

Morning Sermon 8/7/2022 –
“Christ, Full of Fullness for Us” John 1:14-18

Looking for love in all the wrong places ... looking for joy, happiness, satisfaction, life and meaning in all the WRONG PLACES too – ¹³ **“For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water. Jeremiah 2:13 (NKJV)**

I. God in our language -

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 1:14 (NKJV)**

1. In the first verse of John’s Gospel, we were told –

¹ **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. John 1:1–2 (NKJV)**

A. Jesus is eternal

B. Jesus was and is with God

C. Jesus is God, meaning He shares all of the attributes of God –

God / Jesus Christ is a Spirit, (John 4:24) infinite, (1 Kings 8:27) eternal, (Psalm 90:2) and unchangeable, (James 1:17) in his being, wisdom, (Proverbs 3:19) power, (Psalm 147:5) holiness (Revelation 4:8) justice, (Deuteronomy 32:4) goodness, and truth. (Exodus 34:6–7)

2. Yet, we are told here He became flesh –

A. In Hebrews we are told He became or was made flesh, for our benefit, for our salvation -

¹⁴ **Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, Hebrews 2:14 (NKJV)**

B. Not only was He made human, but fully human –

¹⁷ **Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. Hebrews 2:17 (NKJV)**

C. He dwelt among us, experienced our trials / temptations yet without sin –

¹⁵ **For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as we are, yet without sin. Hebrews 4:15 (NKJV)**

3. John (The Apostle) and other believers beheld Christ’s glory

... and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14 (NKJV)

A. A glory unique, only begotten of the Father ... John 1:14 (NKJV)

B. A glory moral and spiritual - full of grace and truth. John 1:14 (NKJV)

C. A glory that cannot be painted or drawn

II. A fullness incomparable but wonderfully shareable -

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.'" ¹⁶ And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses, *but* grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. John 1:15–17 (NKJV)

1. Preferred before John (the Baptist) because He was before ...:15

An interesting statement in verse :15 why?

- A. John (the Baptist) was born before Jesus –*
- B. John (the Baptist) started his earthly ministry before Jesus*

In what way was Jesus before John? Eternally –

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. John 1:1–2 (NKJV)

⁵⁶ **Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.** ⁵⁷ Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" ⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, **"Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."** John 8:56–58 (NKJV)

2. Preferred before Moses, because He does more –

¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses, *but* grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. John 1:17 (NKJV)

- A. Moses did something extremely significant and important in that he was the one through whom God gave the law –*

The Ten Commandments, but also all the law, about sacrifices, all the details about the tabernacle ...

B. Jesus brings -

- *Grace, (God's Riches At Christ's Expense) had to do with the commandments we broke*
- *Truth is not in contrast to lies (as it often is) but in contrast to types and symbols, there is the picture OT lambs and the REALITY – Jesus ²⁹ ...The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! John 1:29 (NKJV)*

The point is Moses brought what is partial, the LAW, enough to condemn and maybe through sacrifices point to salvation ... Jesus brings the REALITY, the fullness of salvation!

3. Fulness –

¹⁶ And of His fulness we have all received, and grace for grace. John 1:16 (NKJV)

Fullness – from the Greek playromatta from the root playroma – πλήρωμα

A. *It means that Jesus Christ supplies all our need, for forgiveness, for grace, He has spiritual riches, but He also supplies our material needs – ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread. Matthew 6:11 (NKJV)*

B. *But ultimately not only our needs, but all our righteous desires –
¹¹ You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Psalm 16:11 (NKJV)*

C. *In this passage it is also communicating that Jesus Christ supplies all that Moses, John the Baptist, Arnold Brevick, R. C. Sproul, all the pastors, all the Sunday School teachers, Christian Parents who ministered to you, loved you --- LACKED!!!!*

The partial is found in the pointing ministries, the fullness is found in Christ!

D. *This fullness is given / communicated to us grace upon grace –
¹⁶ And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. John 1:16*

- *Implies gradually*
- *Implies one grace on top of another / abundance*
- *Implies one grace being prerequisite to another*

E. *It is what Paul prays for in Ephesians 3:14-21, see how one grace is prerequisite to and prepares you for the next grace –*

¹⁴ **For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory,**

(1st Grace) to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,

¹⁷ *(2nd Grace) that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith;*

(3rd Grace) that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

¹⁸ *(4th grace) may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—*

¹⁹ *(5th Grace) to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge;*

(6th Grace) that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Fulness here is also πλήρωμα / pleroma

(7th Grace) ²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, ²¹ to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:14–21 (NKJV)

III. *Jesus Christ exegetes God –*

¹⁸ **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 1:18 (NKJV)**

1. *No one has seen God at any time is another contrast with Moses, because some would rightly argue Moses “saw” God’s backside ...*

¹⁷ **So the LORD said to Moses, “I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name.” ¹⁸ And he said, “Please, show me Your glory.” ¹⁹ Then He said, “I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.” ²⁰ But He said, “You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.” ²¹ And the LORD said, “Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. ²² 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. ²³ Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen.” Exodus 33:17–23 (NKJV)**

2. *Yet, Jesus Christ, as the Son of God, had an unlimited, eternal extremely intimate view, understanding and knowledge of God -
who is in the bosom of the Father - :18*

“In the bosom of the Father” was an idiom for the most intimate possible relationship. Closer than face-to-face, which Moses could not have...

3. *He, Jesus Christ, declares / exegetes God to us – He has declared *Him*. John 1:18 (NKJV)
If you desire to know the invisible God, Who He is, what He is like, study the life of Jesus / study the Gospel, including this Gospel of John –*

A. *This knowledge is eternal life –*

³ **And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. John 17:3 (NKJV)**

B. *This eternal life is abundant life, not just eternal in duration but eternal in quality –*

¹⁰ **The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. John 10:10 (NKJV)**

C. *I can exegete, preach God and Christ, we all as gifted, called should share and teach about Christ, but the fullness is found in Christ ... we should pray the same prayer Paul prayed – Ephesians 3:14-21*

D. *Look for fullness in Jesus Christ –*

¹⁹ **For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, Colossians 1:19 (NKJV)**

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