

## TIME OF REFLECTION

“...the mystery...that Almighty God would come down...in the person of Jesus Christ and became one of us.... There is really nothing like that incredible social inversion of Almighty God coming here and living with us and dying with us.”

~Anne Rice, author of *The Vampire Chronicles*

“... John in his use of *Logos* [i.e. Word] is cutting clean across one of the fundamental Greek ideas. The Greeks thought of the gods as detached from the world, as regarding its struggles and heartaches and joys and fears with serene divine lack of feeling. John’s idea of the *Logos* conveys exactly the opposite idea. John’s *Logos* does not show us a God who is serenely detached, but a God who is passionately involved.”

~Leon Morris (1914-2006), Australian New Testament scholar

“The Son is the Father’s All.”

~Athanasius (c. 196-373 AD), North African theologian and church leader

“The heart of Christianity is a myth which is also a fact.... By becoming fact it does not cease to be myth: that is the miracle.... Those who do not know that this great myth became Fact...are, indeed, to be pitied. But Christians also need to be...reminded that...[Christianity] carries with it into the world of Fact all the properties of a myth. God is more than a god, not less.... We must not be ashamed of the mythical radiance resting in our theology.”

~C.S. Lewis (1898-1963), writer and academic at both Oxford and Cambridge

“God had one son on earth without sin, but never one without suffering.”

~St. Augustine (354-430), bishop in North Africa

“... if we would see the glory of God, it appears most in grace, and mercy, and lovingkindness, and such sweet attributes.... We must take God, not as considered [abstractly]..., but God in Christ; for other notions of god are terrible.”

~Richard Sibbes (1577-1635), English theologian

“The Gospel of John opens with Jesus Christ in the bosom of God, and closes with the sinner in the bosom of Jesus Christ.”

~D. L. Moody (1837-1899), founder of Northfield Mount Hermon Schools (MA)

“Because Jesus Christ is a man, He feels what we feel. Because He is God, He can do something about it.”

~Tony Evans, pastor and author

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## *Worship through the Word*

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**SERMON** – “The Word Became Flesh, and We Beheld His Glory” – *Pastor Don Willeman*

**SERMON PASSAGE** – *selected passages*

*John 1 (NIV)*

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it...

<sup>14</sup>The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

<sup>15</sup>(John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, “This is the one I spoke about when I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’”) <sup>16</sup>Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

*Exodus 33 (ESV)*

<sup>18</sup>Moses said, “Please show me your glory.” <sup>19</sup>And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name ‘The Lord.’ And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. <sup>20</sup>But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.” <sup>21</sup>And the Lord said, “Behold, there is a place

by me where you shall stand on the rock, <sup>22</sup>and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. <sup>23</sup>Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen.”

*Exodus 34 (ESV)*

<sup>4</sup>So Moses cut two tablets of stone like the first. And he rose early in the morning and went up on Mount Sinai, as the Lord had commanded him, and took in his hand two tablets of stone. <sup>5</sup>The Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. <sup>6</sup>The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, <sup>7</sup>keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty...

*Psalms 85 (ESV)*

<sup>7</sup>Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

<sup>8</sup>Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.

<sup>9</sup>Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land.

<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.