

# John's Gospel @ CF!

John 1:14-18

Sermon Notes – BK

January 28, 2024

*John Here*



## The Gospel of John

Have you been learning and growing as we go through these early weeks of John?

Sure hope so!

It *may seem like we are going a bit slow*, but we could **definitely could go slower...**

- I want you to find some jewels of your own!
- As you do... share them with me!

The Apostle John has given us a whole lot in these first 14 or so verses

In our whole time of opening this Gospel, I liken it to *creating a hand-built piece out of clay.*

- There are some **pieces that overlap**
  - o This is on purpose, so that there is a good and solid connection... Like a handle on a mug.
  - o Like *“Slip and Score”* in pottery, it is important to bring the pieces together well, so they form one continuous piece

THIS is essentially what John is doing as he moves through...

Helping us to see Jesus as He himself saw Him...

LAST WEEK –

- We tied the first few verses about “The Word” (Jesus) with the understanding Jesus IS God
- And that Jesus was the one who DID the “creating” that was done in the beginning...

We ALSO looked at...

- The important descriptions of Jesu being LIFE and LIGHT
  - o Jesus WAS and IS BOTH...
  - o Jesus... the light of man... so WE CAN SEE!

***<sup>9</sup> The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.***

The Father sent the Son

The Son walking by the Spirit.

Our three-in-One God in action.

Jesus our qualified Savior...

YOU DO NOT see this anywhere else in all of walks of faith in the word...

## JESUS STANDS ALONE

Our faith in HIM alone

### Jesus:

- Our Creator
- IS our LIFE (for everyone who believes)
- IS our light – (for everyone who believes)

AMAZINGLY –

- Many rejected Him – especially His own people the Jews
- Many did not recognize who He really was...
  
- Though Jesus walked among them, did miracles and many signs and wonders... Many missed it.

...Jesus did NOT fit into “*THEIR TRUTH*”

THIS problem still exists today...

The TRUTH of Jesus today is ALSO MISSED by many.

### THIS TELLS ME:

- Even obvious truth can be missed
- Self-deception is one of the most dangerous forms of deception
- We can “miss it” *EVEN when “it” is staring you right in the face.*

Jesus did not “fit the mold” of what the Jewish world was looking for.

- It seems that Jesus was *too “reachable...” too “ordinary...”*
- Their confusion was so great – even those in His OWN TOWN tried to *kill him as a false prophet.*

I wonder how many times God has done something in our lives in a very “ordinary” way – and *we missed it.*

I PRAY “my truth” NEVER gets in the way of HIS TRUTH...  
...and what Jesus desires to say or do in my life!

As we covered last week, while *many rejected Jesus, some did not...*

***12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.***

These who believed found salvation – the fulfilment of their deepest longing.

Messiah – their SAVIOR had come.

## **It was ALL GOD –**

- **It was HE** – Who **gave the right** – He initiated
- **It was HE** – Who **caused us to be “Born again”** (we will see this more clearly in John 3)

How did He do this?... Jesus descended...

***“<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...”***

As we covered last week:

- **Jesus did not just “make an appearance”**
  - o Jesus **lived** here
  - o Jesus **actually dwelt here** on earth
- **The Word... “tabernacled” –**
  - o Jesus **became flesh**
  - o Jesus **put on a body to dwell “among us.”**

This is significant for the Jew... and all the Tabernacle meant for them in their history...

## **The Tabernacle for the Jews in the Desert...**

- **The center** of Israel’s camp.
- The place **where the Law of Moses** was preserved.
- The **dwelling place of God**.
- The **place of revelation**.
- The **place where sacrifices** were made.
- **The center of Israel’s worship.**

For us...

He “tabernacled” – He took on human flesh on THIS EARTH to BE for ALL of us...

- The **center of OUR CHURCH**.
- The **DWELLING PLACE** of God.
- The place of **REVELATION**.
- The place where **sacrifice IS ACCOMPLISHED**.
- The **center of OUR worship**.

Jesus “tabernacling” among us is everything for us.

**THIS** was a revolutionary teaching in John’s day –

- o **Appalling to the Jew** – “How could God ever condescend to be a man? This is not Mono-Theism.”
- o **Astounding to the Greek** – for *the Logos* (the center of all reason) to become a man was beyond comprehension. Superheroes like Zeus maybe, but never ultimate reason... the Logos.

We, as Christians can think of it a little too lightly I believe...

I know I have been repeating this a lot over the last few weeks... but Jesus being God is a huge deal...

THIS is how John spells it out...

**John 1:14-18**

***14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") 16 For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.***

***"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory..."***

Not only did the Word come... He and the others SAW him.

Other versions use the word, "beheld"

***"...we have seen..."***

- This was **more than just "saw"** – this was **much closer, more intimate** than that.
- This is **more** what it was... **to observe... to carefully study.**

What did he see?

***"...his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."***

John attests to seeing His GLORY...

A unique glory for God's unique Son...

Could be, I think likely **was** a reference to the Transfiguration...

**Matthew 17:1-8**

***And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. 2 And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. 3 And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. 4 And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." 5 He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." 6 When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. 7 But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." 8 And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.***

THAT would have been one GLORIOUS vision!

***"...the only Son from the Father..."***

- The **ONLY** "son" of God
- **Uniquely begotten**
- Not just "a son" – **THE** Son... of God Himself

He was...

***"...full of grace and truth."***

What was this amazing Glorious one full of...?

- *Judgment?*
- *Condemnation?*
- *Accusation?*
- *Disapproval?*
- *Displeasure?*

NOPE... He was...

*“...full of grace and truth.”*

**Grace** – Both here in verse 14 and also in 17, the word grace here has to do with the “saving grace” of God

- **Unearned**
- **Undeserved**

Same as we see in Acts

**Acts 15:11**

*“But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.”*

Paul uses the word grace like this as well...

In **Romans 5:15**, he calls it, *“...the gift of grace...”*

Paul also says we are...

**Titus 3:7**

*“... justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”*

**Jesus is full of undeserved saving grace!**

**AND... Truth**

**But Bill –**

- You don't know what I have done...
  - o *“...full of grace and truth.”*
- There is **NO way I can be forgiven** for...
  - o *“...full of grace and truth.”*
- **BUT I denied Jesus!**
  - o *“...full of grace and truth.”*

**Get the PICTURE?**

Jesus is not lacking grace because of “*your truth*”

**He knows** – Jesus does not *hide* your mistakes and rebellion...

**Jesus forgives it!**

This truth... HIS TRUTH... WINS. Always.

John was a witness to the amazing grace AND truth Jesus came to walk in and give to all who would believe.

John goes on to say...

***15 (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'")***

It is interesting John brings this up about JTB here...

- YES, JTB is another credible witness to Jesus... and he was on the Apostle's mind,
- But I think there was something else going on in the background as well...

In the **Matthew and Mark account of the transfiguration** we just read about... **they ask Jesus about Elijah**, and that he **must come first...** – **Jesus affirms** that and says He did – that was JTB... so **HERE** is an affirmation of Elijah...

**Jesus – our qualified savior.**

I am sure I will say this more as we move through the Gospel of John 😊

***16 For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.***

We **MUST** stop here...

This is literally one of the BEST verses in ALL the Bible...

***16 For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.***

From HIS fullness... **NOT OUR** ability to "work it up!"  
From HIS fullness... **NOT OF US AT ALL!**

**Ephesians 2:8-9**

***8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.***

- From GOD'S FULLNESS...

... We have **ALL** received...

- o **All** who believe
- o **All** who are born-again...
- o **All** who became "children of God"

Grace upon grace...

**THIS** word *grace* – is similar to the way he uses it in **verse 14 and 17**, "*...grace and truth...*"

**But this word includes the various experiences that come with grace...**

**God's unmerited favor, seen in...**

- Our **hearts**
- Our **relationships**
  
- Our **struggles**
- Our **doubts**
- Our **future...**

**In ALL of this, there are WAVES of grace...**

- Like EVERY shoreline of every ocean, sea and lake...
  - Wave upon wave... REMINDS US of God's GRACE UPON GRACE.

**WHY would anyone choose otherwise?**

**God's grace... salvation given *through His Son Jesus brings grace upon grace...***

**PRACTICAL – IN us... THEN THROUGH US...**

***17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.***

**The Law is not evil.**

It was **given by God.**

The **Law** was **never intended to SAVE** our souls.

**The Law pointed to our need for God...**

**Romans 3:20**

***"For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin."***

God gave the Law to Moses...

***17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.***

**Law – A system to live by. A promise for God's salvation plan.**

**Grace and truth – God's FULFILMENT of the Law, that we might be truly, genuinely, wholly...  
SAVED.**

**There is no other religion or system of belief that gives us this.**

**Only Jesus.**

***18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.***

Here we see **yet another verse pointing us to the DEITY of JESUS...**

I love the way the Amplified Version puts this verse...

**John 1:18 (AMP)**

***18 No one has seen God [His essence, His divine nature] at any time; the [One and] only begotten God [that is, the unique Son] who is in the intimate presence of the Father, He has explained Him [and interpreted and revealed the awesome wonder of the Father].***

**The ONLY way we will “see God” is to look upon Jesus.**

**The One full of grace and truth... calls us to come to Him, that we may find –**

- **Rest for our souls**
- **Peace that passes understanding**
- **Reason for living this life with meaning and purpose**
- **Etc...**