

- b) Hebrews 1:3
- c) Colossians 1:15

B. Jesus was “in the father's lap!”

- i. He was in the closest possible relationship with the Father.

- ii. Therefore no one before or after Him can reveal God as fully as He does!

Allen Ross: “...all true and complete worship must focus on the full revelation of God in Christ. But to the degree that a vision of the sublime has faded from the consciousness of religious people, adoration and reverence as well as obedience and service have also been diminished. For worship to rise above the clutches of a materialistic and secular world, the church must once again focus on such revelations of the LORD of glory.”

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- Read John 1:1-18. Compare the writing styles of vv1-5, 6-13, and 14-18. What stands out to you? How might these changes help communicate John's point?
- What might have been shocking to the first audience of John's gospel to hear, “The Word was God... the Word became flesh...”?
- What impact did the Incarnation have on those who beheld his glory, the glory of the one-of-a-kind Son, full of grace and truth?
- Ultimately John tells us that he wrote these things that we might believe that Jesus is this one-of-a-kind Son and that by believing we will have life in His name. Do you believe?
- Read the Ross quote above. What paints a glorious vision for you? What competes with this vision of the glorious Christ?
- Why is it essential that we cultivate the glorious vision of God through Jesus? How do we cultivate it?

The Word Became Flesh (3)
The Glory of the Incarnation
 Jerry Cisar — December 18, 2016

Text: John 1:14-18

Introduction

I. What does the Incarnation mean? (14)

A. *The Word became flesh...*

- i. Kostenberger suggests that this “denotes ‘all of the human person in creaturely existence as distinct from God.’”

- ii. The Word becomes that which is as creaturely as possible. Then it lifts those who behold it into the glories of heaven!

B. *...and made his dwelling among us.*

- i. This certainly means that God moved into our world.

- ii. “...and tented” or “tabernacled among us”
 - a) Revelation 21:3 NASB

 - b) Zechariah 2:10

C. *... the glory of the one and only Son...*

- i. Surely it doesn't mean that God can have no other sons and daughters (1:12-13).

- ii. It is saying that there is something unique about Jesus' relationship to the Father that no other child of God has.

iii. Hebrews 11:17

a) John 5:46-47

b) John 6:31-35

c) The problem was that the Jews held the Law to be ultimate and not penultimate.

D. *We have seen his glory...*

C. The Testimony of Eyewitnesses

E. *... full of grace and truth.*

i. *He was full of grace and truth.*

i. Moses' glimpse of the glory of God "... *abounding in love and faithfulness....*". (Exodus 34:6)

ii. What was the description of the very God of the covenant is now the description of what they beheld in Jesus Christ!

ii. They are sharing it because they want us to experience what they experienced. (1 John 1:1-3)

II. What does the Incarnation Bring? (16-17)

A. *... grace in place of grace already given.*

i. *The grace and truth of the law which came through Moses is surpassed and replaced by the grace and truth that comes through Jesus Christ.*

ii. The grace of the Incarnation surpasses the grace, the *hesed*, the covenant love, of the Old Covenant.

B. It may come more natural for us to think of vs 17 as "*The law (a negative thing) was given through Moses, but grace and truth (love and faithfulness) came through Jesus Christ...*"

i. V17 explains how we received grace in place of grace.

ii. It is more likely that John viewed the Law as a means of grace, even if it was wrongly applied by their contemporaries.

Gary Burge (NIV Appl): "*Grace is found in God's coming and working despite the hostility and rejection of the world. Grace is not merely an attribute of God. It is known when someone enjoys his goodness.*"

D. What did the Incarnation bring? It brought the ultimate grace and truth, the full expression and experience of the covenant love (grace) and faithfulness (truth) of God to earth.

III. What does the Incarnation Reveal? (18)

A. No one else is qualified to reveal God!

i. No one can see God and live!

ii. *No one has seen God at any time. The one-of-a-kind God, that one who is in the lap of the Father, has explained him.*

a) When one views Jesus, one sees glory greater than Moses saw when he gazed as the Lord passed by!

➤ John 12:45; 14:7, 9