

# Worthy in His Revelation

*Lord's Table Meditations*

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**Bible Text:** John 1:18

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The gospel of John chapter one.

On our Lord's Table evenings that come once a month, the first Sunday of every month, we have been given due attention to the truths about the worthiness of our Lord.

“Worthy is the Lamb that was slain.”<sup>1</sup>

We need to ascribe him worth and give him worth. We need to understand the riches and the wealth of all that he is, the tender mercies that he has bestowed upon us to show us who he is and show us the majesty and glory of who he is and what he is and what he is doing on the face of the earth.

And tonight I want to talk about the worthiness in his revelation. So let's read John chapter one and verse 18. “No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.”<sup>2</sup> He hath exegeted him.

I think I brought this to our attention before. There's two ways that you can approach your Bible. You can approach your Bible in what is called isogesis where you read into these words your ideas, what you think those words mean. And then there is exegesis where you go to these words and what you want to know is you are not projecting your ideas and your mind and your background and your feelings to these words. You are wanting to know what? Exactly what those words are saying. That is exegesis.

And when we look at that and we exegete that properly than we know exactly what those words are declaring unto us. Jesus Christ is the exegesis of God the Father.

Before the foundation of the world there was God.

John works it this way when he says, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”<sup>3</sup> A word is a communication. That Word as the communication of deity. It was the revelation of the very divine person of God the Father. In the beginning, before all things that came into being are, that communication

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<sup>1</sup> Revelation 5:12

<sup>2</sup> John 1:18

<sup>3</sup> John 1:1

that Word which Hebrews says is the express image of the Father being the brightness of his glory,<sup>4</sup> in the beginning was that Word. That Word was distinct. That Word was not only distinct, but it was with God. And that Word was God himself. That Word eternal, that Word distinct, that Word was God and it was already present at the creation.

Verse two from John one, “The same,” that is, the Word, “was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.”<sup>5</sup>

Now note verse three. This Word that is eternal, distinct and God, that Word that was in the beginning with God, “All things,” nothing excepted, “All things were made by...”<sup>6</sup> Now he didn’t say, “The Word,” did he? “All things were made by him.”<sup>7</sup> And so now what we know about that Word is not only was that Word that was the communication of deity meaning all that deity is, not only was that Word in the beginning and that Word was distinct and that Word was God himself, but now we know in verse three that that Word was person. “All things were made by him,”<sup>8</sup> that Word.

And verse three says, “Apart from him,” that is the Word, that second person of the godhead, “All things were made by him and apart from that Word, apart from him was not anything made that was made.”<sup>9</sup>

And I made this statement before and I will make it again, but everything that God has ever done he has done by his Word. That is a person. That is the Son of God. That is that Word that was made flesh and dwelt among us. By him all things that were made came into existence.

And this is exactly what Hebrews chapter three states when it says that by faith we understand that the ages, the worlds were framed by the Word of God.<sup>10</sup> The world was made by the Word of God. Our existence came into being by the Word of God. All things—trees, animals, plants, angels, principalities, powers, governments—everything has come into existence by that Word that was distinct and eternal. It was God who is a person. That Word also frame din, prepared and boundaried in all the distinct ages of human history including the age in which we live.

We understand that the ages and the worlds were thoroughly prepared and framed in by the Word of God. Why did God do it that way? So that things which are seen, things that you can see with your own eyes, things that are visible right now—buildings and people and plants and animals and trees, everything that is out there—so that things that are seen were not made, they did not come into existence of things which do appear.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> See Hebrews 1:3

<sup>5</sup> John 1:2-3

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> See Hebrews 11:3

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

So in that one verse destroys evolution. Things that have come into existence did not come into existence by things that you see.

Well how did it come into existence? It came into existence by Word. You can't see a word, can you?

In other words if I looked over here and I look at that pew and I say, "Let there be an apple on that pew," if an apple shows up on that pew, you don't see the means, but you do hear the means. The existence of that apple would have come into being by word, by invisible things that are breathed out by the breath of God.

Everything that God has ever done, he has always done by the Word of by communication of deity. Or we could put it this way and be equally true that all things that God has ever done he has done by his Son.

Where is his Son in Genesis chapter one? You had the Spirit hovering over the waters. You have got God the Father, he said, there it is. He said, "Let there be light," and what? "There was light."<sup>12</sup>

The saying, the voice, the Word, that is the Son. And that Word that was eternal, that Word that is distinct, that Word that already was because he is a person, he is the eternal God, that Word that is a communication of deity, the revelation of the divine nature, that Word became incarnate.

In John chapter one and verse 14 the Scripture says, "And the Word..."<sup>13</sup> Isn't this amazing? "The Word became visible."<sup>14</sup> The invisible Word became visible. It was clothed with a human garment called a body. "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,)"<sup>15</sup> the unique one that God man, "full of grace and truth."<sup>16</sup>

That Word, John chapter one verse four, "In him," that person, that second member of the godhead, "In him," in that Word, "was life."<sup>17</sup> Life.

So what we know at this point is that when God wants to communicate, when he wants to do anything that he desires to do, he does it by his Son. He does it by the Word. That Word is a person, eternal, distinct. That Word is God himself. He does all things by that Word. And that Word, in that Word which is personalized, that Word in his person was life and that life was the light of men.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Genesis 1:3

<sup>13</sup> John 1:14

<sup>14</sup> See John 1:14

<sup>15</sup> John 1:14

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> John 1:4

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

But, folks, Jesus Christ was not merely a good communicator. Now he was that, wasn't he? He always knew what always to say, didn't he? Someone could come, tempt him. He would say, "Show me a coin."<sup>19</sup> And you just hang listening to what the Savior is going to say. He knew exactly in every instance what to say, what to teach, how to communicate it. He always taught in exactly the most perfect way. You couldn't even improve on his approach regardless of how sometimes we think that it is confusing.

But, folks, Jesus Christ was not merely a good communicator. Jesus Christ is the communication. In other words when we are talking about the worthiness of his person, that worthiness of a Word, that communication of deity, that communication that is a person, that is in that Word is life and everything that God has ever done he has always done by that Word, that Word as embodied not just so that body and that person that is Jesus Christ could communicate certain words. Certainly he did that. But it is so that you could behold him and look at him because he himself is the communication of God to us.

So when you read a statement in your Bible that says that you are to love your brother as yourself, we could spend a lot of time thinking about that and wondering about that and exactly what does that mean and what are the nuances that come into play and when should I really be loving my brother? Are there any circumstances when I shouldn't?

But, folks, all we have to do to understand that commandment is look at the communication of God. We look at him. And when we look at him we see exactly what that command looks like and what it is fleshed out in his own life and uniqueness.

What will that love look like? Well, greater love hath no man than this, that a man give his life.<sup>20</sup> That's love, isn't it?

Or Jesus Christ himself saying to the disciples, he says, "Come, let's go so that the world many know that I love the Father."<sup>21</sup>

What would it mean to love the Father? He communicates that to us, not just in commandments, not just in descriptions, not just by the things that he said, but the way that he walked and moved and acted, the way he thought. Every thing about him was God the Father communicating to the world who he is because otherwise we would have never known that revelation.

And, folks, the Son of God, that person of the Son that Word that was made flesh, that Word which is the exegesis of God, the declaration of God, not just the communication of that exegesis. That is what I do. That is what we are limited to is communicating that exegesis. But that Word living through him was also the communication.

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<sup>19</sup> See Matthew 22:19

<sup>20</sup> See John 15:13

<sup>21</sup> See John 14:31

And Paul himself would write of the Corinthians, he says, “You know, I don’t need letters of commendation from you. You are my letter. You are the communication of my own ministry.”<sup>22</sup>

And, folks, the Son of God had to be all that God is or he could not gloriously represent to us God.

We couldn’t ever know what God himself is like, the actions of God, the words of God, the thoughts of God, the inner relationships among the members of the godhead that are operating in the very being of God. We couldn’t know his love, his patience, his longsuffering. We couldn’t know any of that if there was ever any deficiency at all in that Word made flesh whose name is Jesus Christ the Lord.

He is the substance of the gospel. He is the gospel, isn’t he? It is not that we are just communicating nice things that lived 2000 years ago. What we are trying to communicate is him. He is the good news. And so in John chapter one and verse 18 the good news is that, “No man hath seen God at any time.”<sup>23</sup> Pause. Let that sink in to our souls.

Moses did not see the infinite, unveiled, full majesty of God. No man could see that and live, the Bible says.<sup>24</sup>

The weight of the glory of his goodness would crush a human being.

“No man hath seen God at any time.”<sup>25</sup> So if no man has ever seen God at any time, is there any man out there in flesh and blood that that could really tell us about God? No. Because nobody out there has ever seen God at any time.

But, verse 18, the only begotten Son, the unique one, the unique Son of God which is in the bosom of the Father—there is that unity in the Father—he has declared him.<sup>26</sup>

How? Because he has seen God. He is God, right?

And so the very person of Jesus Christ the goal of the gospel is not merely—and glorious this is—it is not just merely to save us from our sins, but it is to reveal and to show us God the Father by the Son. It says that we can know who God is and what is his way and what are his actions and why does he do the things that he does? What a humbling of God to be able to do that, to explain himself to dust? And he does that not only to reveal the Father by the Word, but to reveal the Father in the Word, that Word that became flesh and blood and dwelt among us, not just merely the things that he said, but when I look in my Bible I don’t just hear the things that he said. I see him and the light of that knowledge of the glory of God, the revelation of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

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<sup>22</sup> See 2 Corinthians 3:1-2

<sup>23</sup> John 1:18

<sup>24</sup> See Exodus 33:20

<sup>25</sup> John 1:18

<sup>26</sup> See John 1:18

Because, folks, in John chapter one and verse 18, “No man hath seen God at any time,”<sup>27</sup> folks, there is no other way except by the Son of God there is no other way that you could have an acquaintance with God outside of the Son of God.

There is now way that you would have the knowledge of God. There is no way that you could have communion with God. There is no way that you could have a relationship with God. There is no way that you could have fellowship with God. He has to show you who God is. He is the door. He is the way. He is the opening into the majesty of the glory that is on high. He himself is the communication of all that God is because he is the one that is eternally and infinitely declaring him, manifesting the light of that knowledge.

We can't get to know God by discussion groups, a bunch of human beings get together and pooling their ignorance about God and trying to figure out who God is. You are not going to know God by just sitting around and speculating about him, wondering about him. You are not going to know God by going to heaven. You are not going to know God by going down in the depths of the earth. You are not going to know God by taking telescopes and looking out into the far reaches of the universe and search for him. You are not going to find God by taking microscopes and electron microscopes and neutronic microscopes and going down to the very nth degree of what man would call a particle. You are not going to find God that way. You are not going to find the God particle, because that is what they are looking for in Belgium today, this huge accelerator because what they are looking for is that particle which has brought all things into existence. They are not going to find it.

Why? It is invisible. It brought everything into existence. What sustains the creation is a Word.

But thanks be unto God that the Word invisible, became visible in the person of Jesus Christ.

And, folks, if you want to know God it is only by the Son of God that you could ever know him.

You think Confucius knew him? You think Allah, you know on the back side of that desert under some tree somewhere sitting around thinking about God? You think he figured it out? You think maybe there is something in these false, apostate religions that are out there, something that we are missing?

Folks, all the declaration of everything about God is in the face of Jesus Christ the Lord and only him the Bible says.

Now I want you to turn to the first gospel, the gospel of Matthew and I want you to turn to Mathew chapter 11. Matthew chapter 11 Jesus has just renounced certain cities, Chorazin and Tyre and Sidon and Capernaum. And he says in verse 24, he says, “I say

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<sup>27</sup> John 1:18

unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.”<sup>28</sup>

Verse 25. “At that time Jesus answered and said...”<sup>29</sup> What did he answer? He answered. There must be some thought, something out there, that a person would normally think after hearing these denunciations and condemnation of these cities.

“Jesus answered and said...”<sup>30</sup> Here is his answer.

I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight.<sup>31</sup>

What was he saying about Capernaum? What was he saying about Chorazin?

Well, he was saying that these cities were to be condemned, right? Why? Because they rejected the Word that had been made flesh. They rejected the declaration of God, the person of God in their midst.

But, folks the reason why they rejected it is a combination of two things. First is the fact that God the Father did what? He hid it from them. Why? Is there any reason? Is this some arbitrary choice of God? Why? Why did he hide it from them?

Because these cities and the people that were in those cities considered themselves what? Wise and prudent people.

It sounds like America, doesn't it?

And the Lord rejoiced that God hides himself from those types of people, but he opens the eyes of people who are what? Babes. And this is good in the sight of God to do this.

Now Jesus is that declaration of God. So, verse 27, “All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the,” who? “Son.”<sup>32</sup> Now what he is saying here. This is amazing. This actually just makes my circuits short circuit.

Who knows the Father? Any man out there? Who is the only one that knows God the Father? It is God the Son. Is there any man out there that knows God the Son? The only being that knows God the Son is God the Father. Why is that?

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<sup>28</sup> Matthew 11:24

<sup>29</sup> Matthew 11:25

<sup>30</sup> Ibid.

<sup>31</sup> Matthew 11:25-26

<sup>32</sup> Matthew 11:27

Verse 27, because how many things have been handed over to the Son from the Father? How many things? All things. So the infinite majesty, the glory, the knowledge, the omniscience, the power, the goodness, everything that God is, he has handed over to his... He has revealed himself to his Son.

What is so amazing about that? Because it tells us something about the Son. Because, folks, God hides things from the wise and the prudent. He reveals it to who? And all things have been revealed to the Son.

Is it any wonder that the Son humbled himself to take on human flesh? That he took on the form of a servant, humbling himself, being obedient even unto the death of the cross.<sup>33</sup> Doesn't that sound like the Son, the one of whom God the Father has shown all things unto him? He has revealed it.

But here is the blessing. Nothing is hidden to the Son and no man knows the Son. But the only being, person that knows the Son is the Father and no man knows the person of the Father save the person of the Son. Now here is the great hope. And he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.<sup>34</sup> Do you see that? He is the declaration of all that God is. He is the revelation? Isn't he worthy? That worthy one, that Word that as with God and he was God, the same was in the beginning with God. In him that Word was life and he is a person, that Word.

The Son of God will love you and reveal himself to you and if he reveals himself to you he has revealed who to you? The Father.

Do you know what he said? I and the Father are one.<sup>35</sup>

“Philip, have I been so long time with you. Don't you understand that I am the declaration of all that God is because I am God? And if you have seen me, you have seen the communication of God.”<sup>36</sup>

And the communication of God is all that God is. You have seen God.

The whole person and nature and revelation of the invisible God is made visible in the Son of God to us.

And, folks, we would have never seen the glory or the majesty of this, that Word being made flesh and dwelling among us and we beheld his glory the apostle said. We would have never been able to comprehend the majesty, the light, the glory of the invisible God because no man hath seen God at any time, but the Son has seen him and he has communicated that glory to us in the face of who? Jesus Christ.<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> See Philippians 2:8

<sup>34</sup> See Matthew 11:27

<sup>35</sup> See John 10:30

<sup>36</sup> See John 14:9

<sup>37</sup> See 2 Corinthians 4:6



So as the Father is so is the Son. As the Son is, so is the Father. Now look back in Matthew 11 verse 27.

“All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.”<sup>38</sup>

Now if we just stopped right here we would have some measure of hope, wouldn't we, of knowing God, knowing what he is like. But what makes this a full measure of the love of God isn't just that the Son may reveal himself, but look at verse 28. Look at the first three words. He says, “All right. The Son whosoever, I reveal myself to you.” So what does he say? “Come unto me.”<sup>39</sup>

“Since I am the one, I am the communication of God, I am the one declaring and exegeting all that God is and God has foreordained that nobody would know who God is apart from the Son and the Son knows the Father and the Father knows the Son. But the Son will reveal God to people.

And then he says, “Come to me.”<sup>40</sup> Come to him for what? The knowledge of the invisible God which is eternal life.

And the people who can come are not the wise and the prudent. It is people who are labored and are heavy laden. And, folks, when God the Son reveals God the Father to us it is rest for our souls. It is like water from the fountain of life because in that Word is life.

Didn't he say, “Come unto me?”<sup>41</sup> Didn't he say that if a man would come flowing out of his innermost being would be like waters?<sup>42</sup>

So he says in verse 29, instead of being wise and prudent and haughty, “Take my yoke upon you,” and do what? “Learn of me.”<sup>43</sup> Just sit at the feet of the clothed Word in the pages of your Bible and learn about him. And he is not wise and prudent and haughty like men. He is meek and lowly in heart. And you will find rest for our souls.<sup>44</sup>

The image of the invisible God is the person of Jesus Christ. He is the only doorway into the knowledge of God. He is the declaration of God that thinks both what he said and how he walked.

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<sup>38</sup> Matthew 11:27

<sup>39</sup> Matthew 11:28

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid.

<sup>42</sup> See John 7:38

<sup>43</sup> Matthew 11:29

<sup>44</sup> See Matthew 11:29

I mean, folks, if we would take this Bible and if we could really put it in our souls to where ever portion and bit of the life of these words was living through us, what would it look like? It would look like him.

How do we know the power of God? It is declared in Jesus Christ. How do we know the goodness of God? It is declared in Jesus Christ. How do we know the grace of God? It is there in Jesus Christ. The holiness of God, what does holiness look like? Jesus Christ. And any other glorious attribute and property of God does shine forth in the face of the Son of God to us.

The invisible God was made visible. Isn't that love? God so loved the world that he gave the declaration of all that he is that the invisible God became visible in the person of Jesus Christ.

Three applications quickly. Folks, if you attempt, if any man attempts to come to God any other way they will fail. Jesus who is the revelation and declaration of all that God is said, "I am the what? I am the way."<sup>45</sup> Can't you see? I am the truth.<sup>46</sup> Can't you see?"

Jesus wasn't saying that I am telling people the way. He is saying, "I am the way. I am the truth. I am the life."<sup>47</sup>

What does it mean when he says, "I am a door"?<sup>48</sup> Or, "I am the great shepherd of the sheep."<sup>49</sup> What is he saying to us?

Remember, everything that God has ever done, he has done by his Word. And that Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.<sup>50</sup>

If you attempt to know God any other way then by and through and in the person of Jesus Christ you will fail.

So how about if we do this? How about... I heard a preacher preach this. He said... I was sitting in the room when he said this. He said, "If you want to learn about how to handle demons ask the demons." He said, "I have been in a room. I have talked to demons. And so I just asked them questions and the demons answered them."

And I am sitting in the back going crazy. You want to know God by a demon? You won't know God by a demon because the knowledge of God, the revelation of God is not in demons. It is in the Son of God.

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<sup>45</sup> John 14:6

<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

<sup>47</sup> See John 14:6

<sup>48</sup> John 10:7, 9

<sup>49</sup> See John 10:11,14

<sup>50</sup> See John 1:14

I know what I need to do. I need to go off somewhere some back hills of India and climb up a big mountain and there will be some guru up there who has been in meditative trance for decades and I am going to ask him all the deep questions of life.

It will be a failure.

I know what I am going to do. I am going to go down to the library. I did this, local library. I am going to go down to the library and in the library there is this little manual. I forgot the name of it. It slipped my mind presently, but there is little manual that Robert Schuler and them go by. It's in the library. So I went, checked the card catalog. There it is. Got it. Went way back in the back corner where nobody could see me but Jesus Christ and I opened that up. I didn't want anybody to know I was reading it. It is several hundred pages of transcriptions from demons.

You want to find the revelation of God there? You want to find it in the Koran? That's where you are going to find it, right? You are going to find it in your brain. You are just so educated, so intellectual. You are just going to sit back in some room and meditate in yourself and just free breathe out all your cares and anxieties and kind of go into yourself until you find that inner man peace and tranquility and there you are going to have union with God.

It is going to fail.

Folks, if you want to know about God, there is only one place where he has revealed himself. It is in the, it is in the Son.

And do know what these words are? These are words breathed out by God. This is the written Word telling us about the living Word.

There is no other way to know God than in and by Jesus Christ.

Secondly, he is the only means of coming into the knowledge and joy of God. You are not going to get it through your own efforts. You are not going to get it by trying really hard. Do you want to come into the knowledge of God? Do you want to see the light of that glory? Do you want to know what it means to walk in the light as he is in the light? It is only going to happen if you come to who? The Son of God.

And, lastly, why is this so crucial? Why is he worthy in his revelation? He is worthy because the Bible says that in him is hid, in him is hid. You can't see it, right? In him is hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Where is it? University of Richmond? VCU? Harvard? It is in him because he is the revelation of God to us.

So you ought to go to him. Do you value that? Do you cherish that? Young people, do you hunger for that?

I wonder what it means to lay up treasure in heaven. I wonder. Go to the Son because he is the only revelation of God to us through the pages of the Bible.

Let's move toward our center aisle and bow our heads and close our eyes as we prepare our hearts for the Lord's Table tonight.