

That You May Have Life In His Name

John 1:14-18

Pastor Matt Dean

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.
(Jn 1:14–18)

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...

Let’s remember that where we began...

The Word Became Flesh

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. (Jn 1:1–3)

This Word – eternally existent – with God and who was God – the maker of all things – became flesh and lived among us.

It is important for us to recognize the significance of this. The incarnation of God wasn’t a theory or a myth or a fairy tale, but historical fact. The most polarizing human in all of history was Jesus – who was born, lived, died, and resurrected from the grave because...

A real Savior would know the heartache and hopes of a human

A real Savior would face the temptations that people face

A real Savior would live, love, and obey God perfectly as an example for a watching world

A real Savior would die painfully a very real death as the once and for all sacrifice for sin

The incarnation “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” is so that He *could* redeem us and rescue us, so that He *could* offer His life as a justifying sacrifice for our sins.

Jesus... ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

(Php 2:5–11)

Paul reminds Timothy... “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us”

¹⁶ Beyond all question, the mystery from which true godliness springs is great: He appeared in the flesh, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory. (1 Ti 3:16) (NIV)

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. (Jn 1:14)

Jesus – full of grace and truth. Dwelt among us. (lit. tabernacled among us)

In the following verses, John is making a connection back to the Tabernacle, that Jesus came to live among people. Just like the Tabernacle was central to the life of Israel, John is pointing out these parallels; the Tabernacle and its ceremonies in the OT were pointing towards Jesus.

The Tabernacle was the dwelling place of God; the Tabernacle moved with the people of God on their journey to the Promised Land (Acts 7:44-47); the Tabernacle housed the ark of the covenant; the Tabernacle was a place of preservation for the law; the Tabernacle was a Holy place of worship (Hebrews 9:1-5), a place where sacrifices are made (Hebrews 9:21); a place for the glory of God to dwell (Hebrews 9:8).

This glory of God was seen to be the visible presence of God among Israel – and the word Schechinah (that which dwells) – its the glory of God that dwells among His people. This is what John is pointing back to. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us - the glory of God, dwelt among us. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us - the glory of God, dwelt among us. Jesus tabernacled among us; made His dwelling among us. And He did so, 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.’ ”) (Jn 1:15)

John is declaring that Jesus had already gone before through His presence with Israel – and we can see this in several places.

The Glory of the Lord

³⁴ Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. ³⁵ And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. ³⁶ Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. ³⁷ But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. ³⁸ For the cloud of the Lord was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys. (Ex 40:34-38)

When Solomon was dedicating the Temple, this was part of his prayer:

¹⁸ “But will God indeed dwell with man on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, how much less this house that I have built! ¹⁹ Yet have regard to the prayer of your servant and to his plea, O Lord my God, listening to the cry and to the prayer that your servant prays before you, ²⁰ that your eyes may be open day and night toward this house, the place where you have promised to set your name, that you may listen to the prayer that your servant offers toward this place. ²¹ And listen to the pleas of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. And listen from heaven your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.

(2 Ch 6:18–21)

Solomon prays and then...

⁷ As soon as Solomon finished his prayer, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the temple. ² And the priests could not enter the house of the Lord, because the glory of the Lord filled the Lord’s house. ³ When all the people of Israel saw the fire come down and the glory of the Lord on the temple, they bowed down with their faces to the ground on the pavement and worshiped and gave thanks to the Lord, saying, “For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.”

(2 Ch 7:1–3)

What happens next is what John will ultimately point back to – and what John is wanting us to see in Jesus...

The Dedication of the Temple

⁴ Then the king and all the people offered sacrifice before the Lord. ⁵ King Solomon offered as a sacrifice 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep. So the king and all the people dedicated the house of God. ⁶ The priests stood at their posts; the Levites also, with the instruments for music to the Lord that King David had made for giving thanks to the Lord—for his steadfast love endures forever—whenever David offered praises by their ministry; opposite them the priests sounded trumpets, and all Israel stood.

(2 Ch 7:4–6)

22,000 oxen. 120,000 sheep. All these sacrifices and later sacrifices would prove to not be enough for Israel to faithfully remember God. Solomon reigned for 40 years in Jerusalem. Good kings and bad kings would follow, Israel would be exiled in Babylon, and the cycle of rebellion and repentance would continue to play out among God’s people, while they wait in hope for God to come and live among His people and in hope for the Messianic King to ultimately bring peace for all nations under His rule.

A river of blood from all the sacrifices made at the temple would never be enough... and in the waiting for a Messiah, somehow many people missed it, He came to His own but His own people did not receive Him – yet, to those who received Jesus, to those who believe in His name, He gave the right to become children born of God.

10 For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. ² Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? ³ But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. ⁴ For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

(Heb 10:1–4)

Moses would receive 613 laws from God for His people, laws that would restrain sin and lead to holiness – but we know that the law ultimately reveals how sinful people truly are, how utterly incapable people are when it comes to consistent obedience before God and one another.

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, *“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; ⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷ Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”*

⁸ When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ **And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.**

¹¹ And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² **But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins,** he sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. ¹⁴ **For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.** (Heb 10:5–14)

¹⁵ And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, ¹⁶ **“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,”**

¹⁷ then he adds, **“I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.”**

¹⁸ Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

The Full Assurance of Faith

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

(Heb 10:15–23)

The sacrifice of Jesus is once and for all time. This is grace upon grace.

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. (John 1:16-18)

What does it mean to have life in His name?

We live in a broken place among broken people – so to remember that we have received grace upon grace *IS* the work of believing God, and that by believing we are also becoming who God has redeemed us to be. We need help, we need God's Spirit to continue to open our eyes, that we would be increasingly faithful to Him.

¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.
(Eph 1:15–23)

- The Spirit of wisdom and revelation – to KNOW HIM.
- Eyes of your hearts enlightened -
 - To KNOW the HOPE to which He has called you.
 - To KNOW the RICHES of His glorious inheritance in the saints
 - To KNOW the immeasurable greatness of HIS POWER toward us who believe