

The Gospel of John

1:14-18

Welcome back to this week's study in the book of John.

✠ **John 1:14** *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

This week we read that the Word, which is Jesus, became flesh and dwelt among us. Simply put, God came down as a man and lived with His creation. Now tell me, what is cooler than that.

Think about that for a moment, God the creator of the heavens and the earth, Who's throne is heaven and earth is His footstool, humbled Himself and became one of us. God Who holds all things in His hands was willing to come to this earth and be a man, who would experience every temptation we do. Yet He did NOT give in to the temptations like we do, but was willing to be tempted. God knew that satan would tempt Him before He came to this earth. But God loves us so much that He was willing to allow this to happen.

God who is the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End, came to this earth and taught the people that He created and loved. He spoke to them one on one, face to face, knowing what they were going through and what you are going through even now.

The God who we worship and love, who is worshipped continually in heaven came to this earth to be betrayed, beaten, whipped, spit upon, His closest friends running when things got tough, and willingly went to the cross to have His hands and feet nailed there. God experienced more physical pain than we could ever experience in a lifetime. And on top of this pain, His creation mocked Him and laughed at him.

When you think about these things, and remember them, you should never, ever doubt God's love for you!

“the only begotten” John is the only one who uses this phrase in regards to Jesus.

So what does this mean?

“Only begotten” indicates, that as the Son of God, He was the sole representative of the being and character of the One who sent Him. Jesus was God's representative of Himself to us. Jesus has the same love for His people as God does, with the same characteristics as God, Sinless, Holy, Righteous, Just, True, etc.

Sadly, some cults or false religions will use this verse to claim that Jesus was only a man and not God come in the flesh. This is so wrong because throughout the bible it is very clear that Jesus was God, and not just a man.

Also if you read the words again **“His only begotten Son”** you can sense an intimacy in it, this is John’s writing who writes a lot about love.

† **1 John 4:8-9** *He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.*

John also writes about Jesus in verse 14 **“full of grace and truth”**
We know that truth is God’s word.

† **Psalms 119:160** *The entirety of Your word is truth,
And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.*

† **John 17:17** *Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.*

But read the definition of grace as used here in this verse.

1a) *that which affords joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm, loveliness: grace of speech*

2) *good will, loving-kindness, favour*

Don’t you see Jesus in all of these! So read verse 14 again and experience God’s love, awesomeness and power.

✠ **John 1:14** *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

John then goes back to speaking of John the Baptist.

✠ **John 1:15** *John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.' "*

In verse 15, John the Baptist, who was now around 30 years of age and was born about three months before Jesus was says, **“for He was before me.”**

Once again speaking of the deity of Jesus Christ. Also notice John used the proper term for John the Baptist witness. **John bore witness of Him and cried out.**

“Cried out” is the key phrase here, because in the book of Isaiah it speaks of John the Baptist who would prepare the way for Jesus and His ministry here on the earth.

† **Isaiah 40:3** *The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way of the LORD;
Make straight in the desert
A highway for our God."*

Also John the Baptist testifies of this further on in verse 23.

† **John 1:23** *He said: "I am
'The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
'Make straight the way of the LORD, '
as the prophet Isaiah said."*

We will look more at this when we get to verse 23.

One of the coolest things I found out about reading the bible is that as you read through the New Testament, then the Old Testament, you see so many prophecies that you read about in the New Testament. And as you read through the Old Testament then through the New Testament you understand more because you just read about it in the Old Testament.

Sound confusing? Let me put it simpler.

We just read in John of *"the voice of one crying in the wilderness"*. Now suppose you have been reading the Old Testament, and where when you came to the book of Isaiah, you read 40:3 and would think, *"That sounds familiar, where have I heard that before?"* Then the Holy Spirit would bring back verse 23 in the book of John to your remembrance.

But the only way you find this out is to read through the bible, over and over, not just one time. I have read through the bible so many times that I can't keep count. Sometimes I'll read through it twice in a year, and I always find stuff I may have skimmed over or forgotten, or did not pay much attention to before. Usually I read through the NKJV, but I also will read through different versions like the NLT, KJ etc. Try it, you won't regret it. You will find yourself getting excited, mad, happy, crying, cheering on the people in the bible, maybe even telling others about a story you just read, because it was better than any paperback, and it is ALL true.
(Can you tell I love God's word!)

John (not the Baptist) goes on to say.

✠ **John 1:16-18** *And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.*

John says that *the law was given through Moses*. You see the Law cannot save anyone. The law only shows us that we are sinners, Paul says.

† **Romans 7:7-12 (NLT)** *Well then, am I suggesting that the law of God is evil? Of course not! The law is not sinful, but it was the law that showed me my sin. I would never have known that coveting is wrong if the law had not said, "Do not covet." But sin took advantage of this law and aroused all kinds of forbidden desires within me! If there were no law, sin would not have that power.*

I felt fine when I did not understand what the law demanded. But when I learned the truth, I realized I had broken the law and was a sinner, doomed to die. So the good law, which was supposed to show me the way of life, instead gave me the death penalty. Sin took advantage of the law and fooled me; it took the good law and used it to make me guilty of death. But still, the law itself is holy and right and good.

You may read this and say, “*Well that’s not fair. Just because I don’t know the whole law of God, does He hold me accountable for breaking the one’s I don’t know about?*”

Let’s read what the Holy Spirit showed Paul about that:

† **Romans 2:14-15 (NLT)** *Even when Gentiles, who do not have God's written law, instinctively follow what the law says, they show that in their hearts they know right from wrong. They demonstrate that God's law is written within them, for their own consciences either accuse them or tell them they are doing what is right.*

We all know when something is wrong, whether we read the bible or not. If no one ever told you it was wrong to kill someone, your conscience would tell you. In other words, you would know within yourself that to kill just is not right.

God has put this within us so that we may not sin. It doesn’t mean we won’t, but when you get a bad feeling about doing something, it may be because it’s wrong or sinful.

So by the law of God, we know we are sinners, but once again John gives us good news, ***but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.***

† **2 Tim 1:9** *who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,*

† **Eph 2:8-9** *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

Following the law does not save us, because we all know that we can’t, but through the Grace of God are we saved.

✠ ***No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.***

You may read this and think of Moses or Abraham or even Adam and think, “*Well they saw God and did not die, or what about Elijah or Enoch who never died but were taken into heaven?*”

Never in the bible does it say that Moses or Abraham or even Adam saw God face to face. It says they spoke with God or God spoke with them, but I don’t recall anywhere

where they saw Him. Even Moses wanted to see God, but he was only allowed to see God's afterglow as He passed by Moses.

✚ **Ex 33:20-23** *But He said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live." And the LORD said, "Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen."*

You may also think of verses like:

✚ **Gen 12:7** *Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.*

When you read the word "appeared" in this context it refers to "perceive" or "sense" but not actually seeing God.

But there is one in the bible who said plainly that He has seen God and was there proclaiming this God to the world.

✚ **John 6:46** ***"Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father.***

Of course this is Jesus speaking and He is the only man to see God face-to-face and live. As far as Elijah and Enoch go, they were taken into heaven, and how God worked everything out, I don't know. We will just have to find out when we get to heaven.

Next week we will read more about John the Baptist.

May God richly bless you in His love, grace and mercy. AMEN!