SERMON NOTES & LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

SAYS WHO?! ATHANASIUS, Curt Brunk 12:20.09

Who is Jesus, really?

300 yrs after His death still trying to understand all the _____ of that question. Issue becomes so hotly debated all big wigs gather for "First Ecumenical Council" in Nicea, 325 AD

Issue is basically about John saying Jesus was "_____," Jn 1:14

Nicene Creed says: *homoousious*

Arius says: *homoiousious*

Whole the empire in _____ over the "i"

Athanasius – Overseer of Alexandria, most important trade city in Roman empire _____ on no "i"

He is such a _____ in the side of Arius followers they call him the "Black Dwarf"

What's at stake?

If there is an "i" Jesus is _____ actually God – just "similar" substance

If there is not an "i" then Jesus is of "same" substance, i.e. He _____ God

In other words, if there is an "i" then Jesus is God's _____, ambassador, to communicate God's love for us.

If there is no "i" then it the very God we offended, rejected, even killed, who has come to be with us, to save us, because He _____ us

No distance, no mediator, God Himself wants to be _____ you and me directly, personally

More deeply, if there is an "i" then God has a child whom He loves _____ deeply, most intimately

If there is no "i" then we are His _____, whom He loves so deeply He gave His life for us

This is what Scripture says: "In the beginning was the Word…and the Word was _____ …and the Word became flesh," Jn 1:1, 10-14

This is what the angels proclaim: "I bring you _____ news…great joy…glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased!" Lk 2:9-14

NEXT WEEK: Says Who?! The Keepers of the Faith

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

Interested in Facilitating a new Life Group in January? Contact Dan danl@lakesamm.org

1. What did you hear most clearly in the sermon? With what truth is the Lord encouraging you? Challenging you?
2. What would it have been like to have been a close friend of Athanasius? What features do find "imitate-able" about him? How would you explain his role in church history to a child?
3. Take some moments with a notebook and John 1: 1- 18. What insight do these verses give about the uniqueness of Jesus? About His relationship with God the Father? What in these verses prompts you to gratitude and worship? Explain.
4. The Moravians- a missionary group serving in the era contemporary to John Wesley - wrote "True theology is living as unto God". Evaluate that statement in light of what Curt has said in this sermon. What makes the difference between dry and oppressive theology, & theology containing real spiritual life and power?

TODAY'S OPPORTUNITY: (Remember to watch for God to move this week and tell us your testimony!)

I will pray for _____ to come to Jesus