

- iii. As believers we have so many reasons to be filled with gratitude toward God and others. Those reasons are summed up in the grace of God to us.

Christmas Sunday 2021: Full of Grace and Truth

Jerry Cisar — December 26, 2021

Text: John 1:1-5, 9-14, 16

Introduction

I. The Incarnation is the Kingdom of God

A. John, Genesis, and the Incarnation

- i. *Incarnation* means “in flesh.”

- ii. An echo to the Garden and the Wilderness

Jesus is the kingdom of God among us. And what is its first description?
“Full of grace and truth.”

B. Not half-grace and half-truth.

- i. Truth is God’s self-disclosure and grace is God’s self-disclosure.
- ii. Grace spoke of God’s true relationship to His creation despite creation’s persistent belief that God is withholding good. Full of grace and truth.

In the OT, when the glory of God was revealed, it looked like a cloud or smoke filling the place of worship. In the Gospel, it looks like Jesus Christ, full of grace and truth. It was not something veiled or hidden but *was beheld*.

COMPLETING THE SERMON

Love the Gospel

- Spend time reading John 1:14 and considering what it means that Jesus Christ is full of grace and truth.

Live the Gospel

- Spend time considering what it means, then, for us as those who have been given the right to become children of God (John 1:12), to receive from his fulness grace upon grace (or, grace for the purpose of grace) (1:16).

Advance the Gospel

- Consider the scriptures listed in part III, B of this message and how they inform the meaning of the promise that the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea (Isa. 11:9; Hab. 2:14).

- C. Jesus' life gives us a picture of what we are hoping for... the fulness of the Kingdom of God.

II. The Incarnation is Unique

- A. Jesus is the "one-of-a-kind" Son. He will always stand unique.

- i. A parallel to Isaac
 - a) He was conceived by the Holy Spirit.
 - b) He lived life subject to all temptation and yet never sinned.
 - c) He existed with God in the beginning and is the Creator of all things.
 - d) He is the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End.
 - e) In Him alone was the fulness of God pleased to dwell bodily (Col. 1:19)
- ii. In the language of Mathew's gospel,
 - a) Jesus calmed the storms with a word;
 - b) drove out demons at will with a word;
 - c) he could speak a word and someone on their deathbed would be raised up;
 - d) He could speak to Lazarus, dead 4days, and he would come forth.

- iii. God placed His Son on the throne as King.
- iv. He was also uniquely the Son of God as our High Priest.

- B. It is also very important that we recognize ways in which we, as children of God, are to repeat some of his incarnate ways!

III. The Incarnation is Repeatable

- A. Not *the* Incarnation, but incarnation.

- i. What is to be incarnated in us?

- ii. *Grace upon grace*, or possibly *grace for the purpose of grace* (John 1:16).

- iii. A connection between John 1:14 that says Jesus is full of grace and truth, and Colossians? (Col. 1:18-23; 2:9-10)

- a) If in Jesus the *fulness of God dwells bodily*, then what are we, His body, to be filled with *if not* the fulness that is in Him?

- b) Ephesians 1:23

- iv. The one who is full of grace and truth living in us fully would mean that we are full of grace and truth!

- B. What would it look like to live our lives full of grace and truth?

- i. Acts

- a) Acts 4:32-35

- b) Acts 11:23

- ii. Paul and grace in us

- a) 1 Corinthians 15:10

- b) 2 Corinthians 8:1-2 To be full of grace is to be full of generosity for generosity is expressed as grace.

- c) Galatians 2:20-21 Righteousness is not realized by living the Law, but by Christ living through us.

- d) Ephesians 1:7 Kindness is how one shows grace.

- e) Ephesians 4:15-16, 29 Our speech is an evidence of our fulness of grace and truth or lack therefore.

- f) Colossians 4:6; 3:16

- g) Ephesians 4:7-8 To be full of grace is to use the gift Christ has given us to give it to others.