**The Word Was with God and the Word Was God:**

**A Course on Christology**

Instructor-Pat Reeder (reederp@xenos.org)

Wednesday evenings, 7pm-9:30pm

**Course description**

Many of us possess enough information about Jesus Christ to state or affirm certain basic doctrines: his membership in the trinity, his incarnation and sacrifice, etc.  In spite of this, Jesus remains a somewhat opaque figure in our minds.  This course will dive deep into the person, character and work of Jesus Christ as revealed in Scripture during these distinct periods: (i) his pre-incarnate activity as the Word, (ii) his incarnation and earthly ministry, (iii) his present place at God’s right hand and (iv) his work in the last days.  Students will walk away with not only with more concrete doctrinal understanding but also with a greater heart of praise at the gloriousness of the triune God.

**Course Goals**

1. Clarify key biblical doctrines on the identity and work of Jesus Christ and demonstrate their roots in Scripture.
2. Provide students with the ability to make sense out of larger portions of Scripture both in their own private reading and in their work with others.
3. Cultivate a deeper sense of God’s historically revealed glory in Jesus Christ.

**Course Expectations**

*Attendance* You must attend 4 of 5 classes to receive credit. Roughly, everyone has 1 “excused absence” before receiving an incomplete. Any further absence is negotiable, to be discussed with the instructor.

*Readings, Homework* There will be weekly readings to keep in step with the material being covered each week. Questions on the readings can be found on the back of this sheet. These are strictly completion based.

**Calendar**

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| Date | Week | Content | Readings | HW |
| 8/16 | 1 | “In the beginning was the Word” | – | – |
| 8/23 | 2 | Pre-Incarnation | John 1:1-18; Judges 13 | **1** |
| 8/30 | 3 | Incarnation and Earthly Ministry | Phil 2:5-11, Heb 1-2, Col 1:15-20 | **2** |
| 9/6 | 4 | Incarnation and Earthly Ministry II | Romans 3:21ff, Hebrews 7-10:18 | **3** |
| 9/13 | 5 | Seated with Father, Reigning forever | Psalm 110, Daniel 7:9-14 | **4** |

**Miscellaneous**

Students will be responsible for their own notes. We will provide notebooks and the presentations will be available upon request.

For each week, read the weekly selection. Reflect on and answer the questions to follow.

**Homework 1**-

1. Argue that Jesus is both God and man from John 1:1-18.
2. Who is *the angel of the Lord*? In v. 6 and 11, he’s described as a man. The narrator uses the term ‘angel,’ and in v. 22, Manoah concludes that the angel of the Lord was God. Which is it? Use the text to make your case. Feel free to draw on other passages.

**Homework 2**-

1. Some people take the phrase ‘firstborn over all creation,’ from Colossians 1:15 to mean that Jesus was created. What statements from the context eliminate this interpretation? Feel free to also cite other relevant passages.
2. The exact phrasing of Phil 2:5-11 could be used to support a position that Jesus was not fully man as well as (separately) to support a position that Jesus was not fully God. Identify these problem phrases and then argue against them using statements or phrases in of the rest of the passage.

**Homework 3**-

1. Peter Abelard has argued that the primary work of Jesus’ death was in his moral example. Select three verses or passages from Hebrews 7-10 that create tension for this view?
2. What motive does Paul give in Romans 3 for why Jesus was crucified? Name at least one other reason? Cite Scripture to make your case.

**Homework 4-**

1. Read Matthew 22:41ff where Jesus cites Psalm 110. What is Jesus arguing?
2. Name at least one similarity in what’s described in Daniel 7 and what’s described in Psalm 110.