

Lighthouse Bible Church

July 29th, 2012

John 1: 14 – 18

Scripture reading 1st John 1: 1 – 4

‘The Word became flesh’

Stand – read – pray

Last week we were introduced to the forerunner of Jesus Christ and that was John the Baptist. We saw that he was **sent by God** as verse 6 said and that sending had been prophesied and planned for hundreds of years, Isaiah 40: 3 said.

His purpose and mission was to bear witness of the Light of Jesus Christ which gives light to everyone. We saw last time that everyone is born separated from God because of sin but even in that God has put **eternity into their hearts** and He has revealed Himself through **Creation** and through **their conscience** so that men are without excuse on knowing His eternal power and godhead as Romans 1 and 2 said.

We saw last time that, although He made the world and was in the world, the world because of sin, did not know Him as the Light of salvation, eternal life because **men loved darkness rather than light**.

Jesus came to His own, His own creation and they, for the most part rejected Him. He came more specifically to His own people, the Jews and, for the most part, they rejected Him as well.

John said that those who **did receive Jesus through belief in His name** were the ones who would become the children of God. He ended that last section by saying that no one can be born of God by their blood line or by their own abilities or by any man made religious laws that they could keep. He said it was through God and God alone, by His grace that anyone can be saved because it is impossible with men to be saved.

And that is where we will pick it up this morning in verses 14 – 18 where John says that **the Word became flesh**. The Word which was in the beginning with God, that was God Verse one says, has now become flesh; God incarnate, God in human form, God the Son became a man.

Again, this is one of the essential elements of the Christian faith, if you don't believe this then you cannot be born again, you cannot become a child of God. John wrote in **1st John 4: 2 – 3** **by this you know the Spirit of God; every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God**. He says that is the **spirit of antichrist**. You are against Christ and God.

He writes in **2nd John 7** **for many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist**. So let's look at Verse 16

Verse 16: **and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us**

Like **1st Timothy 3: 16** says **God was manifest in the flesh**. God took on humanity in the person of Jesus Christ. That is why **Colossians 1: 15** says that **He Jesus is the image of the invisible God**. The exact representation of all that God would be if He were human, an he was.

It is like we have seen in **Philippians 2: 5 – 8** where it says that Jesus **who being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant and coming in the likeness of men and being found in the appearance of a man...**

That is the Christmas story of **Matthew 1: 23** where it says **a virgin shall be with child and bear a Son and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated God with us.** Jesus was the God-man, fully God and yet fully man.

Jesus not only came to His own but He, John says, **dwelt among us**, for 33 years showing us the attributes and character of God the Father. **John 14: 9** Jesus said to Philip **He who has seen Me has (what) see the Father.**

You want to know something? God would dwell with His people from time to time. He did it with the nation of Israel in the tabernacle in **Exodus 40: 34 – 35**, and in the temple in **1st Kings 8: 10 – 11** and now He is doing it again in the person of Jesus Christ. And He will do it one more time but it will be for all eternity. Look at **Revelation 21: 1 – 4**

That is why John says, back in our text in John 1: 14 **and we beheld His glory the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.** The apostle John says we saw His glory and the glory of God the Father manifested in Him.

John did see the glory of God on one special occasion and never forgot it. Remember in **Matthew 17: 1 – 8** when Jesus **took Peter James and John on a high mountain and was transfigured** (*meta-mor-pho-oh – where we get our English word metamorphosis from* **before them.** What happened to Him? It goes on to say **His face shone like the sun and His clothes became as white as the light.**

Peter never forgot it either. In **2nd Peter 1: 16 – 18** he said **we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory ‘this is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.**

And that was just a small glimpse of His glory, wait until He comes back at His second coming in great glory. **Matthew 24: 27 – 30** says **for as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be...and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great GLORY.**

And there will be only one other as great or greater display of His glory and that will be when eternity starts. In **Revelation 21: 23** while John is describing heaven says **the city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it FOR the GLORY of God and the Lamb illuminated it.**

John says we beheld His glory and not only in the sense of what they could see physically, but they saw **His glory as of the only begotten of the Father** in the sense that Jesus displayed all the divine attributes of the glory of God in living out those attributes in His life. That is why **Colossians 2: 9** says **for in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. Colossians 1: 19 says for it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell.** All the fullness of His glory in the manifestation of His love, grace, mercy, forgiveness, kindness, goodness etc.

By the way, another one of those passages that affirms that Jesus is God the Son in human form is found in **Isaiah 42: 8** where God the Father is speaking and He says **I am the Lord, that is My name and My glory I will not give to another.** Later in **Isaiah 48: 11** ... **I will not give My glory to another.**

And yet here the Apostle John says ‘and we beheld His glory’ and then he identifies two aspects of that glory as **being full of grace and truth.** Jesus is the fullness of God’s grace and truth.

Since John had just finished in verse 13 talking about being saved, being born again by the will of God, he now shares how Jesus is the embodiment of that in His display of grace and truth.

God's grace is very evident in His plan of salvation is it not? We are saved by GRACE through faith and that not of ourselves **Ephesians 2** says. We preach and proclaim a gospel of grace as **Acts 20: 24** says. **Romans 3: 24** says we are justified freely by His grace. We have redemption, the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of His grace **Ephesians 1: 7** says. He has saved us and called us by His grace according to **2nd Timothy 1: 9**

No one can be saved by God's grace without hearing and believing and responding to the Truth. In **Ephesians 1: 13** it says **in Him you also trusted after you heard the word of Truth, the gospel of your salvation, in whom also, having believed you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.**

This truth is called the word of the truth of the gospel in **Colossians 1: 5**. In **2nd Thessalonians 2: 13** it says **God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the Truth. 2nd Timothy 2: 4** says that people are saved **when they come to the knowledge of the truth** and people will perish in hell **2nd Thessalonians 2: 10, 12** says because **they did not receive the love of the truth and did not believe the truth.**

That is why Jesus alone could say in **John 14: 6** **I am the way and the Truth and the life...** and He is the embodiment and fullness of God's grace and truth.

Then John says in **Verse 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 fore He was before me.**

The apostle John says that John the Baptist **bore witness of Him** and that is what Verse 7 said he would do, bear witness of the light that all through him might believe.

Part of his witness was to tell the people who came out to see him in the wilderness **This was He of whom I said, He who comes after me is preferred before me for He was before me.**

John the Baptist **cried out** that Jesus, although He came after John the Baptist, was **preferred** or above in importance himself because **He was before me.** John the Baptist was 6 months older than Jesus according to **Luke 1: 26** and was born first and came into public ministry first and yet he says Jesus was before him. What did he mean by that then?

What he meant was that Jesus, as he already said in Verses one and two, has always existed, He was in the beginning. Jesus may have come after John the Baptist in the physical sense of birth and ministry but Jesus was **before** him as the pre-existent Son of God. Look with me at **John 8: 53 – 59**

That is why **Colossians 1: 17** says of Christ that **he was before all things.** **Micah 5: 2** said that He was **from everlasting to everlasting.**

Then John makes this incredible statement in **Verse 16** and of **His fullness we have all received and grace for grace.**

Remember **Colossians 1: 19:** and **2: 9** both say that **in Him all the fullness of God should dwell and in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.** And now John says in Verse 16 that **of His fullness, we have all received.** All the fullness of God that was in Christ then is given to us who are believers when we receive Christ and become one of His children.

Ephesians 3: 17 – 19 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith .. and that you may be filled with the fullness of God. That is why in 2nd Peter 1: 3 it says His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness...

We, as believers, are complete in Christ. We are not complete when we have good friends or a boy friend or girl friend or when we get married or when we have kids or with the perfect job or with great possessions, those things, as good as they may be can not fulfill us and complete us like Christ can and does.

When we are complete in Him and receive our fulfillment in Him and when He is sufficient for every area of our lives, then we truly experience the fullness of Christ. Some Christian feel inadequate in different ways in their lives, but you don't have to when you know that you have all you need in Christ.

Then John adds at the end of Verse 16 **and grace for grace**, or grace upon grace. We know what God's grace is, it is Him giving us what we don't deserve, right. His grace, in one sense, is given to all mankind through the sun rising every day, the rain on the just and the unjust, the grace and mercy of our sin not being judged immediately and so on.

But what he is talking about here is the grace that continues to be given to those who are born again believers, who are His children. It is His constant flow of grace in our lives, grace upon grace upon grace.

It is like what **Romans 5: 20 – 21** says **moreover the law entered that the offense might abound but where sin abounded grace abounded much more so that as sin reigned in death even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Think about this, God's grace is and must be constant in your life because if it isn't, then you are bound by the law of God and if you break one law you are deserving of death and hell, right. That is why **Ephesians 1: 7** says **in Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.** We are saved by His grace and kept by His grace, we stand in the grace and are accepted in the beloved by His grace, the scriptures say.

Remember in **2nd Corinthians 12: 9** where Paul had a thorn in the flesh and he pleaded with the Lord 3 times to remove it and what was the Lord's response? **My GRACE is sufficient for you..**

Then John kind of brings the area of law and grace into perspective in Verse 17 **Verse 17: for the law was given through Moses but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.**

God gave the law through Moses and Moses brought it to the people and the people were then expected to live by the law or else. There was no grace in the keeping of the law, no mercy, just judgment if you didn't. Now the law in itself wasn't bad, it was good, as a matter of fact Paul said in **Romans 7: 7 – 12** that **the law was holy and the commandment holy and just and good.** Because it was by the law that sin was revealed.

The law pointed to the fact that there are none righteous, no not one. Everyone has broken God's law, everyone in this room has broken one or more of the 10 commandments. You've **lied**, you've, **stolen**, you've **murdered** by being angry, you've committed **adultery** by looking on someone with lust, you have taken the **Lord's name** in vain, you have not always **obeyed** your parents etc..

So what was the purpose of the law? It was to point us to Christ and the grace and truth He offers for those who have violated God's law that condemns them to eternal punishment and reveals the need for His grace and forgiveness.

The law of God, **Romans 3: 19** says **stops every mouth**, from trying to justify themselves, **that all the world may be guilty before God. For by the law is the knowledge of sin, Verse 20 says.** And the law, **Galatians 3: 24** says **is our schoolmaster, our tutor, to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.**

When we come to the place in our life when we recognize that we can't keep the law perfectly because if we break even one, James say we are (what) guilty of all. When we realize that all of our good works and words are filthy rags in God's sight. When we are willing to look at ourselves and say 'I have nothing within me to commend myself to God', then we are ready to receive His grace.

His grace is received, as John 1: 12 says, when we receive and believe that God became a man in the person of Jesus Christ. That Christ lived a perfect sinless life. That God laid on Him the sins of us all and punished Him in our place through a cruel torture and death on a cross. That He died for our sins and was buried and raised from the dead for our justification. That through your act of repentance and exercise of faith you are saved from your sins by His grace through your faith and that not of yourselves because even your repentance and faith are His gift of grace to you.

Then John finishes in **Verse 18** **No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son of God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.**

John says that no one has seen God, the closest any every came was Moses in **Exodus 33: 19 – 20** and he just saw His glory pass by from behind and God said **no one can see my face and live.** So no one has seen God, except one, the One and Only Son of God **who is in the bosom of the Father.** Jesus, alone, has the intimate relationship with God the Father that has seen Him and can **declare Him to us.**

Jesus **declared** and **explained** and **showed** us the Father. Remember what He said to Philip in **John 14: 7 – 9** **if you had known Me you would have known My Father also and from now on you know and have seen Him... he who has seen Me has seen the Father.**

Listen, when you know Christ, you know God. When you receive Christ, you receive the Father, Jesus has declared Him and revealed Him to us. Think about this; John will say later in **John 14: 23** **if anyone loves Me he will keep My word and My Father will love him and We will come to him and make Our home with him.**

Apart from God revealing Himself in His fullness through Jesus Christ and through His Word, we would have never known God. He wanted us to know Him as the Creator God. Christianity alone is the only religion where God reaches down to man and reveals Himself through His Son and His Word.

Every other religion is man trying to reach up to God and to find out about Him but they cannot because the natural cannot reach the supernatural. Only a supernatural God can come into the realm of the natural world and reveal Himself to His own.

Do you know God? Do you know His Son Jesus Christ? If you have never received Him as your Savior and Lord by believing in Him and becoming one of His children, then you are living under the law and not grace.

To receive His grace you need to put your faith and trust in the finished work of Christ on your behalf and repent of your sin and trust Christ alone for your salvation.

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Introduction and Review:

1st John 4: 2 – 3, 2nd John 1: 7

Verse 14 **The Word became Flesh**

1st Timothy 3: 16, Colossians 1: 15, Philippians 2: 5 - 8
Matthew 1: 23

The Word Dwelt among us

John 14: 9, Exodus 40: 34 – 35, 1st Kings 8: 10 – 11
Revelation 21: 1 – 4

We beheld His Glory

Matthew 17: 1 – 8, 2nd Peter 1: 16 – 18
Matthew 24: 27 – 30, Revelation 21: 23, Colossians 2: 9
Colossians 1: 19, Isaiah 42: 8, Isaiah 48: 11

Full of Grace and Truth

Ephesians 2: 8, Acts 20: 24, Romans 3: 24, Ephesians 1: 7
2nd Timothy 1: 19, Ephesians 1: 13, Colossians 1: 5
2nd Thessalonians 2: 10 - 13, 2nd Timothy 2: 4, John 14: 6

Verse 15 **He was before me**

Luke 1: 26, John 8: 53 – 59, Colossians 1: 17, Micah 5: 2

Verse 16 **His fullness we have all received**

Colossians 1: 19, 2: 9, Ephesians 3: 17 – 19, 2nd Peter 1: 3

Grace for Grace

Romans 5: 20 – 21, Ephesians 1: 7, 2nd Corinthians 12: 9

Verse 17 **Law by Moses Grace & Truth through Jesus**

Romans 7: 7 – 12, Romans 3: 19, Galatians 3: 24

Verse 18 **The Son of God has declared Him**

Exodus 33: 19 – 20, John 14: 7 – 9, 23

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2nd Timothy 1: 19, Ephesians 1: 13, Colossians 1: 5
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Romans 5: 20 – 21, Ephesians 1: 7, 2nd Corinthians 12: 9

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Exodus 33: 19 – 20, John 14: 7 – 9, 23