Sermon Illustrations), which in Scripture is an accounting term.
- Impute means to put something on your ledger, to credit it to your account. Adam’s sin was imputed or “credited” to the account of all his offspring.
- Second, there is inherited sin, the sin nature you inherited from your father (which is why Jesus was born without a human father).
- We also suffer from the third level of sin we could call practiced sin, the sins we commit that are enough to condemn us before God.
- Jesus delivered us from all the effects of sin on the cross; its penalty (Romans 6:23), its power (Romans 5:10; 6:6-11), and someday its very presence in heaven (Revelation 21:24-27).

5. We have to have the right authority to use Jesus’ name (1 John 5:14-15; John 14:13-14; 16:23-24):

- Jesus cannot act on our behalf unless we are using His name the way He intends for us to use it.

- Most of the time we say “In Jesus’ name” only because we have been taught to add it to the end of our prayers.
- Not everyone who calls on His name has His permission to use it (Acts 19:11-17).
- You and I can only use Jesus’ name if we are doing His will.
- Jesus said we are to pray in His name, but we must be in right relationship with Him to use His name.
- If you know how to use the name of Jesus, you will discover that His name is greater than every other name.

SERMON ILLUSTRATIONS:

THE RIGHT JOB DESCRIPTION:
When I was a water safety instructor, I trained lifeguards how to save drowning people. These lifeguards were “saviors” related to a specific task. They were not saviors for every need, just for people who were about to drown. Other things may have needed to happen in this situation, but the primary thing that overruled everything else was the need to rescue that person from the water. That was the job description of a lifeguard. Jesus has a job description, and that is to be a rescuer.

A LITTLE BIT OF CONTAMINATION:
We know that even a little bit of invisible bacteria on a surgeon’s scalpel can be lethal to the patient going under the knife, which is why in an operating room, everything has to be sterilized. The doctors and nurses also have to wash their hands, because they understand that even a little bacteria can produce a dangerous situation. They cannot lower their standards and still properly serve as surgeons and nurses. In the same way, God cannot lower His perfect standards just because they are strict or to make us feel better, because then He wouldn’t be who He is. Therefore, the issue of sin is the big issue that God must address.

THE EFFECTS OF IMPUTED SIN:
Imputed sin is like a penalty in football. When a lineman is called for an infraction, he is not given a five-yard penalty, the entire team is, because the team members are connected to one another. The guilty party doesn’t move back five yards alone, the team moves back. The “sin” of that lineman is imputed or charged to the whole team. The Bible declares, all of us are connected to the human race through Adam, and
because Adam sinned, the whole race was credited with the consequence of that sin and penalized with death.

**QUOTES BY DR. TONY EVANS:**

“ Asking God to address other issues in our lives without addressing sin is like having cancer and asking the doctor to give you aspirin for the pain without treating the disease!”

“Whether we are talking about racial or social issues, it all goes back to separation due to sin. But as long as we talk about skin instead of sin, we can have 250 years of ‘skin seminars’ and never address the root problem of sin when it comes to how we view people who are different from us.”

“Too many times we don’t hear from Jesus about the things we’re praying for, so we need to know how to use His name correctly. There is power in the name of Jesus, but only if we are meeting the conditions He has laid out.”

“Jesus is not going to respond to your use of His name if you are not equally concerned with doing His will, because then you are using His name apart from His goal, which is dealing with sin. If we are not committed to Jesus’ will, we don’t need bother calling on His name. He has no obligation to respond.”
MESSAGE 2:  
**JESUS THE CHRIST**

**SUGGESTED PASSAGE:** John 1:35-42 (NASB)

35 Again the next day John was standing with two of his disciples, 36 and he looked at Jesus as He walked, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” 37 The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. 38 And Jesus turned and saw them following, and said to them, “What do you seek?” They said to Him, “Rabbi (which translated means Teacher), where are You staying?” 39 He said to them, “Come, and you will see.” So they came and saw where He was staying; and they stayed with Him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. 40 One of the two who heard John speak and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He found first his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which translated means Christ).

**MESSAGE GOAL:** The goal of this message is to introduce you to the name of Jesus that is a title, “Christ,” the Messiah of Anointed One, and show you how you can put the power of His anointing to work in your life.

**INTRODUCTION:** My given name is Tony. Most people know me as Tony Evans. This name is my self-identification, and I will always answer to it when I hear it.

Sometimes people will also address me by a title, whether reverend or pastor, or perhaps even brother. When people address me in this way, they are referencing my role and responsibility as the pastor of this church. And many times, people will combine my personal name with my title as a fuller expression of who they consider me to be.

When it comes to Jesus, King of kings and Lord of lords, the full biblical expression of His name and identity is the Lord Jesus Christ. Sometimes, people say the three names together, as the biblical authors did on occasion. But at other times, the names are separated. Sometimes, you just read “Jesus.” Other times, He is called “Jesus Christ,” “Christ,” or “Lord.” Each expression has a unique nuance to it.

In our first message of this series on the names of our Savior, we focused on His personal name, “Jesus,” meaning the Savior or Deliverer who came to save His people from their sins. Our focus today is on the title “Christ,” which speaks of Jesus’ role as the Messiah or Anointed One of God.

**SERMON POINTS:**

1. **JESUS’ COMING AS THE LONG-EXPECTED MESSIAH OF ISRAEL IS A THRILLING REMINDER THAT GOD’S KINGDOM PURPOSES WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED:**

   - The word “Christ” is the Greek translation of the Hebrew word “Messiah,” both of which mean “the anointed one.”
   - This term appears over 500 times in the New Testament, which tells us something about how much Israel was looking forward its Messiah.
   - God also made certain promises to Israel and to the world that would be fulfilled by the reign of the Messiah.
   - John the Baptist pointed to Jesus as the highly anticipated One (John 1:29), and Andrew went to Peter with the good news (v. 41).
   - Jesus identified Himself as “the Christ” to the two disciples on the Emmaus road (Luke 24:25-27).
   - Christ’s genealogies prove the legitimacy of His claim to be Messiah and descendant of King David who will one day rule as King over the earth (Matthew 1:1-17; Luke 3:23-38).

2. **CHRIST’S ANOINTING AS PROPHET, PRIEST AND KING BRINGS HUGE, ETERNAL BENEFITS FOR US:**

   - In the Bible, to receive an anointing signaled that the person being anointed was qualified for the office he was to assume, and that he had God’s blessing.
   - In the Old Testament, prophets, priests and kings were anointed for service—all in anticipation of the Messiah, who would fulfill all three in Himself.
   - Jesus is the great Prophet, the spokesperson for God (Deuteronomy 18:15-19).
   - When Jesus spoke, it was as if God His Father was speaking. Jesus not only spoke God’s Word, He was and is God’s Word (John 1:1; Hebrews 1:1-2).
• This means that Jesus is the final, authoritative word on any subject. He is “the Alpha” and “the Omega” (Revelation 22:13), the entire alphabet of truth on any subject.
• Jesus is also our High Priest, who stands between the people and God to represent them to God and offer sacrifices for their sins.
• Jesus’ priesthood eliminates the need for a human priesthood (1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 2:17-18; 4:14-16).
• Jesus’ priesthood is eternal because it is reckoned through Melchizedek, not Aaron (Hebrews 5:1-10; 7:1—8:13).
• Jesus is also our King who will someday rule over all in His kingdom (Isaiah 9:6; Revelation 11:15).

3. WHEN WE ALLOW JESUS CHRIST, THE ANOINTED ONE, TO ANOINT OUR LIVES, HE CAN RULE AND OVERRULE ANY CIRCUMSTANCE:
• In Galatians 2:20, Paul invoked the name “Christ” twice to identify Jesus as the Anointed One, the Messiah.
• When we identify with Christ, we don’t lose our personality or identity or racial orientation, but we are changed.
• Union with Christ means we have given Him permission to let His anointing flow through us so that the life we now live, we live “by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me” (Galatians 2:20).
• Thus, Christ is our final Word as the anointed Prophet of God, our mediating Priest in heaven and our Ruler and OverRuler of circumstances of life.
• This means that He is free to flow His anointing in me, to me and through me to others.
• Jesus is the Christ, and when you have accepted Him you receive the anointing.

SERMON ILLUSTRATIONS:

YOUR MORNING COFFEE:
Once you add cream and sugar to black coffee, it doesn’t look or taste the same. The coffee may come out of the pot black, but cream and sugar transform it because there has been a stirring—even though it is still coffee. It looks and tastes different because a union has occurred that cannot be undone—just as our union with Christ has transformed us even as we continue to be the people God created us to be.

HIGH JUMPERS AND POLE VAULTERS:
Olympic high jumpers can clear almost eight feet by their own effort, using nothing but their bodies. But pole vaulters lean on a long pole they anchor in the ground, and they can soar over eighteen feet. Both kinds of athletes are trying to do the same thing: go as high as they can and clear the bar. But high jumpers are doing it with their own human effort, while pole vaulters lean on another power to soar higher, to propel themselves to heights they could never reach on their own.

QUOTES BY DR. TONY EVANS:
“When all of the Old Testament prophets spoke, their message was, ‘Thus saith the Lord.’ But when Jesus came on the scene, He said, ‘I say unto you.’ The human prophets were simply articulating what God told them to tell the people. When Jesus spoke, however, He spoke with the direct authority of God.”

“The problem today is that Jesus, who has been anointed as Messiah, is not allowed to be the last word on every subject. But He is the last word on the definition of being a woman or a man. He is the last word on the definition of when life begins. He is the last word on the definition of marriage. He is the last word on the definition of government. He is the last word on the definition of justice. He is the last word on the definition of righteousness. He is the last word on any subject matter you bring up.”

“A lot of people will use the name ‘God’ who want to skip using the name of Jesus. So, let me save you some time. If you use the name God, but you skip Jesus, what you have done is disconnected yourself from God. You can’t skip Jesus and get to God.”

“Jesus is Prophet, Priest and King. If He is Prophet, it means that He is the last word. If He is priest, it means that He is your connecting point with God the Father. If He is King, it means that He is ruling over you. With each one of these titles comes the anointing, which has to do with Christ’s official designation in that area over your life. So, if there is any rejection of Christ, you not only lose fellowship with the Person of Christ, you lose the ability to benefit from the anointing of Christ.”
MESSAGE 3: **JESUS THE LORD**

**SUGGESTED PASSAGE:** Romans 10:9-13 (NASB)

9 "If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed.” 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; 13 for “Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

**MESSAGE GOAL:** The goal of this message is to lead you to confess Jesus as Lord, and submit all of your life to Him as your absolute Lord and Master.

**INTRODUCTION:** Today, we are going to consider the name of Jesus that describes Him as Lord. When the fullest expression of Jesus’ Person and work is given, it is expressed in the phrase “the Lord Jesus Christ.” Jesus is His personal name, Christ is His office, and Lord is His title. As we will see shortly, the title “Lord” refers to Jesus’ deity, just as “Yahweh” is the highest title of God’s deity in the Old Testament, written as lord. Our primary text, Romans 10:9-10, says that we must confess Jesus as Lord, which we know is a vital part of our belief as Christians. Because Jesus is, in fact, Lord of all.

And yet, this passage of Scripture has led to a great deal of misunderstanding and confusion, because it seems to suggest two requirements for salvation. It does not, but its implications are nothing short of staggering. So, we need to understand what the Bible means when it tells us to confess Jesus as Lord.

Part of the confusion centers on the word “saved” in these verses. We need to remember that there are three tenses to salvation. We were saved from the penalty the moment we trust Christ. That’s the past. We are being saved in the present from the power of sin by the power of the Holy Spirit. And when Jesus returns in the future, we will be saved from the presence of sin. These are different aspects of our salvation, but the word “saved” is used of all three.

So, when we see this word in Scripture, we need to ask which tense the writer is referring to. In Romans 10, Paul is not referring to the past or future of salvation, but the present when we are overwhelmed with the world, the flesh and the devil and the effects of the three in our lives.

In other words, this is not about getting to heaven, but about how to bring heaven down to us in history. He is referring to the present tense of salvation because he’s speaking to believers, not non-believers.

To be saved and delivered and experience victory in history, and to be an overcomer in history demands more than your faith in Christ. It demands your confession of Jesus as Lord.

**SERMON POINTS:**

1. **THE TITLE “LORD” POINTS TO JESUS’ DEITY AS YAHWEH THE ONLY TRUE GOD:**
   - Peter makes one of the great theological statements of Scripture in Acts 2:36. The Greek word “Lord” is kurios, the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew word “Yahweh.”
   - This is the personal, covenantal name of God. Using this term for Jesus is a clear affirmation of His deity, Jesus is God.
   - Jesus claims to be Lord when He asked the Pharisees whose son they believe the Messiah to be (Matthew 22:41-46). The Pharisees can’t accept that Jesus is the Son of God, so they plot to crucify Him (Matthew 26:59-66).
   - Jesus Christ is proclaimed to be the only Lord of all (Romans 10:9; Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:5) who is worthy of our total life’s commitment (Romans 14:8-9).
   - Thomas speaks for all believers when he confesses Jesus as Lord (John 20:28).

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2. AS CHRISTIANS, WE MUST PLACE OURSELVES UNDER THE COMPREHENSIVE LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST:

- You gain righteousness by your faith in Jesus as Lord (Romans 10:10), but you only get delivered by your confession of Jesus as Lord.
- What is largely missing today in the church is the failure of Christians to place themselves underneath the comprehensive Lordship of Jesus Christ (Colossians 3:17).
- If you want God from heaven to join you in history, you must confess Him as Lord.
- With Jesus’ resurrection, He provides for your life and deliverance today (Romans 5:10).

3. CONFESSING JESUS AS LORD INVOLVES OUR PUBLIC, UNASHAMED IDENTIFICATION WITH HIM AS OUR SAVIOR AND LORD:

- Believer’s baptism is intended to be a Christian’s identification with Jesus Christ.
- You can’t skip Christ and get attention from God, because denying Jesus means you have denied the Father (John 5:23).
- The problem is that many Christians don’t want Jesus to rule over us as Lord—or overrule us.
- We ought to make it absolutely clear that we are followers of the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Peter 3:15).
- Jesus said your confession of Him before others, or the lack thereof, affects what His Father will do in terms of your deliverance (Matthew 10:32-33).
- Calling on the name of the Lord (Romans 10:13) is the qualification to be delivered from the world, the flesh and the devil.

4. FOR JESUS TO TRULY BE LORD IN OUR LIVES, HE MUST BE PREEMINENT, NOT JUST PROMINENT:

- None of us is perfect in our commitment to the Lordship of Christ, but we ought to be progressive in it.

SERMON ILLUSTRATIONS:

REFUSING TO WEAR THE RING:
Have you ever known someone who doesn’t want to wear their wedding ring? This person is legally married; they just don’t want anyone to know it. They want to be married but don’t want the public identification. God has a lot of members in His family who don’t want to wear His Son’s name in public. They will confess Him privately, or maybe in some circles where it is safe and convenient, but they will not publicly acknowledge Him.

YOU’RE IN THE ARMY NOW:
There was a soldier in the Army who asked his commanding officer for a weekend pass. The officer asked the soldier, “Why do you want a weekend pass?”

The soldier answered, “I need to go to a wedding.”

“Okay,” his commander said, “you can go. Just be back at 8:00.”

The soldier protested, “No, you don’t understand. I’m not just going to the wedding. I’m in the wedding.”

His commanding officer replied, “No, you don’t understand. You’re in the Army, and I order you to be back here by 8:00.” This soldier’s plan was overruled by his commanding officer.

OWING THE LORD YOUR LIFE:
There was a boy in Africa who was attacked by a lion. A missionary who was also a hunter saw the attack, killed the lion and saved the boy’s life. The boy was injured, so the missionary took him back to his tribe, and he recovered.

A few weeks later, the missionary heard noises coming toward his house. It was the boy, with a whole line of people behind him, carrying baskets. The boy walked up on the porch of the missionary’s house, and the missionary asked, “What are you doing?”
The boy said, “I’m coming to live with you.”

The missionary replied, “What do you mean, you are coming to live with me? I don’t understand.”

“It’s the law of the jungle,” the boy explained. “The law of the jungle says when somebody saves your life, they own you. You saved my life. I would be dead if it weren’t for you, so I am going to spend the rest of my life saying thank you for your deliverance and serving you.”

The missionary said, “You don’t have to do that.”

“But it’s the law of the jungle. You’ve got to be grateful for somebody who delivered you from certain death.”

If God has saved you; if you’ve been forgiven for all of your sins, you have eternity waiting for you. If God has delivered you from certain death, then the law of kingdom says that you owe Him your life. It ought not be that hard for you to bring your dreams, your hopes, your desires, your relationships and everything else, and lay it all at the cross and say, “Lord, I’m here to serve You. You saved me, delivered me, and gave me heaven. You did all that, and You own me. I am yours.”

QUOTES BY DR. TONY EVANS:

“There are far too many Christians on their way to heaven who have to wait until they get there to experience heaven, because they have trusted Jesus Christ, yet they have not confessed Him.”

“We are saved by the power of Jesus’ resurrection life. But you only get this help when you know the name ‘Lord’ and affirm it publicly. Many people have been saved in private. But your confession of Jesus as Lord must be a public agreement and affirmation of that fact in order for your salvation to work in history.”

“One reason we have so little deliverance for believers today is that we have so little public association with Jesus Christ and submission to His authority.”
SUGGESTED PASSAGE: John 1:1-18 (NASB)

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. 5 The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

6 There came a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light.

9 There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 John testified about Him and cried out, saying, “This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.’” 16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. 17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.

MESSAGE GOAL: The goal of this message is to help you learn to believe and trust in Jesus, the Word from God, even when life doesn’t make sense or seem to be fair, because He can reverse circumstances that seem irreversible and make sense out of life when nothing seems to add up.

INTRODUCTION: One of the biggest hoaxes perpetrated on the human race over the last 175 years is evolution. Evolution is a religious hoax because it is based on a faulty belief system about the origin of things. Your view about the origin of creation and of life becomes a religion because it becomes a belief that generates a myriad of other views that inform life and its choices, decisions and values. Evolution is not merely about how things got started. It’s about the implications of that worldview.

The theory of evolution is really the evolution of a theory. Evolution is also a scientific hoax because it is a belief system that people hold because they do not want to face the alternative, so they formulate their theory and try to hunt down some science that will support it. Evolution is a system that says nothing plus nothing over enough time has produced everything.

You may wonder what the theory of evolution has to do with a message series on the names of Jesus. But the two are connected because one of the names of Jesus is the “Word.” This declaration knocks the theory of evolution right off the stage. Let me show you how.

SERMON POINTS:

1. JESUS THE WORD WAS WITH GOD AND IS GOD:

- The Greek word for “word” is logos, a familiar Bible term and a powerful word in the secular world of Jesus’ day.
- The Greeks used logos to define the impersonal, creative force they believed was responsible for the universe and gave rise to all knowledge and wisdom.
- But John infused the term logos with an entirely new meaning and injected it with the truth of the pre-existent, creator God who is also the Word.
- The first thing we learn about the Word is that it (we’ll use this term for right now) was already present at the beginning of things.
- This Word that already existed before anything else also coexisted with God.
- The Word also had to be self-existent in order to be pre-existent and coexistent with God, which means the Word has to be God.
- The very concept of “word” suggests communication.
Jesus as the Word speaks the very Word of God because He is God.

2. THE WORD IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CREATION; EVERYTHING CAME INTO BEING THROUGH HIM:
   • Jesus is also a powerful Word because He spoke all of creation into existence.
   • Evolution is canceled out here because it depends on impersonal forces at work.
   • One of evolution’s dominant concepts is the “Big Bang” theory, which says that matter was compressed with so much force that it exploded.
   • This means that order came from chaos; an explosion created something instead of destroying it.
   • The Word is life-giving. The very definition of life is in Him.
   • Because Jesus is the life, He is also the light. If there is no life, there is no light.

3. THE WORD NOT ONLY CREATED ALL THINGS, BUT ALL OF CREATION WAS MADE FOR HIM AS WELL AS BY HIM (COLOSSIANS 1:16; HEBREWS 1:2):
   • Jesus the Word was responsible for creation, and after God spoke the world into being through Jesus the Word, He gave the world back to Him as a present for Jesus.
   • The author of Hebrews said that Jesus is God’s final Word to us.
   • Even though Jesus is not yet reigning as the heir of all things, He is to be the Lord and Master and final Word in our lives as believers (1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:23).
   • The Bible says this because all of creation, including our lives, was made to “boomerang” back to Jesus. The more we do this, the more our lives are infused with His life.

4. THE WORD BECAME A MAN SO HE COULD FULFILL HIS ROLE OF BRINGING US LIGHT AND LIFE, AND COULD ACT ON OUR BEHALF WHEN WE TRUST IN HIM (JOHN 1:14-18; PHILIPPIANS 2:6-8):
   • When Jesus became a Man, the Word entered into humanity.
   • This makes Jesus Christ unique among anyone who has ever lived, because “the Word became flesh.”
   • Science is looking for something in this dimension to explain this dimension when God exists in an entirely different realm. But in the incarnation of Jesus, God broke into our realm.
   • When the Word became flesh, He “dwelt among us.” That word means to “pitch a tent.” It’s a reference to the tabernacle, the tent that Israel used in the wilderness for the worship of God (see Sermon Illustrations).
   • John finished this opening section of his gospel by calling Jesus “the only begotten God” (v. 18). The term “only begotten” means “unique, one-of-a-kind.” This is another way of affirming that Jesus is “the fullness of Deity dwell[ing] in bodily form” (Colossians 2:9).
   • Jesus “emptied” Himself (Philippians 2:7) in order to become a Man, pouring His deity into humanity in order to die for our sins and rise again to give us life and light.
   • The reason you want to embrace the living Christ and His living Word is that when He is embraced, life comes.

SERMON ILLUSTRATIONS:

SOMETHING FROM NOTHING:
I would challenge you to go home and fill your garage with a pile of random car pieces and then wait as many years as necessary for a Rolls-Royce to assemble itself. You can wait forever, but you’re not going to get order out of chaos and randomness! But evolution would have you believe that that is how the world expanded over myriads of years.
RECEPTION PROBLEMS:
Many people have satellite television, which requires a receiver to pick up the signal from the satellite. That receiver is already set up to receive the signal from way out there in space so the person can watch television. Your new nature as a believer, the seed that has been planted in you, is already tuned to the Word of God. But many times people who have satellite receivers see the message on their screen that says, “Searching for signal.” The problem is that something has interfered with the signal coming in. The good soil Jesus spoke about is soil in which the interference has been addressed so that the receiver, the seed, is able to pick up the signal that comes from the Word. This creates the growth of the seed in the life, or soul, of the believer.

PITCHING A TENT:
Calculators are wonderful instruments that have been programmed to respond to the numbers you put into them. You don’t have to make the calculator come up with the right answer; it’s already set to do that. If you put one plus one into the calculator, it is going to come up with two. You just have to input the right information in order for the calculator to do its good work. When you become a believer, God placed within you that which is already set up to respond to His Word. Our only challenge is to make sure that we have the right soil to receive it. The Spirit of God wants to use the Word of God to make us like the Son of God.

QUOTES BY DR. TONY EVANS:
“Much of the chaos in society today is due to a system of evolutionary thought that removes God. Evolutionists say that Christians have the same problem with origins because we can’t prove the first cause either. It’s true that our position is also held by faith, as theirs is. The difference is that we have life producing life, instead of something that was not life producing life. John 1 goes on to say that Jesus the Word not only gave life to everything, but He Himself is both light and life.”

“The more life you have from Jesus, the more light you get from Him. Things begin to make sense, and you become more alive because the life-giving Person gets back what He made for Himself in the first place. It was all designed to come back to Jesus, which is why He must be the centerpiece of life.”

“One reason more Christians do not see the movement of God in their lives is that they will not allow Jesus Christ to rule over them. They leave Him at church or at home because they don’t want to take Him out in public. But if I’ve got somebody who gives me life, light and action, He is going everywhere with me because He is the Word made flesh who gives life and light, and He acts!”
MESSAGE 5:  
**THE LAMB OF GOD**

**SUGGESTED PASSAGE:** John 1:29-37 (NASB)

29 The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is He on behalf of whom I said, ‘After me comes a Man who has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.’ 31 I did not recognize Him, but so that He might be manifested to Israel, I came baptizing in water.” 32 John testified saying, “I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him. 33 I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, ‘He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.’ 34 I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

35 Again the next day John was standing with two of his disciples, 36 and he looked at Jesus as He walked, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” 37 The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

**MESSAGE GOAL:** The goal of this message is to show you how to apply the benefits of Jesus Christ’s death as the Lamb of God to your life, not only to save you in heaven, but to save and deliver you in history.

**INTRODUCTION:** One day, a repairman working up high on the steeple of a church slipped and fell to what appeared to be certain death. But just as he fell, a lamb came walking along in front of the church. The workman hit the lamb, which broke his fall and saved his life, although it killed the lamb. The workman got up and got himself together, then walked over to the door of the church and painted a picture of a lamb on it. He wanted everybody who came through that door to recognize that their only right to enter the church was because a lamb had been slain.

That brings us to the next name of Jesus, to whom John the Baptist pointed and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29). “Behold” means “Pay close attention. Look! Here is the promised sacrificial lamb that Israel has been looking for centuries.” They had been waiting for the One promised to come who would take away sins. John the Baptist was saying that the wait was over.

**SERMON POINTS:**

1. **JESUS’ NAME AS THE LAMB OF GOD TELLS US THAT HE IS THE FULFILLMENT OF GOD’S PROMISE TO PROVIDE A ONCE-FOR-ALL PAYMENT FOR OUR SINS:**

- When Adam and Eve sinned, they tried to cover their sin themselves by sewing leaves together to wear (Genesis 3).
- But God had to kill an animal Himself and shed its blood in order to provide an acceptable covering for Adam and Eve.
- This led to the sacrificial system throughout the Old Testament by which the wrath of God against sin could be assuaged.
- The centerpiece of this program occurred on the night of Passover (Exodus 12:13). The blood of the lamb would avert judgment based on God’s justice.

2. **THE SACRIFICIAL LAMBS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT ONLY PROVIDED TEMPORARY COVERING FOR OUR SIN UNTIL THE SACRIFICE OF JESUS, THE PERFECT LAMB OF GOD:**

- Ultimately, it is “impossible” for the blood of animals to take away sins (Hebrews 10:4).
- A lamb was a temporary sacrifice because God demands that sinners pay for their own sins.
- But since the sacrifice had to be perfect, without spot or blemish, no human being could meet the demand because we are all equally messed up by sin.
- So God instituted a temporary system to keep God’s wrath from being expressed to His people because of their sin (Hebrews 9:11-14; 10:1-14).
- Isaiah 53 gives a description of this One who would come as a lamb to the slaughter to bear the iniquity of mankind.
- God only accepts a perfect sacrifice that is in keeping with His righteous justice. He only accepts Jesus, the perfect Lamb of God.
3. JESUS THE LAMB OF GOD DIED ON THE CROSS FOR OUR SINS IN OUR PLACE; IT WAS A SUBSTITUTIONARY ATONEMENT (2 CORINTHIANS 5:21; ROMANS 3:24-25):

- The statement that Jesus the Lamb takes away our sin is a way of describing God’s provision for sin that theologians call the substitutionary atonement.
- The Old Testament lambs were temporary substitutes pointing forward to God’s ultimate, permanent substitutionary atonement in Jesus the Lamb.
- The Bible says that God made Jesus the perfect Lamb, who knew no sin, to become sin for us so we could become righteous in Him and acceptable to God.
- Three words are used to describe our salvation:
  - **Justification** – This is a legal term from the courtroom that means to be declared not guilty.
  - **Redemption** – This means to release someone on the payment of a price.
  - **Propitiation** – which means to be satisfied. Jesus satisfied the just demands of a holy God with His substitutionary atonement.
- Because Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, God can now offer the world eternal life (2 Corinthians 5:17-20; 1 John 2:2).

4. THE LAMB OF GOD DID NOT JUST DIE TO SAVE US IN ETERNITY. HIS DEATH SAVES US IN HISTORY AS WELL:

- Jesus died so you can live in spiritual victory instead of defeat. Jesus’ death not only saves you later in heaven, it saves you today in history.
- The blood of Jesus that saves you for the sweet by-and-by is also here to help you in the nasty here-and-now.
- On the cross, Jesus not only paid for your sins, He also broke the power of Satan. It’s the blood that gives you the power for victory and of righteousness.

**SERMON ILLUSTRATIONS:**

**A GIFT TO RECEIVE:**
If I were to buy you a brand-new car, all free and paid for, you would be foolish to start sending in monthly payments. The only reasons you would do that is either that you don’t believe me, or you are unwilling to accept my gift. But if you don’t accept it, you are not benefiting from your paid-up gift. You have to receive what is paid for in order to benefit from the payment, just as a person has to accept the payment of Jesus the Lamb for their sins to benefit from it.

**TOO SHORT:**
God doesn’t measure you by your neighbor. You may be better than your neighbor, but you are too short to measure up to God’s standards because “all have sinned” and fall short of the glory of God. So, don’t ask God, “What about Joe, Jim, Betty or Bill?” That’s irrelevant. God is measuring you against His standard. If you and I were swimming to Hawaii, you might swim farther than I do, but we are both going to drown because the distance is too far. The distance between a perfect God and a sinful humanity is too far for us to cover. We all fall short of meeting God’s standards.

**SET FREE FROM OUR CAGE:**
A little boy bought two birds in a cage and was heading home with them when a man stopped him and asked, “Young man, where are you going with these birds?”

“Oh,” the boy replied, “I’m going to play with them for a while, and then I’m going to feed them to my cat.” The man wanted to rescue the birds, so he said to the boy, “How much will you take for the birds? I will pay you whatever price you require.”

The boy thought about it and came up with a very high price. But the man reached into his pocket, pulled out the money and bought the birds in the cage. Then he opened the door of the cage and set the birds free. As they flew away enjoying the freedom because the price had been
paid, the birds looked back at the man who paid the price and began singing—they worshiped!

Those birds in a cage illustrate our condition without Jesus: trapped, unable to help ourselves, destined for destruction and no hope for eternity. The devil likes to play with us at times, but his goal for us is death. Satan had you and me caged. But on the cross, Jesus reached into His pocket and paid the price in full for us. He opened the door of our cage and set us free. So, wherever you go this week and from now on, don’t forget to look back and say, “Worthy is the Lamb!”

BACKGROUND, BIBLICAL HISTORY AND CULTURE:

Leviticus 16:1-34 outlines the strict requirements the high priest of Israel and the people had to follow for the Day of Atonement, the once-a-year sacrifice for the nation’s sins. The high priest took the blood of a spotless, unblemished lamb into the Holy of Holies, the innermost part of the tabernacle, and later the temple, where God’s holy presence dwelt between the two cherubim hovering over the ark of the covenant.

The lid of the ark was called the mercy seat because the high priest applied the blood of the sacrificial lamb to it in order to satisfy God’s holy demand of shed blood to cover sin for one more year.

This happened every year in anticipation of the day when the Messiah would come and offer the final sacrifice for sins. According to Hebrews 8–9, this is exactly what Jesus did. He rendered the old sacrificial system obsolete by His not once-a-year, but once-for-all sacrifice for sins.

QUOTES BY DR. TONY EVANS:

“We have to understand something about God’s wrath. He is not reactional with His wrath. In other words, He doesn’t just ‘lose it.’ God’s wrath is tied to His justice, and His justice is part of His nature. So, God has to respond to that which is outside of who He is, and therefore His wrath is a response to His justice.”

“The Old Testament sacrificial system was God’s ‘layaway’ plan for sin. It’s much like the old layaway plan at stores in which you put merchandise you wanted to buy, but didn’t have the full price for, on hold and paid a little bit each month until the price was paid in full, and you could redeem or claim your purchase. But until full payment was made, you could not have what had been provided.”
MESSAGE 6:

SON OF GOD AND SON OF MAN

SUGGESTED PASSAGE: John 5:18-27 (NASB)

18 For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.

19 Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner. 20 For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and the Father will show Him greater works than these, so that you will marvel. 21 For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes. 22 For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, 23 so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

24 “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

25 Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. 26 For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; 27 and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man.”

That is, “I am what I was,” the eternal Son of God. “I was not what I am now,” the Son of Man. “But now I am called both,” the Son of God and the Son of Man. We’ve been looking at the names of Jesus, what they mean and how they matter, and these two names given to Jesus are staggering in their meaning and relevance to our lives.

SERMON POINTS:

1. THE VIRGIN BIRTH IS THE ANSWER TO HOW JESUS CAN BE FULLY GOD AND FULLY MAN—OUR PERFECT SAVIOR AND LORD (JOHN 5:18; 14:8-11):

   - Jesus is the exact representation of God the Father. Jesus is God taking a selfie!
   - Because Jesus was human, He can fully identify with everything that we experience and feel as human beings, including temptation—but without sin.
   - Mary’s humanity and God’s deity came together through the Holy Spirit to create the unique, “only begotten” (John 3:16, meaning “one-of-a-kind”) Person of Jesus.
   - The Jewish leaders clearly understood what Jesus was saying (John 5:18). They sought to kill Him because He made Himself equal with God.
   - Jesus carries out the responsibilities that come with both of these names. As Son of God, He is fulfilling what the Father says, and as Son of Man He is fulfilling what you and I need.

2. GOD’S ETERNAL KINGDOM PLAN EXPLAINS THE REASON FOR THESE TWO NAMES OF JESUS:

   - God has a kingdom called the kingdom of heaven, where He rules. There was a rebellion against the kingdom by Lucifer, who became Satan.
   - So, God decided to forge a plan by which He would create a being who is constitutionally inferior to the angels called mankind (Psalm 8:5, KJV). God did this to demonstrate what He could do with less when less was dependent upon Him rather than with more when that more was in rebellion against Him.
• With man’s creation, God was announcing, "I will establish My kingdom on earth as it is in heaven," which is why Jesus taught us to pray for this (Matthew 6:10). But God chose to restrict Himself to working through people.

• But Adam, who was given the earth to rule as God’s kingdom representative, sinned and handed this world over to Satan. Adam messed us up, but Jesus “the last Adam” (1 Corinthians 15:45) brought us back into God’s kingdom.

• So, God foretold in Genesis 3:15 that the seed of the woman would crush Satan. God accomplished this by becoming a man Himself in Jesus. The Son of God and Son of Man came to reclaim what the devil stole from Adam and to render the devil powerless over us (Hebrews 2:14-15).

3. JESUS CAME TO EARTH TO SAVE US AND EMPOWER US TO LIVE OUT GOD’S KINGDOM PURPOSE NOW IN TIME AND AN ETERNAL KINGDOM PURPOSE FOREVER:
• When we were saved, you and I were brought under God’s rule and dominion in His kingdom.

• A very intimate relationship exists between a believer and Jesus who lives within. Since we are also sons and daughters of God, we share the same Father with Jesus. That means we can share the same intimacy and access to the Father that Jesus enjoys.

• Jesus wants you to have the same intimacy with His Father, His Abba, His “Daddy,” that He has. God adopted us into His family as Jesus’ brothers (Hebrews 2:11) so we could cry out, “Abba! Father!” (Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:4-5).

4. WHEN WE RELATE TO JESUS AS SON OF GOD AND SON OF MAN, WE WILL SEE HEAVEN OPENED AND COME DOWN TO EARTH IN OUR LIVES (JOHN 1:45–2:10):
• When Philip went to tell Nathanael that he had found Israel’s Messiah, Nathanael was skeptical but agreed to come and meet Jesus.

• Jesus revealed Himself to Nathanael, who immediately confessed Him as “the Son of God” and “the King of Israel.”

• Jesus made the promise of John 1:51 to us too, since He went from using the singular “you,” Nathanael, to the plural “you,” speaking to all believers including you and me today.

• The point of this story about the angels of God ascending and descending is that God was showing Jacob how heaven was going to come down and work on earth in His behalf. Then the disciples got to see heaven at work on earth in the Person of Jesus just one chapter later at the wedding in Cana (John 2:1).

Wine in the Bible is a symbol of celebration. So, when they ran out, there was no celebration, no joy, at the wedding. But Jesus ordered the servants to fill those pots, and when they obeyed the result was not just more wine, but the very best of wine so the celebration could continue and become more joyful because of what Jesus provided.

• You may be here today feeling drained. There is no celebration, no joy, no peace, no victory, no deliverance. It could be that while you are praying for Jesus to replenish the “wine” of your joy, you haven’t filled your water pots—meaning obedience to Jesus.

• You’re waiting on Jesus for a miracle when Jesus is waiting on you to obey. But when you get your life in line with Him, you’ll see Him open heaven and do things that only heaven can explain.

SERMON ILLUSTRATIONS:

VISITING ALL THE WINDOWS:
When you go through the drive-in at McDonald’s, there are the three stops you have to make. At Window #1, you don’t see anyone, just a voice through a microphone asking for your order. In other words, “What do you want? What are you here for?”

Then you drive to Window #2. Here they ask you to pay for what you ordered. They want you to pay the price for what you asked for. Then at Window #3, they hand you what you asked for and paid for. You can’t start at Window #3 because you haven’t paid at Window #2 yet, and you can’t pay at Window #2 because you haven’t ordered anything at Window #1 yet. But when you make your request at
number 1, and pay for it at number 2, you will get what you ordered at number 3.

Jesus was saying to Nathanael in John 1, and to every believer, “What do you need Me to do for you on earth that you need heaven to open up and do in your life?”

But once you make your prayer request, you can’t stop there. You’ve got to go to Window #2 where you are going to be asked, “Where’s your money? How are you going to pay for what you have requested?” That’s when you say, “The price has already been paid. Jesus paid it all.” Then you can move forward to Window #3 where the Holy Spirit delivers what you need because you’ve seen heaven opened up and the Son of God and the Son of Man connecting heaven with earth.

QUOTES BY DR. TONY EVANS:
“When you buy a house, you don’t stop at the door and brag about how nice it is. You go through the door into the house. The door is important, but it’s just the entry point to a new way of life. Salvation is the door to God’s kingdom, and now we are supposed to be living in that kingdom environment. Jesus is the door to the kingdom. But there’s more to our kingdom house than the door.”

“God wanted His world back, but He had to find a man through whom He could regain this world’s kingdom. But every man born since Adam has failed to meet God’s righteous standard and qualify to be the One through whom God could reclaim the earth and make the kingdom of heaven manifest on earth.”

“The Bible declares that Jesus Christ is both the Son of God and the Son of Man equally. That is, He has a divine nature and a human nature, both resident in one Person. To be the Son of God means possessing all the divine attributes that God the Father possesses. So, all that is true of God is true of Jesus. To be the Son of Man means possessing all the traits of humanity, yet in perfection.”