

Sermons
New Testament
John
1:1-18
"Christ dwelling among us."

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Name: L. J. Stevenson

Assignment: 10'

Date: Dec. 5, 1942

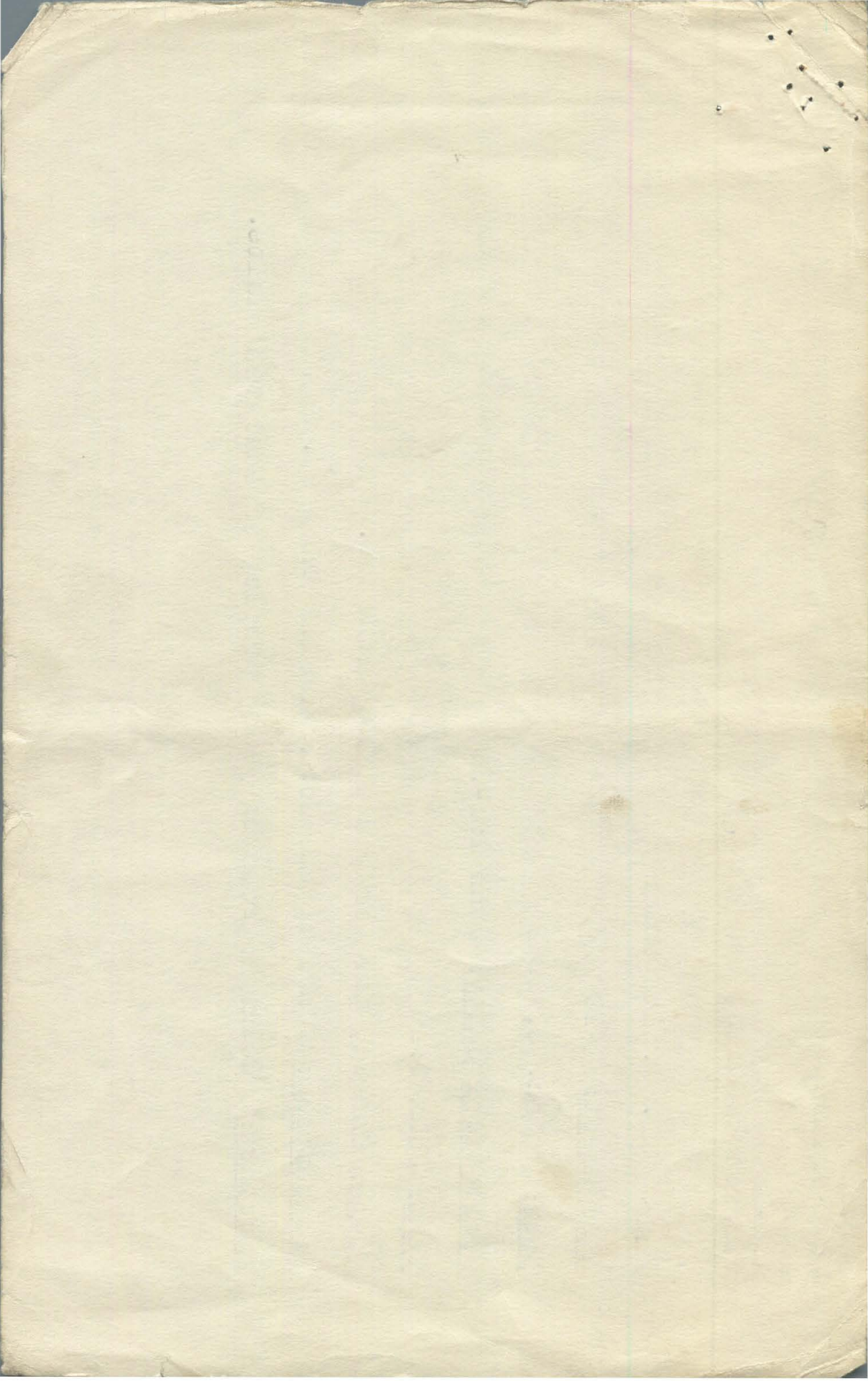
Homiletical Unity: John 1:1-18

Text: John 1:14

Theme: Christ, the Word, dwelling among us.

Proposition: Christ, the Word, dwells among us.

Audience: College group of young people, or educated adults.



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CHRIST DWELLING AMONG US

Scripture Lesson, John 1:1-18:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in the darkness and the darkness comprehended it not.

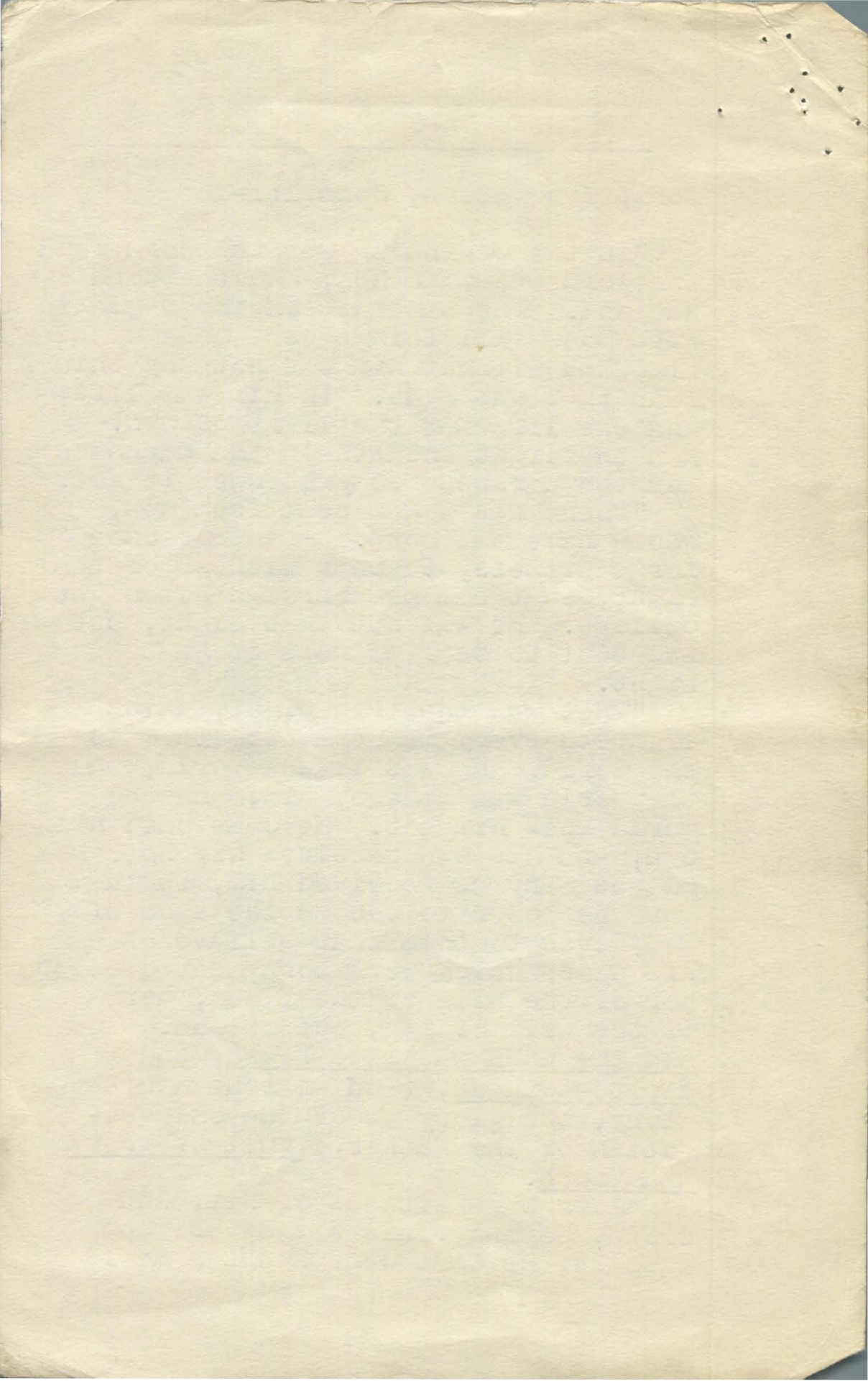
"There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

"That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

"John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is

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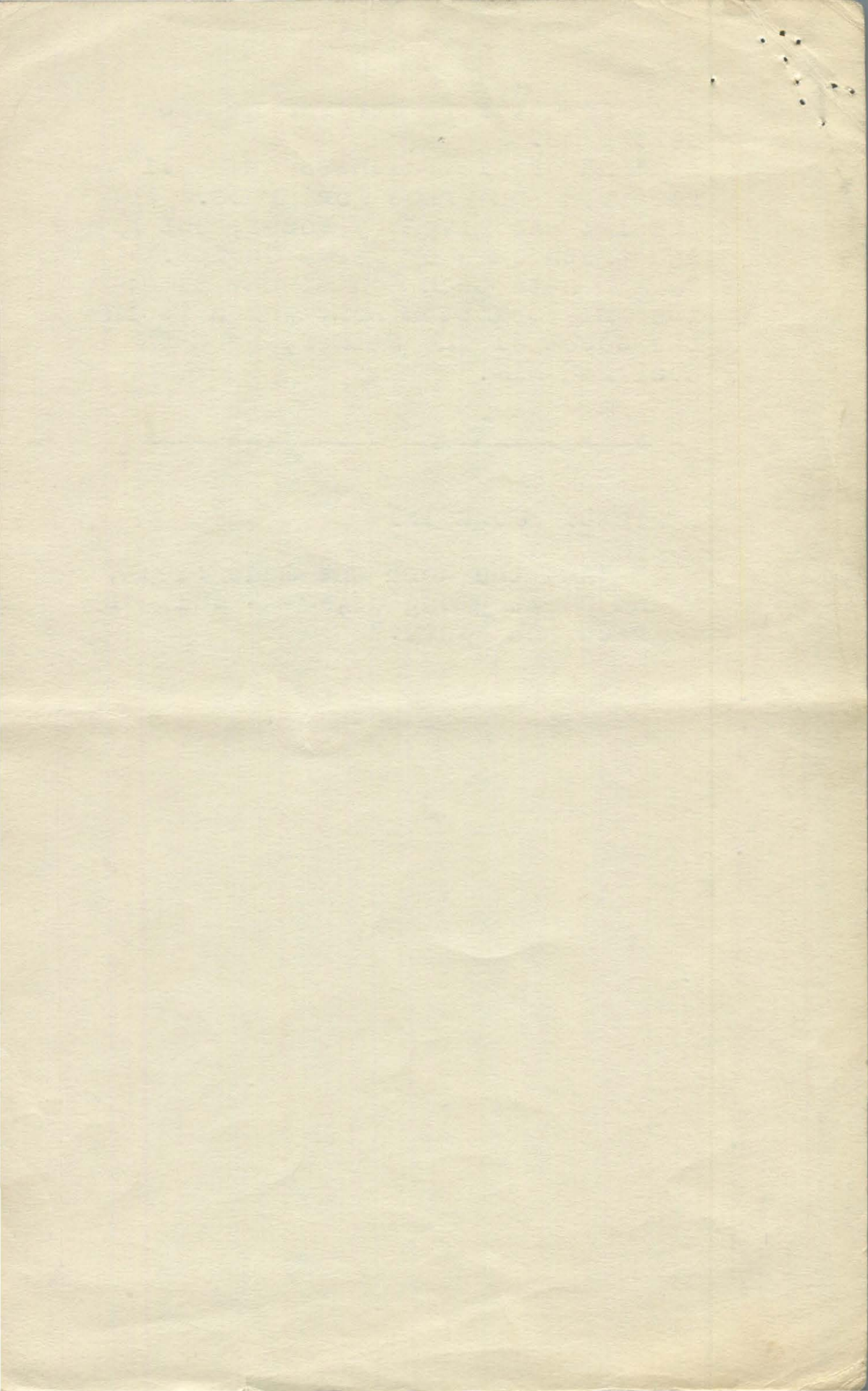
preferred before me: for he was before me.

"And of his fullness have all we received and grace for grace. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him."

Text: John 1:14

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, - - - full of grace and ~~glory~~ glory."

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CHRIST DWELLS AMONG US

Introduction:

1. Purpose of this sermon: to consider whether or not Christ does dwell among men now.

2. Twofold method of accomplishing purpose:

a. Using St. John's passage as presenting the basic truth of Christ's way of being present among us.

b. Using the evidence of history to verify this truth.

I. The Logos Doctrine of St. John.

1. Summary of the prologue to John.

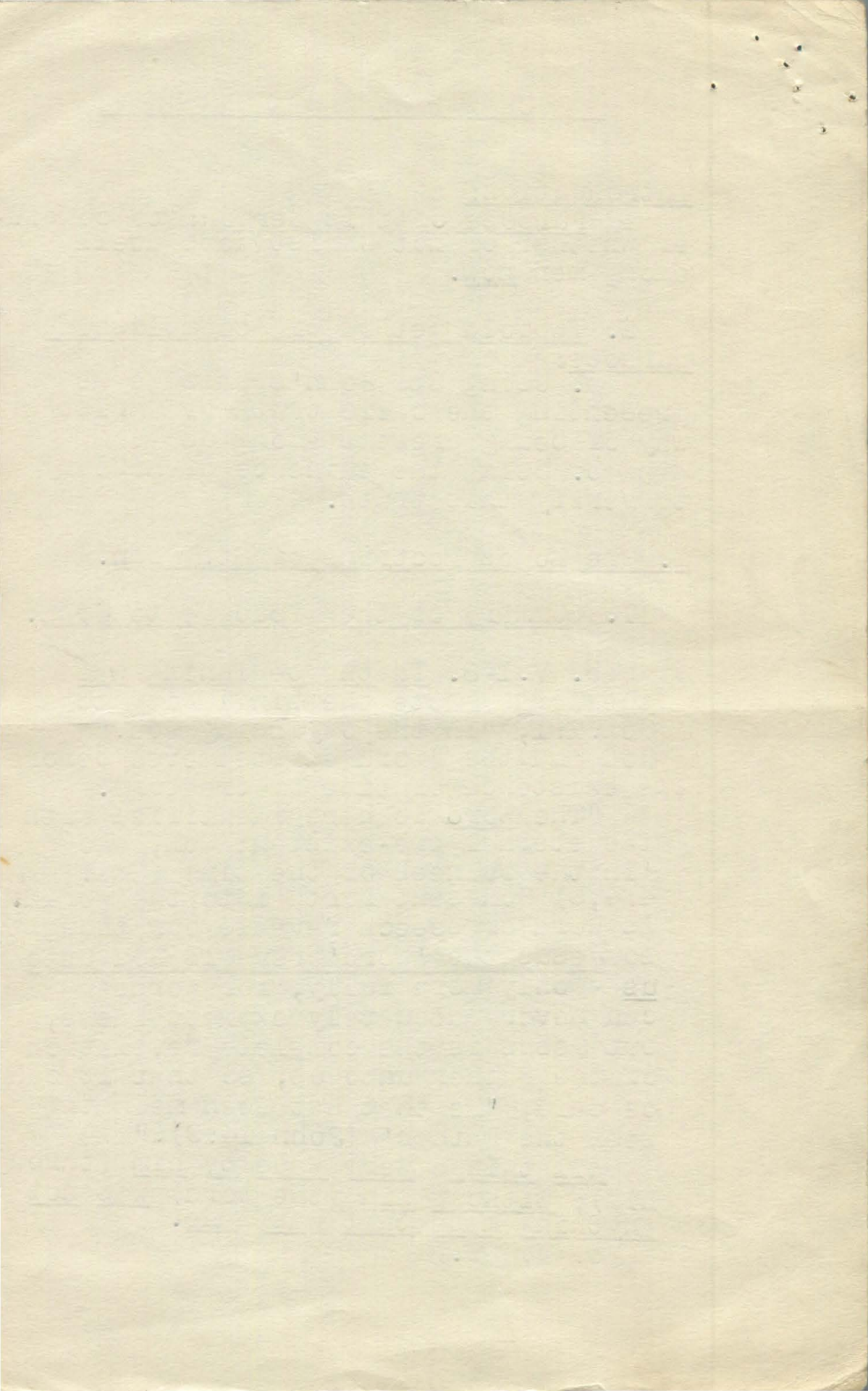
a. V.1-3. In the beginning was the Word. Note the similarity to Gen.1:1, "In the beginning God." God and the "word existed even before the existence of time or creature.

"The Word is here identified with the eternal pre-existent Son, who 'in the fulness of the time (Gal. 4:4,5) God sent forth into the world. As word or speech reveals our thought, so Jesus the 'Word' reveals God unto us - only more fully, for words can never adequately express ideas, but Jesus is the complete revelation of the Father unto us, so that it can be said, "He that hat seen me hath seen the Father" (John 14:9)."

All things were made by him (through him); without him (the Word) was not anything made that was made.

b. V.8-9.

John 1:1-14



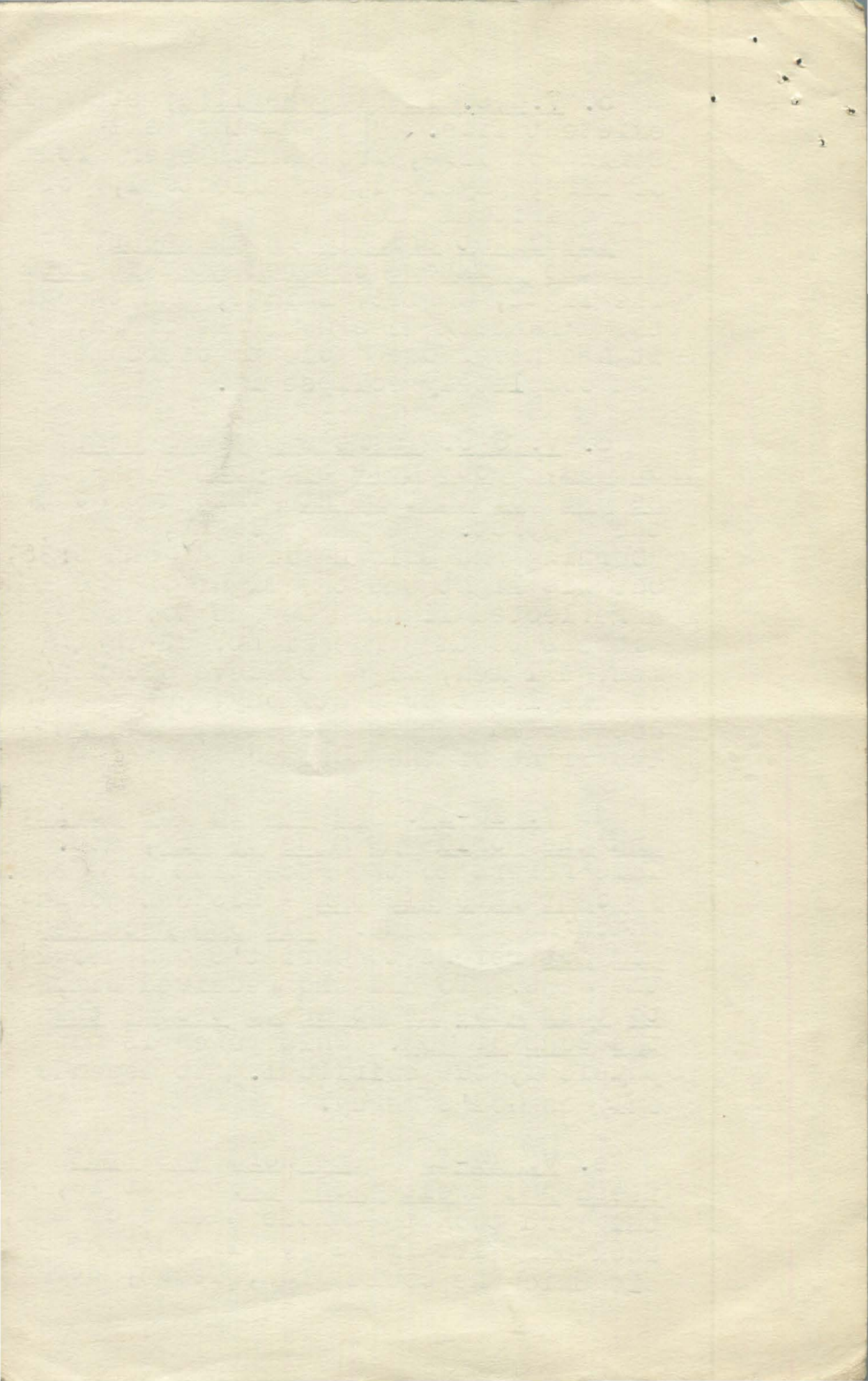
b. V.4,5. In him was life; eternally existent life. "He was the well-spring of life, from which every form of life, physical, intellectual, moral, and spiritual flows."

The light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. The light, Christ, shines, and though the darkness does not take it in, it has never been able to overcome and completely eclipse it.

c. V. 6-9. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John - - - He was not that Light. This was John the Baptist. He was a light, a "burning and shining light" (John 5:35) but his light was the light of a candle, a reflected light. He was to bear witness to the True Light, so that men, all men, might believe because of his light or testimony, just as Jesus said of his apostles, "Ye are the light of the world."

d. V. 10-13. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, etc. This refers to the reception of Jesus: He came into his own - his own world which he had made. His own received him not refers to Christ's own people, the Jews. To all who received him, to them gave he power to become the the sons of God. This power is not physical, but spiritual. It depends only on God's mercy.

e. V. 14-18. The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. That is, the Word took the whole nature of man, including its frailty, all that nature in which he could grow, learn, strugg



le, be tempted, suffer, die."

Dwelt among us: literally, means lived in the same house.

We beheld his glory: All the apostles did, but especially the three on the Mount of Transfiguration, when they heard the voice from heaven say, "this is my beloved Son."

The Law was given by Moses. Moses was not the originator of the law; he was the medium through whom it was given. Grace and truth inhered in, and so came through Jesus Christ.

No man hath seen God at any time. The Son, the Word, has revealed him. The purpose of Jesus was to be a visible representation of the invisible God.

2. Conclusions drawn from this summary.

a. Jesus Christ was and is God on earth.

b. Christ and God are one.

c. Both God and Christ are, have always been, and will always be eternal.

d. God in acting in relation to the world has always acted through Christ.

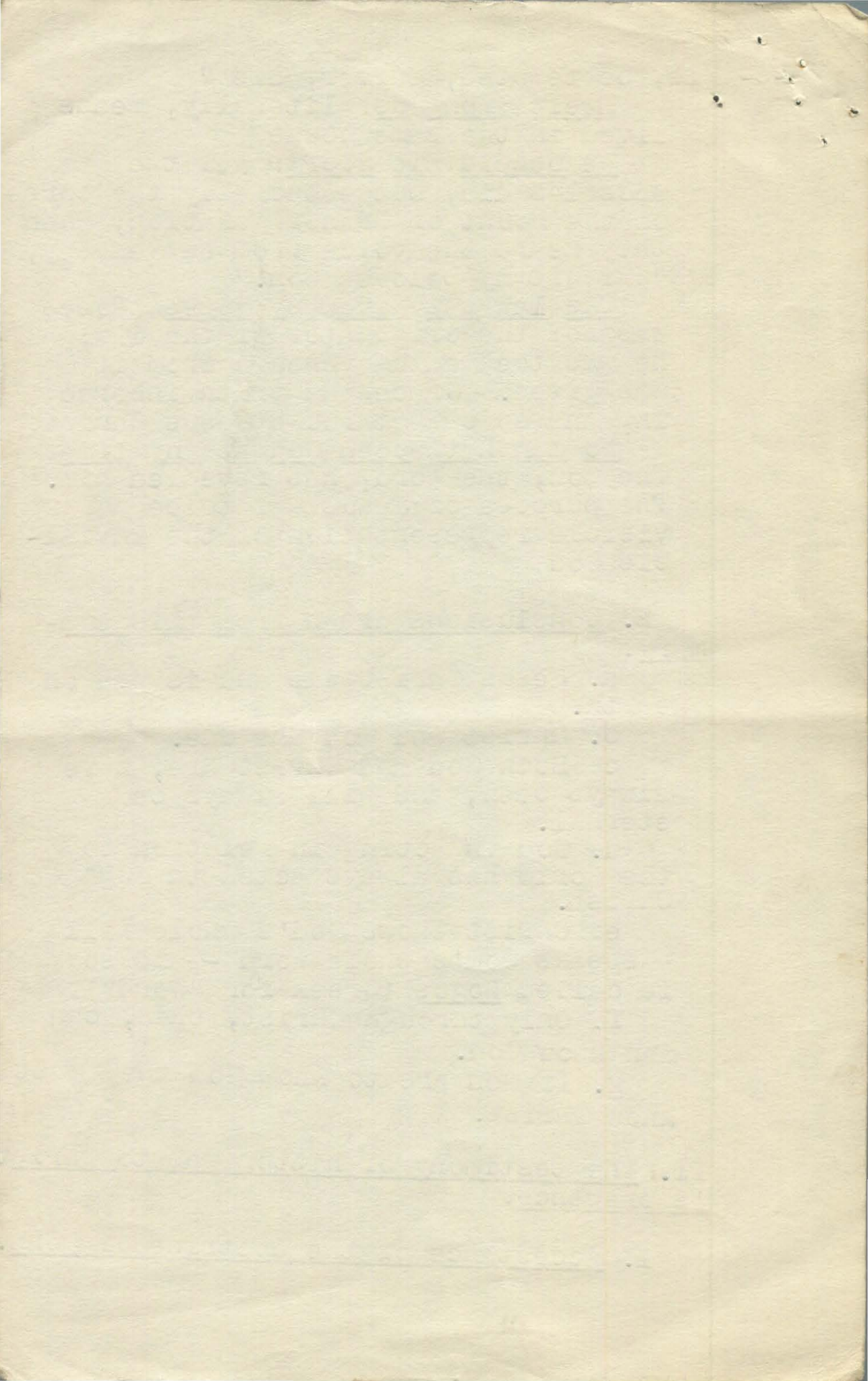
e. Christ shows God's whole will - speaks God's whole word - and so is called Logos (Greek for "Word").

f. Only through Christ, then, can man know God.

g. If men are to know God they must know Christ.

II. The testimony of history as to Christ's presence.

1. Acceptance of the doctrine of John.



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a. Christians have always accepted this doctrine. There have been many theological debates as to how Christ could be God, but the fact that he is has seldom been disputed by Christians.

The historical fact of Christ's life is established. There is evidence that followers of Christ from the earliest times accepted him as the Word in the sense that St. John uses.

b. To be termed Christian implies acceptance of this doctrine.

c. The Word in the flesh does not dwell among us now.

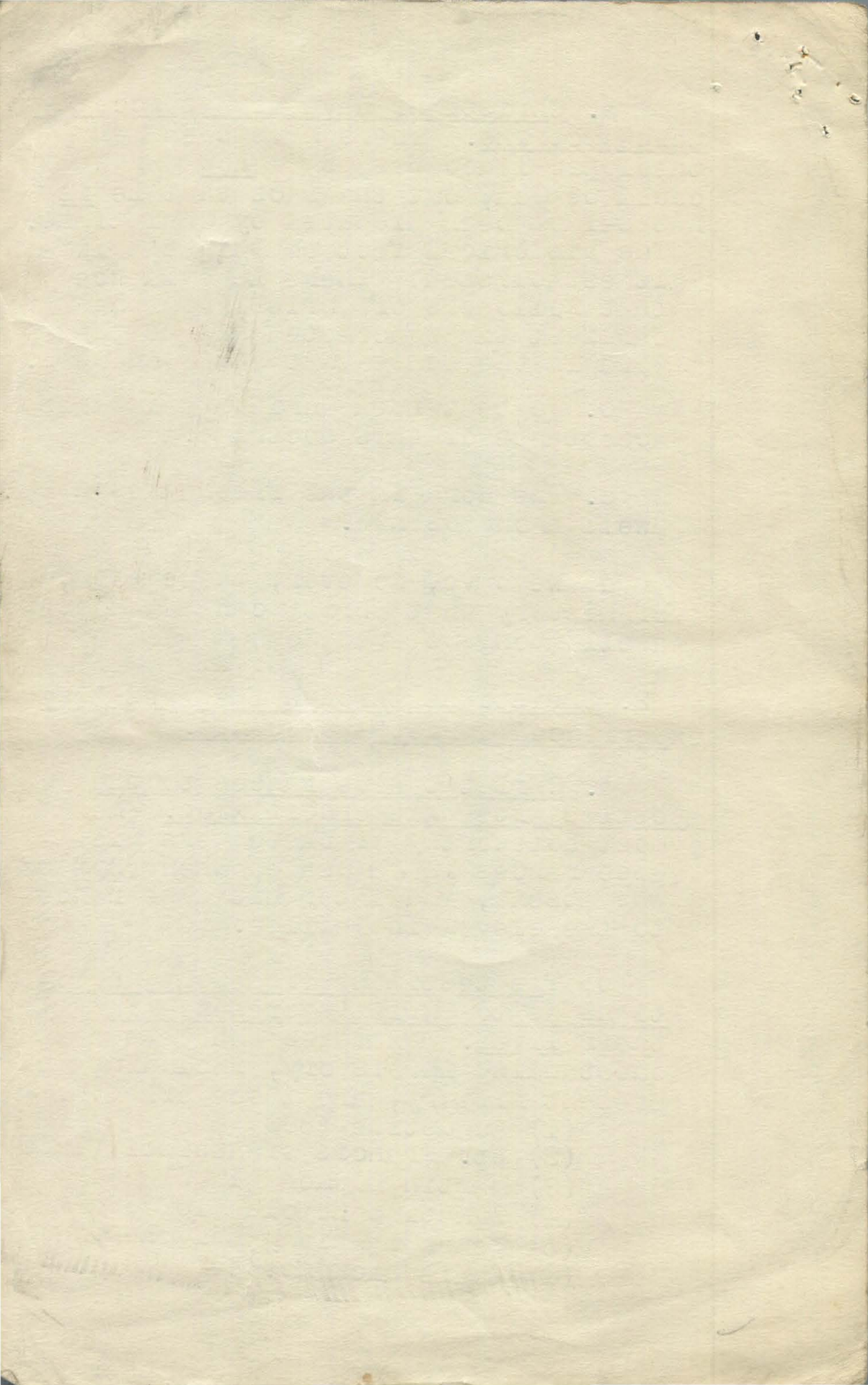
d. We have, however, the evidence of history that Christ can and does dwell among us even now.

2. Christians through the ages have experienced Christ's presence.

a. Christ's appearances to the apostles after his crucifixion. The most noteworthy of these were his appearances in Jerusalem when Thomas was absent, and later his appearance to the eleven in Galilee.

b. The testimony of devout Christians as to Christ's presence in their lives. Examples that are most outstanding in history, including in present history, are those of:

- (1) Augustine (386)
- (2) St. Francis of Assisi (1209)
- (3) Martin Luther (1505)
- (4) Ignatius Loyola (1523)
- (5) General Chiang Kai Shek
- (6) Eddie Rickenbacker



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Conclusion: Christ, the Word, dwells
among us.

1. Christ is the revealer of the eternal Divine, or God, and is the medium of contact with that Divine Being.

2. Christ is God, living today in Christian hearts.

3. Christ is friend, counsellor, exemplar of the perfect life, and Savior for each Christian.

Preaching at

Pelham
circuit

Pelham - 6-9-43

Waggon - 7-8-43

Maple Grove - 7-19-43

Independence - 1-2-44

Wet Havel - 1-8-44

Patmos - 1-23-44

Providence - 1-23-44

Leftwich - 2-6-44

Marshall, N.C. - 6-18-44

Introduction: To use St. John's help in considering Christ's presence among us, it is first necessary that we do three things:

1. Show how Christ is the word according to the Evangelist's conception. That is, we must grasp the meaning of the Logos doctrine.

2. Accept, refuse, modify, or replace this doctrine.

3. Consider whether Christ, the Word, still dwells amongst us.

1. The Logos doctrine. St. John's Doctrine is that Jesus Christ is the real incarnation of an eternally divine person, who has ever been the medium through whom God has exercised his activity in relation to the finite universe, and who, as the perfect manifestation of God's nature and will, is called the Word (Logos).

2. Acceptance of this doctrine.

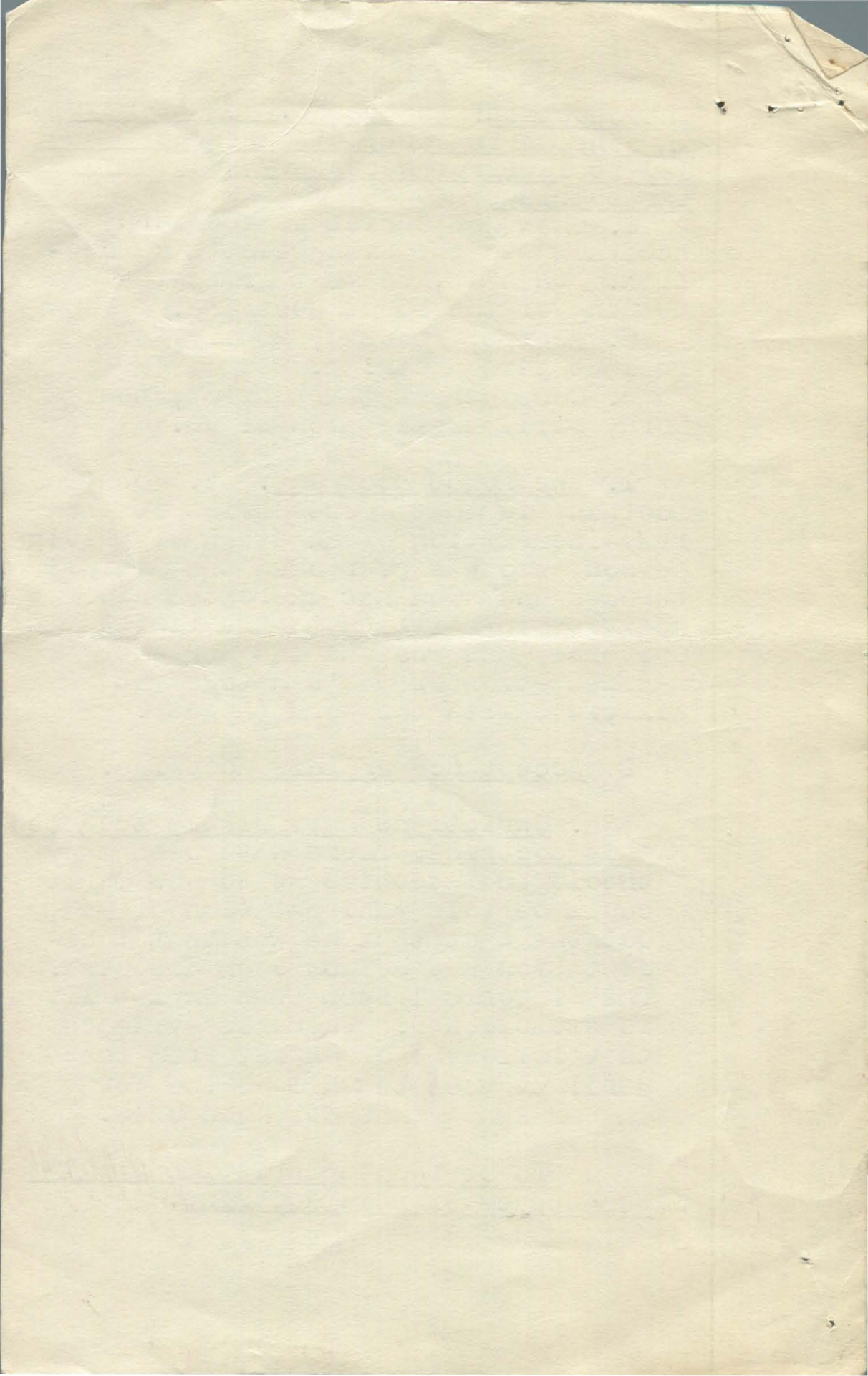
a. Christians have always accepted this doctrine. There have been many theological debates as to how Christ could be this manifestation of God, but the fact that he was that manifestation has seldom been disputed. The historical fact that Christ lived is established. There is evidence that followers of Christ from the earliest accepted him as the Word in the sense that St. John uses.

b. To be termed Christian implies acceptance of this doctrine.

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3. Does Christ still dwell among us?

a. The Word in the flesh does not dwell among us now.

b. We can question ourselves as to whether Christ as the eternal Word still dwells among us. That is the purpose of this sermon, to consider the question, does Christ, the Word, dwell among us.

I. Our summary of John's doctrine confirms Christ's eternal presence in human affairs.

1. Summary of the prologue to John.
(Verse by verse).

2. Conclusions drawn from this summary:

a. Logos is a designation of the divine Son in His everlasting function as the revealer of God.

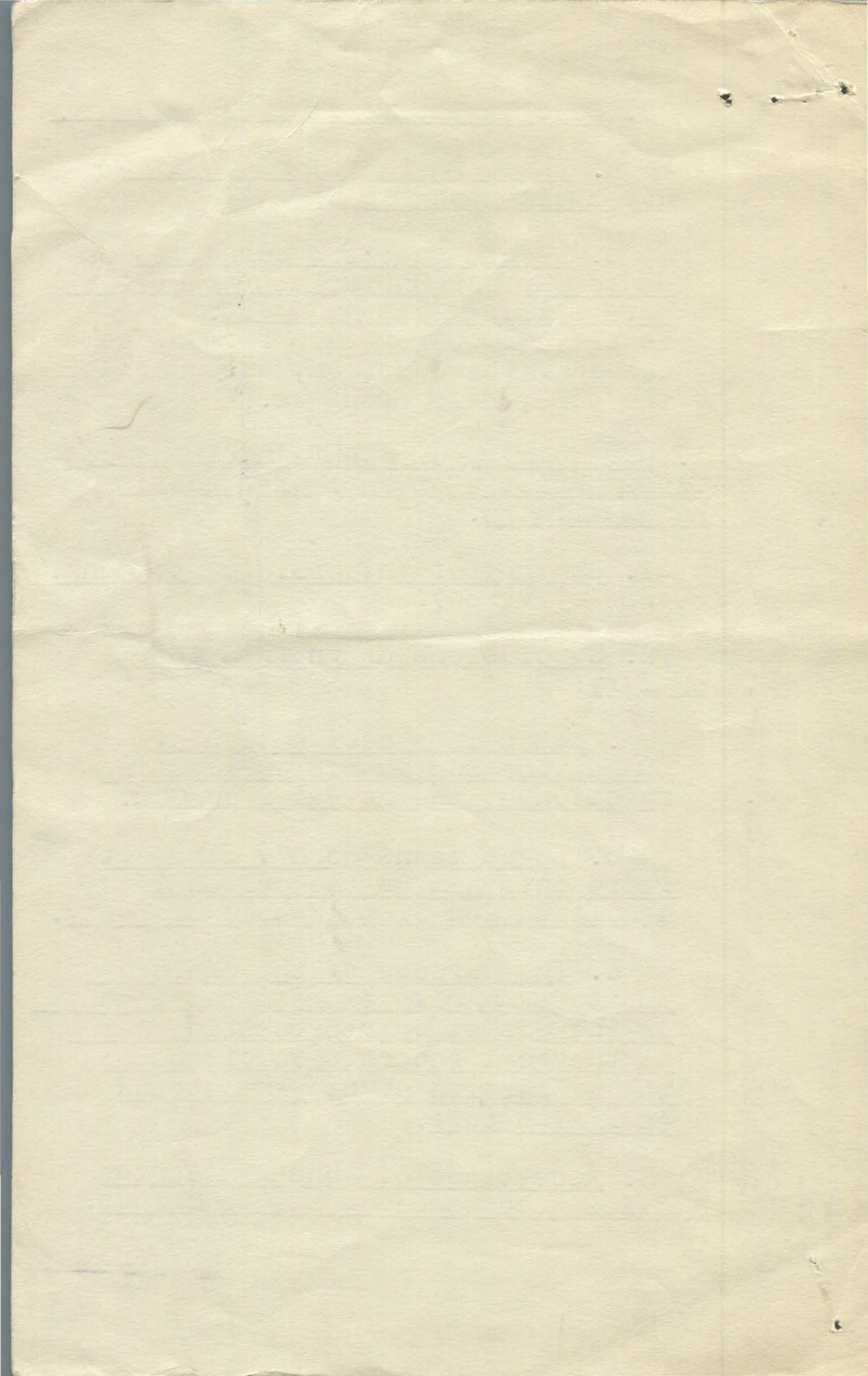
b. Logos means "Word", since it represents Him as the personal manifestation of the whole of Deity.

c. The purpose of the prologue was to summarily express the teaching of the Gospel by representing Jesus as the real incarnation of God as the expression of his inmost and eternal nature.

3. Acceptance of John's doctrine implies acceptance of its teachings.

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II. Christians through the ages have experienced Christ's presence.

1. Christ's appearances to the apostles after his crucifixion.
The most noteworthy of these were his appearance in Jerusalem when Thomas was absent, and later his appearance to the eleven in Galilee.

2. The testimony of devout Christians as to Christ's presence in their lives.
Examples that are outstanding in history and in the present are Augustine (386), St. Francis of Assisi (1209), Martin Luther (1505), Ignatius Loyola (1523), and in the field of world movement today a professed Christian - General Chiang Kai Shek of China.

Conclusion: Christ, the Word, dwells among us.

1. Christ is the revealer of the eternal Divine to us and is the medium of contact with that Divine Being.

2. Christ is the Deity, incarnated today in Christian hearts.

3. Christ is friend, counsellor, exemplar of the perfect life, and Savior for each Christian.

Preacher

Salem }
Epworth } Jan. 6, 1946