

- I) V10-13 INTRO: He was in the world and the world was made through Him and the
- II) The apostle John has just introduced in to John the Baptist, in contrast to Jesus
As he did so, he made a declaration that Jesus is *the true Light*
- III) The apostle John wanted to make it clear that John the Baptist was not the Light
He was not the Messiah, but was the forerunner of Messiah
- IV) John had been sent to *bear witness* of that Light (V7-8)
Mk 1:3-4 The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight. John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins
- V) From the beginning, John made it clear that Jesus is the true *light*
He is the One that illuminates our sin-darkened minds and souls
- VI) V9 This is that true Light *which gives light* to every man who comes into the world
Which gives light *to every man* who comes into the world
- VII) Some believe that this light is within every person: that they are *born with it*
This is called *general illumination*, which we call our conscience
Ro 1:18-20 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse
- VIII) Our conscience can accuse us and can excuse us, but it is not sufficient *to save us*
Salvation requires the work of the Spirit and God's word to produce conviction
- IX) When this happens God saves *any* and *all* who come to Him through Jesus
It requires agreeing with Him, repenting, and turning to Him in faith
Jn 6:37 All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out
- X) At this point, John once again begins to speak concerning Jesus
- XI) V10-11 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did
The world did not know Him: The created world generally ignored His coming
- XII) God was with man, but man did not want Him and chose to reject Him

I) This is something Isaiah had prophesied would happen

Is 53:1-3 Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him. He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

II) V10 The world was made through Him

All things, both seen and unseen are created through Jesus

Heb 11:3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

III) This truth is encapsulated in one of the early creeds (faith statements) of the church

The Council of Nicaea in 325 authored the Nicene Creed, which in part says I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible

IV) John is making it known that Jesus made the worlds

1 Co 8:6 for us there is one God, the Father, *of whom are all things*, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, *through whom are all things*, and through whom we live.

Though all things were created through Him, the world did not *know* Him

V) **KNOW:** The world did not want intimacy with Him, refusing His invitation to them

Is 1:2-3 Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth! For the LORD has spoken: "I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against Me; The ox knows its owner and the donkey its master's crib; But Israel does not know, My people do not consider.

VI) V11 He came to His own (place) and His own (people) did not *receive* Him

The word of God came in a special way to the people of Israel, but they rejected Him

Mk 6:4-6 Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house." Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed *them*. And He marveled because of their unbelief. Then He went about the villages in a circuit, teaching.

VII) **FACT:** This is a nation that had so many advantages

Ro 9:4-5 To whom *pertain* the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of *God*, and the promises; of whom *are* the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ *came*, who is over all, *the* eternally blessed God. Amen.

VIII) **YET:** They still rejected Him because they refused to believe Him

Heb 4:2 Indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.

- I) V12-13 But as many as *received* Him to them He gave the right to become children of God
NOTICE: As *many* as received Him, referring to both Jew and Gentile

- II) The Jews, as descendants of Abraham, thought they were automatically saved
Mt 3:7-9 When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.

- III) To be saved was always an exercise of faith
Now that Jesus was amongst them, they must receive Him as Messiah
They needed to welcome Him, acknowledge Him, and by faith appropriate Jesus

- IV) By trusting Him, they would become children of God
It is not a natural, but a supernatural birth that they needed, through faith in Him
Gal 3:26 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus
2 Co 6:17-18 Therefore "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and *I will receive you*. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty."

- V) V12 NOTICE: To them He gave the right (honor, privilege) to become children of God
QUOTE: Those who accept Jesus Christ, as he is offered to them in the Gospel, have, through his blood, a right to sonship...And those who are engrafted in the heavenly family have the highest honor and dignity to which it is possible for a human soul to arrive...The sinner, who was an heir to all God's curses, has, through the sacrifice of Jesus, a claim on the mercy of the Most High

- VI) V13 Who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God's children do not owe their sonship to physical descent, carnal desire, or a decision of the will
We become His children because He receives us as His children when we come to Him
Jn 6:44 No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him

- VII) V14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory
John has spoken of Jesus as the Word, Life, and the Light (V1, 4, 5, 7)

- VIII) Now John says that The Word he spoke of in his introduction *became flesh*
BECAME FLESH: John is saying that God took upon Himself human *nature*

- IX) *POINT*: There is a God, and He is personal, loving, and caring
Why is this important enough for John to be moved to communicate this to readers

- I) A loving, *personal* God who would dwell with men was unheard of at this time
- II) Greek Docetic philosophers had rejected the thought that *God* could take human nature
They rejected the assertion that God would actually take upon Himself human flesh
They thought that Jesus was a man who had a portion of the *Christ* spirit upon Him
- III) One of the greatest opponents to the gospel were the Gnostics
They believed the material body was sinful and taught that God could not dwell in such a body. Consequently, the Gnostic could not believe in the incarnation. Some believed that Jesus only *appeared* to possess a physical body. These have come to be designated docetists (Dokein: To seem). Others said that the divine Christ came upon the human Jesus at His baptism (Mt 3:16) and left Him immediately before His death (Mt 27:46)
- IV) THE GNOSTICS: Did not believe that sin was the problem within man
For the Gnostic, man was lost because he was imprisoned in a material body. His only hope was through knowledge, so the way he could be delivered from his prison was to obtain secret knowledge
GNOSTICS TAUGHT: The problem that humanity has is not sin, but is ignorance
- V) God's answer to the gnostic was simple: Our problem is not ignorance, but is sin
The solution is confession of sin, repentance, and receiving forgiveness (1 Jn 1:9)
- VI) Many today are uncomfortable with the concept of a personal God
Part of the reason for this discomfort is it requires *accountability* to God
It is *spiritual blindness* that John intends to remedy through his gospel
- VII) God is personal, and has taken upon Himself human nature and lived among man
- VIII) V14 NOTICE: The word became flesh and *dwelt* (tabernacled) amongst us
Col 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation
Col 2:9 In Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily
- IX) John intends us to associate the Tabernacle of the Old Testament with Jesus
The Tabernacle was a place of worship and where God's presence was with His people
Ex 25:8 Let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them
- X) And we beheld His *glory*, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and
The Word alludes to the Shekinah that *pointed* to this manifestation of God in the flesh
Ex 40:34 The cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting and the *glory* of the Lord filled the tabernacle

- I) **THOUGHT:** While God dwelt in the tabernacle the priests saw his glory; and while Jesus dwelt among men his glory was manifested in his words and acts.
- II) **JESUS:** Is revealed here as being the *only begotten* of the Father full of grace and truth
The *only begotten* speaks of Jesus' unique relationship with His Father
No one else can ever be the Son of God like He is: Conceived by the Spirit, born of Mary
- III) **NOTICE:** He was filled with Grace and Truth
God's grace and Truth were fully revealed in Jesus
- IV) **Grace** spoke of that which causes joy; it is good will, kindness, underserved favor
He was kind, merciful, gracious, doing good to all, and seeking man's welfare by great sacrifices and love
God revealed and provided His grace most abundantly in Jesus' death for us
- V) **Jesus** also was filled with truth, and with truth sets the sinner free
QUOTE: He was not like the false prophets and false Messiahs, who were entirely impostors; He was truth itself.
1 Jn 1:5 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.
- VI) **V15** John bore witness of Him and cried out saying This was He of whom I said He who
He ranks higher than me because *He predates* me though my ministry predates His
- VII) **John** was physically born before Jesus but did not exist before Jesus
John had a starting point, Jesus does not
Ps 90:2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.
- VIII) **V16** And of His *fullness* we have all received and *grace for grace*
Fullness: Of the abundance of his grace and mercy by which he made atonement for sin
- IX) **Jesus** is the fountain of God's abundant grace, blessings, and mercy to us
Eph 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace
- X) **V16 AND:** Grace for grace
God's grace is continuous, moving from grace to more grace
Grace has no interruptions, and knows no limits

- I) V17 For the law was given through Moses but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ
- II) **CONTRAST:** The Law revealed sin and resulted in judgment unless perfectly obeyed
This presents them with the understanding that the Law was actually pointing to Jesus
Gal 3:24-26 The law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.
- III) V18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is *in the bosom* of the
THOUGHT: Jesus is in the closest possible relationship to the Father
Though Moses had a tremendous ministry, he cannot compare to Jesus, the Son of God
- IV) When he says no man has seen God at any time, he is referring to His essential being
- V) No one has seen God in His complete glory: None could do so and live
Ex 33:18-20 (Moses) said, "Please, show me Your glory." Then (God) said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion." But He said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live."
1 Ti 6:15-16 He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.
2 Co 4:6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.