

THE LORD AS THE WORD

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Reading: John 1:1-14

Children, I would like to speak to you about the Lord, and about His Word. In the first chapter of the book of John we read: "The Word was God." What do you think this means? Does it mean that the Lord is a book? Certainly the Lord is not a book; He is a person. But the Word is not just a book, either. If you think *about* how the Word is much more than a book, you can begin to understand what is meant by the words: "The Word was God."

I want you to think about how you are much more than a body. What makes you a person? Is it your eyes or ears? Is it the fact that you have arms and legs? No! Animals have eyes and ears, and even a chair has arms and legs. Those things do not make you a person. You are a person because of something much more important which the Lord has given to all people; the ability to think and love. You are a person because you can think and you can love.

What makes you different from other people? Is it the way you look? No. It is the way you think and the things you love that make you different from other people. If you went to a doctor, a surgeon, and had him change the way you looked so you didn't look at all like you did before, would you still be the same person? Of course. And if you came home and talked to your parents, at first they might not know who you were, but soon they would begin to recognize you because they know what you are like. They know the real you, inside. So you see, it is not your body that makes you a person. It is the things within your body. Your body is only a way for the real person inside to talk and listen to other people, to see and feel the world all around. Your body is the way that people all around you can get to know the real you, inside.

The Lord's Word does the same thing for Him that your body does for you. It is the way that people can get to know the Lord. The Lord's Word is like a body for Him, because you can go to the Word, and as you read it, the Lord Himself will be talking to you. He will be showing you what He is like, showing you the things He loves, showing you what is in His mind. So you can see that the Word is not just a book, it is not just letters and words on a page. The Word is the Lord, talking to you, teaching you, helping you to understand what is good and right.

This is why we treat the Word with special care, perhaps keeping it in a special place, and handling it with respect; because we know that the Lord is present

in His Word, and that He is with us when we read it. This is why, when we come to church, the very first thing that happens In the service is that the minister opens the Word, to show that we want the Lord to be present, and to show that He is the most important thing in our worship.

So we are taught that the “Word is God” because the Word is much more than a book. It is the Lord coming to be with us.

Amen.