

☆ Shepherd's Voice ☆

Orcutt Christian Church Newsletter



Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

The Minister's Musings Bro. Archie Miller December 2017



“And The Word Became Flesh”

John 1:1, 14 (NASB)

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was 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.

John Wesley once received a note which said, “The Lord has told me to tell you that He doesn’t need your book-learning, your Greek, and your Hebrew.”

Wesley answered “Thank you, sir. Your letter was superfluous, as I already knew the Lord has no need for my ‘book-learning,’ as you put it. However, although the Lord has not directed me to say so, on my own responsibility I would like to say to you that the Lord does not need your ignorance, either.”

The Greek philosophical “logos” terminology originated with Heraclitus, a philosopher from Ephesus (ca. 535 to ca. 475 B.C.). His basic idea was that everything in this world is undergoing transformation, “everything flows.” Still, existence is not in a totally chaotic state because of a controlling principle, a pattern from which everything is formed. At this point Heraclitus incorporated logos into his philosophical vocabulary as the regulating and controlling principle of existence—the rational and unchangeable law which governs every change. Logos connects humanity with the cosmos, with itself, and with deity, “the One in all.”

To the Hebrew mind, the “word” could involve more than a mere remark or comment. The expressed word could be considered irrevocable at times, an almost independent entity. It could go beyond the limits of what is normally understood with speech and could be perceived almost as a “being” of its own.

The meaning of logos in the New Testament has been shaped far more by the Old Testament concept of *dāvār* than any philosophical usage of the ancient world. The dominant idea underlying New Testament usage is that the “word” equals two things: (1) the gospel message and (2) Christ himself (*John 1:1-18*).

John 1:1-14 portrays Jesus as **the Word**—God made flesh. The basis for John’s understanding was the word of the Old Testament, although he could resonate with Hellenistic philosophical ideas. But John knew first and foremost the creative Word of the Old Testament who gives and sustains life. He has come in the flesh as God’s ultimate Word/Act (*cf. Hebrews 1:1,2*). The Word is not merely personified; He is a human being, fully God and fully man. Jesus is the Word of life which has been heard, seen with eyes, and touched with hands (*1 John 1:1*). He is the bearer of eternal life who invites believers to fellowship with the Father.

God’s gift to you!

**Do you KNOW the WORD?
He knows YOU!**



**The Bishop Shares
Ed Saunders**

Cold, cold, the winter's breeze. Snow covered are the trees.
A log is burning in the fire place. Just sitting around keeping warm.
Mom's in the kitchen, planning for the day. There's cookies so sweet and pies looking neat.
Paw is sitting in his favorite chair, taking a nap while no one is there.
Friends's and family are on their way. Looking forward to a special day.
The tree is trimmed with tinsel so fine. Those special ornaments looking so swell.
The stocking are hung as well. Filled with goodies for the kids to find.
The turkey is ready, and will soon be done. We'll have our dinner and have such fun.
Packages are all around the beautiful tree. Some for everyone, gifts there will be.
Cold, cold, the winter's breeze. Snow covered are the trees.

**Merry Christmas
Ed**

**The Chair Cares
Marilyn Currier
Chairperson of the Board**

A Christmas Gift?

According to an old legend God once sent two angels out from heaven to visit every person. Each angel had a basket, to bring back the prayers of those on earth.

One was an angel of thanksgiving. This angel started with a large basket. The other was the angel of petitions or requests and carried a small basket.

When they returned, each was in trouble. The angel of petitions came back with an overflowing basket and had filled a sack as well. The angel of thanksgiving had only three contributions in his basket.

Sadly that legend reflects some truth. Most of us do pray, but in our prayers we usually upload our burdens, fears, wants, and requests to God. Only here and there do we express a word of thanks for blessings received.

And, what is the greatest gift we have been given? The Apostle Paul declares:
Ephesians 2:8-10 (NASB)

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

**Merry Christmas
Marilyn**