

**Jesus is God in the Flesh** (Note: Not using verse 15 today, it is important to ch 1, but not going to bring it in today) John uses verse 15 as a side note... a parenthesis in his line of reasoning...

John 1:14-18 <sup>14</sup> 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... <sup>16</sup> And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <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; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

❖ **Intro:**

➤ **Remember the purpose of this book:**

- John 20:31: "...but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

➤ **We all know the Christmas Story...**

- The world knows the Christmas Story...
- Little baby Jesus born in a manger...
- Shepherds and animals and wise men and Mary and Joseph...
  - And we sing songs about it...
  - But, it is about so much more...

➤ **John... who it seems, was Jesus' closest friend while He walked this earth...**

- Gives us more than the story... He digs deep behind what happened...
- And he tells us what it all means... He tells us why it is so significant that Jesus came...

➤ **Today: We look at what we celebrate during the Christmas Season...**

- We celebrate the birth of Jesus... right?
- And today John tells us specifically about the birth of Jesus...

➤ **John says: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us...**

- So... here we are... God became a child and lived with us...

❖ **Outline:** Let's look at how we are going to approach these verses...

➤ I am going to go out of verse order and follow a logical flow... an order that builds...

➤ John wrote it perfectly... but, we can only take bits and pieces at a time...

- And I think if you will put your mind to work, you will see how it all works together nicely

➤ Look at the flow of Scripture first: (maybe doing this to get you to focus 😊)

- 18... No one has ever seen God;
- 17... For the law was given through Moses;
- 18... the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.
- 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.
- 16... and from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.
- 17... grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

➤ **God-Centric Outline:**

➤ 1) No One Could See God 2) God's Law Left us in Need of Grace 3) Jesus Made God Known

➤ 4) God Became Flesh 5) We Have Seen the Glory of God 6) The Fullness of God Gives us Grace

❖ **1) No One Could See God**

- 18 No one has ever seen God;

➤ **Let me give you some context here...**

- John, I believe, is a great authority here. I think he gives us a very clear true statement...
- No one has ever seen God...
  - To expound a little further, God explains this to Moses

- **Moses asked to see God, but God said he couldn't...**
  - Exodus 33:20 But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live."
    - So God had Moses hide behind a rock, and God hid him
    - But he let Moses see only his "backside"
  - And upon seeing this... Moses face shined so brightly that the people asked him to cover himself
- **Later on though, it says Moses spoke with God "face to face like a man speaks to a friend"**
  - I feel it is obvious that God did not change His mind about what Moses could see
  - God continued to veil Himself from Moses while also meeting and speaking with him
- **Other Instances:**
  - People would see God come in the form of an angel... but always veiled...
- **Why hasn't anyone seen God?**
  - Because God is Holy... Even the creatures of heaven cover their eyes before almighty God
    - Isaiah 6:2-3 Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"
- **God is Holy and set apart...**
  - And the reason we can not see God as He is... is because we are Sinners...
  - Now, Jesus has covered our sin, and we will one day see God...
  - But right now, we are not yet who we are going to be...
- **And this brings up the next point...** God is Holy, and we are sinners... therefore no man has seen God
  - And God's law leaves us helpless before God...

## ❖ 2) God's Law Left us in Need of Grace

- For the law was given through Moses;
- **I believe John added this part here for a very strategic purpose...**
  - To remind the readers... the law leaves us helpless before God... But...
- **Romans 7:10-11 The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. <sup>11</sup> For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me.**
  - **Then we see the purpose of the law**
    - Romans 7:13 in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure.
- **So, the law declares to us our guilt... It declares that sin is sinful beyond measure...**
  - Therefore we are sinful beyond measure...
  - And this leaves us at the mercy of God...
- **John immediately moves from the law... to Jesus... to grace...**
  - **He continues verse 17 by saying... "but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ"**
    - We will get to that part of the verse later... but we see... Jesus steps in...

## ❖ 3) Jesus Made God Known

- **the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.**
- **Here... this verse comes right after John had said... "No one has seen God"**
  - He continues by saying... "the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known"
- **I purposely separated this verse so you could see what John is doing...**
  - John is making a distinction here in regards to who Jesus is
  - And what Jesus has done...
- **I simply want us to see...** John wants us to make sure we know that Jesus is God... the only God...
  - Don't overthink it... it is much easier to understand that you think...
- **God is One God...** but He consists of three persons that are not separate entities...

- But somehow... there is a way for them to be One, while being distinct persons...
- **He is God for goodness sake!!!!**
  - **Wayne Grudem defines this truth we call the trinity like this:**
    - *God eternally exists as three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and each person is fully God, and there is one God.*
  - **He is God for goodness sake!!!**
- **Here John points out three things about Jesus...**
  - He says of Him... 1) The only God... He wants us to know Jesus is the only God...
    - Yet... He also wants you to see the relationship b/w He and the Father...
    - 2) He is at the Father's side... and...
- **3) Jesus has made God known...**
  - If you want to know God... know Jesus... Simple as that...
  - The reason Jesus can make God known to us... is because He is God
- **And... we continue our logical flow of these verses...**
  - And how did Jesus make God known to us?

#### ❖ 4) God Became Flesh

- **And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,**
- **The Reason John can say what He has said about Jesus, is because of the Nature of who Jesus Is!**
  - Becoming A Man made it possible for us to be saved.
  - Without the Jesus becoming a man
    - There is no Salvation... Because there is no cross... Therefore no payment for our sins
- **The Incarnation of Jesus Christ is probably the Greatest and most amazing thing ever done**
  - Our salvation is not accomplished apart from it.
    - **There are no words to describe its greatness**
- **God took on flesh**
  - Paul says of Jesus in **Colossians 1:19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,**
    - This is significant because Paul is saying that in the man Jesus all of God dwelt
- **The Word (Jesus) who was with God, and who was and is God**
  - Who made all things
  - From whom life exudes
  - And light flows out from this light
  - Is bottled up inside a man....
- **Example:**
  - Only way I can think to describe it is...
  - Taking a quart jar to go out and catch fire flies (or as we call it, lightning bugs)
  - And then you decide... why stop there, lets get some bigger lights...
  - And you try to stuff the sun, and all the stars, and all the galaxies inside this one jar
    - Seems impossible doesn't it...
    - But that is what we are talking about here...
  - **Or... going to the beach... digging a Hole there in the sand**
    - And pouring the entire ocean into this hole you dug...
    - And I don't care how big you make the hole.
    - You can't make one big enough
    - And you don't stop with the ocean but you try to fit every
      - ◆ Lake, river and stream into it.
- **And He dwelt among us**
  - **Dwelt – means he pitched a tent or tabernacled with us...**

- Although completely set apart from us, as God... He does the unimaginable
- And becomes one of us.
- **He dwelt with the Israelites in the Wilderness**
  - ◆ His presence would come there to the tabernacle
  - ◆ And Moses alone could go in
- **Then He lived with us in the God- Man Jesus Christ.**
- **And He will one day do so again...**
  - Revelation 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.
- **We See Paul describing this event in great detail for us in Phil 2**
  - **Philippians 2:6-7** “<sup>6</sup>Who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup>but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.
  - **I think here we see the most clear picture of what Jesus did on our behalf...**
    - Paul reminds us in verse 6... “though he was in the form of God”
      - ◆ This reminds us of:
        - Hebrews 1:3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature,
        - ◆ Pauls says... although Jesus is God...
      - He did not count equality with God something to hold onto...
    - **Rather... He made himself to be nothing...**
      - He took on the form of a servant...
      - He unclothed Himself of His glory....
      - To be born in the likeness of man
    - **His Humbling... it continued... Paul goes on to say:**
      - Phil 2:8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.
  - **If there is one thing we see from God in Jesus Christ...**
    - It is the great love in which He loved us, even to the point of dying
  - **John continues to expound on what it is that we have seen in Jesus**

## ❖ 5) We Have Seen the Glory of God

- and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth
- **So... The Word becomes flesh...**
  - Now... there is so much more to this than just the story of Jesus in a manger...
  - And John is wanting us to see that...
- **He says... not only did Jesus come as a child that grew into a man...**
  - He came and He showed us the glory of God...
  - We have seen the glory of God...
- **So... do you see... He is going to define it for us...**
  - **The word glory in simplest terms could be understood as:**
    - That which is awesome and amazing about someone or something...
- **John says we have seen the glory of God...**
  - We have seen the glory of the Son of God that comes from the Father...
  - And... it is full of grace and truth...
- **Grace and Truth...**
  - The way in which John saw the glory of Almighty God...
  - Is that Jesus revealed the grace and truth of God

- **Again... more than just the baby at Christmas... Christmas is about God revealing His glory to us...**
  - And we see it in grace and truth...
- **If there is anything this world needs... It is the truth of God...**
  - Given and covered by the Grace of God
- **Grace – Is God’s Unmerited Favor**
  - We have favor from God for no reason, other than His love...
  - Grace is the only way a Sinner can be saved...
    - Romans 3:24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,
- **Truth – what is right, real**
  - **And in a world where Satan has inundated the airwaves and books**
    - and homes of people with lies... We need a breath of truth
  - **Jesus said, “ I am the truth”**
    - We find out what is right from Jesus...
  - **For John...** living in a Jewish world that had bent God’s word, Jesus came revealing truth
    - **For Us...** living in a world of lies...
  - Jesus stands as a pillar, as an anchor to run to when we do not know what is right.
- **It was by the grace of God that He came to give us His truth...**
  - **And it was through the truth He gave to us... that we learned about His grace...**

#### ❖ **Invitation: 6) The Fullness of God Gives us Grace**

- <sup>16</sup> **And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace... 17b grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.**
- From the fullness of Jesus... or from His glory.... I think fullness is another way of saying glory
  - **We have all received grace upon grace...**
- **First of all...** I want you to see that this word “ALL” is in regards to thos who believed...
  - **Not all people... although it is true that all people receive some of the grace of God...**
  - **Not all people will experience this saving grace...**
- **John says...** we have received grace upon grace...
  - He will go on in verse 17 to remind us that the grace and truth came through Jesus Christ...
  - So, today... Jesus is offering you grace... not just grace, but grace upon grace...
- **What is Christmas about?**
  - Well, is it not this? That God has offered grace upon grace
  - To be received by those who believe?
- **Grace upon grace**
  - Grace heaped upon grace
  - When grace is gone, more grace comes... it never ends...
  - **Ephesians 1:7-8 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight**
- **Interesting... that when the Glory of God is seen... Grace is the driving force...**
  - **With Moses... think back...**
    - **“The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, 7 keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin**
- **Would You Come to Him today...?**
  - For the first time... or again to renew your walk with the God of Grace