

Theme: The eternal God came into the world, into our humanity and history, in Jesus. He came to reveal the glory and grace of God perfectly and unmistakably. That glory and grace is shared with those who receive him and believe in his name.

Background: John 20:30,31 gave us the *purpose* of this gospel. The Prologue gives us the *premise* (that on which it is built).

Introduction: We are being welcomed into the heart of the Gospel, and introduced to its direction and themes.

I. The Immortal God

A. In the beginning was the Word

1. Existing eternally
 - In the beginning – uncreated (2)
2. Existing in eternal relationship
 - With God
 - At the Father’s side (18)
3. True God
 - a. Negations
 - Not *a* God, a *lesser* god
 - Not *the* God, that is
 - The Word, by himself, does not make up the Godhead
 - b. Assertions
 - He is God
 - He is *with* God

B. Understanding the Word

1. Taken from Greek philosophy?
2. Taken from Scripture (cf. Psalm 33:6; 107:20; Isaiah 9:8; 55:11)
3. Shaped under the ministry of the Spirit

C. The power of the Word? **3**

1. The personal agent in Creation
2. Life (4a)
 - a. In himself (cf. 5:26)
 - b. In us!

NOTE: Life/light will be used in the rest of John primarily in revealing salvation.

3. Light – Illumination (4b)
 - a. The light of mankind “in the image of God”?
 - b. The light of “general revelation”?
 - c. The light of his coming?
4. Shining in the darkness (5) (cf. 3:19,20)
 - a. In the physical realm – “general revelation”
 - b. In the spiritual realm – “moral tension” of light and dark

II. Coming Into the World (6-13)

A. The witness

1. Sent from God (6)
2. A witness! (7a)
 - a. To *testify* concerning the light (8)
 - b. That all might *believe* (7b)

B. The true light (9)

- KJV Emphasizes light for the people that come into the world
i.e. General revelation
- ESV/NIV Emphasizes the light coming into the world, not the people

C. Dividing the world (10-13)

1. A stranger to the world
 - Made through him – but foreign to them
2. Even his own did not receive him (Jeremiah 7:25,26)
3. We must *receive* him!
4. We must *believe* in his name

D. For the children of God

- He will *receive* his own
- Those born of God

III. In the Fullness of Grace

A. Grace and truth made visible (14)

1. Dwelling among us
 - To “tabernacle” with us
 - Revealing his glory
 - We see God’s glory in the Word made Flesh!! (14:9)
2. Full of grace and truth (Colossians 1:15,16; Hebrews 1:3)
3. Who was before John – and was greater

C. Grace upon grace poured out (16,17)

1. The grace of the law
 - Given through Moses
 - A means of grace
 - Pointing to Christ
2. The grace of the Son
 - This grace *comes!*
 - Doesn’t annul the law but fulfills it

IV. The Unseen God Revealed (18)

A. In God made flesh

B. Why?

1. The world needs a savior (9-13)
2. There is only one who can save us