

God is Revealed in Grace

John 1:16-18 ¹⁶ And 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.

❖ Intro

- Going to give you guys a break today.... A shorter sermon... Hopefully

❖ Recap

- John 1.1-5 – John Reveals Jesus as...?
- John 1.6-11 – A Witness for God,
 - A witness that preached so people might gain eternal life,
 - Jesus being the light that is shining to everyone,
 - Yet the world did not know him,
 - nor did his own people

❖ How We will Treat these Verses

- 1) Why has no one ever seen God?
- 2) The Law shows us why.
- 3) Jesus makes it possible to behold God
- 4) God is Seen by His grace
- **Going to look at these verses, almost in reverse order...**
 - In these verses, it is almost like:
 - There is a problem, and John solves it before He states it...
 - States the problem, and then He shows again how it is solved...
 - So we are going to start with the problem...
 - And we will see how it is solved....

❖ Why is this Important

- We do not fully understand our great God
- You need to know some things about Him and His nature
- And you need to see and understand what He offers you today...

¹⁸ No one has ever seen God;

❖ Why has no one ever seen God?

- **Because God is Holy**
 - His nature is one of perfect Holiness
 - The Holy Nature of God is unique to Him, and impossible to understand
 - **The Cherubim show us this:**
 - 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!"
 - Even these unique creatures of God cover their face and feet
 - They say Holy Holy Holy
 - **Ezekiel shows us why as well**
 - Ezekiel 1:26-28 And above the expanse over their heads there was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like sapphire; and seated above the likeness of a throne was a likeness with a human appearance. 27 And upward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were gleaming metal, like the appearance of fire enclosed all around. And downward from what had

the appearance of his waist I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and there was brightness around him. 28 Like the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud on the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness all around. Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. And when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard the voice of one speaking.

- Likeness of human appearance
- Had the appearance of...
- As if it were gleaming metal
- Like the appearance of fire
- Some sort of brightness around Him
- Kinda like a rainbow
- And that was just the glory of the Lord...
 - ◆ The glory was what emanated from God...
 - ◆ The glory, although a part of God...
 - ◆ Is really just what radiates from His being...

➤ **What about verses that say... a person saw God...**

▪ **Like Moses:**

- Exodus 33:11 Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses turned again into the camp, his assistant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent.
 - We already know the limitations given to Moses on what He could see...
 - This was simply a way to describe how close they were, and how easy it was for Moses to communicate with God....
 - It was just like a friend speaking with a friend...
- **In every instance... the person saw him from a far....**
- They saw Him from a distance....
 - Or saw His glory...
- **John is making the Point**
- No one has ever seen the face of God...

➤ **Moses' Encounter with God**

▪ **After this verse,(vs 11... speaking of face to face) Moses asks God if he could see Him....**

- Exodus 33:13 Now therefore, if I have found favor in your sight, please show me now your ways, that I may know you in order to find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people."
- Exodus 33:18 Moses said, "Please show me your glory."

▪ **Then God answers Him....**

- Exodus 33:19-23 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. 20 But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live." 21 And the Lord said, "Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, 22 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. 23 Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen."
 - ◆ Why would a man die? Because He is Holy...

▪ **Then God declares Himself before Moses**

- Exodus 34:5-7 The Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. 6 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, 7 keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will

by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation.”

- Because God is Holy, He hates Sin
 - Habakkuk 1:13 You who are of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong,
 - Hebrews 1:9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”
- **Important to Note... that anyone ever seeing His glory... They were greatly affected**
 - Ezekiel fell down like a dead man
 - Daniel fell as Dead
 - John fell down like dead
 - Isaiah pronounced a curse upon himself...
 - Saying that He was disintegrating...
 - Habbakuk said it was like His bones rotted away inside of him
- **God is Holy... people.... That is His nature... and He is greater than we are...**
 - His Sense of Right and wrong is greater than ours....
 - We must get to the point
 - Where we realize we are creature, He is creator.
 - We need to know we know very little of Truth without God's revelation
 - Our own minds are not enough to trust for truth...
 - We need to Humble ourselves enough to let God be the answer
- **God illustrates this for us in Isaiah**
 - Isaiah 55:6-9 “Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; 7 let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. 8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses;

❖ The Law shows us why, no one can see God

- **How did we get the Law.**
 - Given to Moses
- **The Law was given to point out our sin and To point God's righteousness**
 - Romans 5:20 Now the law came in to increase the trespass, ...
 - Romans 7:7 ...if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.”
 - Romans 7:12 So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.
- **Throughout the O.T. We see God's Holiness in the law, and its application**
 - Sins had to be covered by the shedding of the blood of animals...
 - Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin...
 - The priests had to go to such great lengths to “consecrate themselves” or be killed themselves
- **The Holy God of the Bible**
 - Often we are shocked to hear some things about God.
 - But we need to understand even the hard parts, so we can understand Himself better
 - **Some think God could have really used a good P R person...**
 - ◆ Now, do not go and tell that stuff about yourself, it will turn people away...
 - ◆ But God does not Hide anything of Himself.

- **God is so patient with us that we are often shocked when He finally does break through on us in punishment.**
 - Consider these scriptures.
- **Leviticus 10:1-3** ¹ Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, which he had not commanded them. ² And fire came out from before the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD. ³ Then Moses said to Aaron, “This is what the LORD has said, ‘Among those who are near me I will be sanctified, and before all the people I will be glorified.’ ” And Aaron held his peace.
 - Does this seem unfair to you?
 - Over a little mess up in worship practices...
 - What had he said before
- **Ex 30**
 - The Alter of Incense (which is a symbolic representation of our prayers...)
 - God gave specific instructions as to what to put in the censor
 - **“It is most holy to the Lord.”**
 - They knew the specifications... so what may have seemed as a mess up... was actually a total disregard for God, and open rebellion
 - ◆ So God ended their life then and there.
- **Why does John refer to Moses**
 - Pointing out to his Jewish readers that what Moses did was great...
 - But, Jesus has come offering so much more...
 - The following of the law was not enough to completely cover over sins...
 - A perfect sacrifice was needed...
 - And they understood something more was needed because their system had to be done over and over every year...
- **The Law – Their pride and joy...**
 - Simply pointed out our sin...
 - It did nothing to bring us salvation... It just showed us our inability

grace and truth came through Jesus Christ..... the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

❖ **Jesus makes it possible to know God**

➤ **Grace and Truth came through Jesus**

➤ **Grace**

- God’s favor on man... for nothing they have done
- Going to look a little more into this...

➤ **Truth**

- He came telling us what the truth about God was...
- He call himself the Truth
- That in Him we could know the truth, **and the truth would set us free...**
- Free from what.... From our sins... From the lies of surrounding cultures...

➤ **Jesus has made God known to us... (the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.)**

- When Jesus came, He came revealing who God is, to us...
- **At the Father’s side**

- In the bosom, or chest of the Father...
- Indicating His closeness to the Father...
- So much so, that we see John say... He was with God, and was God...
- **Made Him Known**
 - Throughout the Life of Christ He was revealing to us who God is...
 - ◆ Through His teachings,
 - ◆ His healings, His Miracles
 - ◆ His Mercy

And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

❖ God is seen by His Grace

➤ 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

➤ Context of this verse...

- John 1:14-16 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 And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

➤ **We have seen his glory... full of grace and truth...**(a parenthesis about John the Baptist)... **Because for His fullness we have received grace upon grace**

- Because we have received grace... we have seen His glory....

➤ **How have we seen God's grace throughout the Bible?**

- Adam and Eve – God sacrificed for them, and was kind to them
- Noah found favor in God's eyes and was spared
- Lot (who had intermingled with a sinful Sodom and Gomorrah) was spared
- The Children of Israel in the book of Judges...
 - They would follow false idols
 - God would send in a nation to discipline them
 - They would cry out and God would deliver them
- King Saul was given chance after chance
- King David granted Mercy after his adultery and allowing Uzzah to be killed
- The Gadarene Demonic... with the legion of Demons
- The Woman at the Well
- The Woman caught in Adultery
- Every prostitute and Drunkard he ever spent time with
- **The rest of Mankind..... in Jesus...**
 - Consider this...

➤ **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

▪ **With Jesus**

- John said He saw grace... from His glory... from His fullness... we have received grace...

- **How can you experience and receive His grace today?**
 - We learned about Covenant yesterday with Ricky...
 - **Covenant meant “to cut in two”**
 - In that culture... they would cut an animal in two when making an agreement
 - They would walk into the middle...
 - Whatever happened to this animal should happen to me if I break covenant
 - **God’s covenant with Abraham**
 - God passed through by himself...
 - Saying... He would keep the covenant and be faithful to Abraham no matter...
 - Abraham entered into the covenant by just believing God would do it...
 - **God made a covenant of blessing with Israel if they kept the law...**
 - They kept it He would bless, they didn’t then He would curse...
 - **Jesus comes along with a new covenant**
 - **Luke 22:20 And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.**
 - **So... Jesus goes to the cross as our sacrifice for our sins...**
 - His perfect blood being shed
 - To Bear our sins....
 - ◆ **1 Peter 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.**
- **What has been accomplished**
 - The Holy God’s requirement for payment of sin has been satisfied
 - But, by Himself... Jesus Did it All!
- **You can receive grace here today for your**
 - Adultery
 - Hatred
 - Lies
 - Abuse of Alcohol or drugs
 - Slander
 - Laziness
 - Pride
 - Greed and Theft
 - Blasphemy of the name of God
 - Your unwholesome mouth
- **How do we Enter into this Covenant God through Jesus has made for Man**
 - Repentance and Faith