

THE SUPREME GLORY OF JESUS

John 1:14-18

As we begin 2020, may this be a year of growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, seeing more of His glory and experiencing more of His grace.

1.WE SEE THE GLORY OF JESUS AS GOD IN HUMAN FLESH – verses 14 and 15

- “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us”- *“This statement is one of the most significant and memorable ever penned. Its implications are limitless. It has provided the church over the centuries with a key to understanding the mystery of Jesus Christ. It represents the heart and climax of the gospel. The remaining twenty and a half chapters will be spent unfolding its significance.”* – Bruce Milne, *John. The Eternal Word, God the Son, took on human flesh in the Person of Jesus. This is what Christmas is all about. This is the “Grand Miracle”. Flesh means fully human. He is fully God and fully human at the same time. “Remaining what He was, He became what He was not – human.” The Creator became part of His creation. Eternity entered into time. Jesus’ incarnation is permanent and irreversible. It is for God’s glory and our good! Jesus is God in the flesh. Jesus is God with us, identified with us in a complete and genuine human existence. Many early heresies and false teachings either denied His full Deity or his real humanity. John was mainly facing those who denied Jesus’ full humanity – 1 John 4:1-3.*
- Jesus dwelt or “pitched His tent” among us. For those with an Old Testament background this dwelling meant “tabernacle” and recalls the Tabernacle of Israel - Exodus 25:8; 40:34. Later God dwelt in the Temple of Israel. God has chosen to dwell among us now in a more personal way – in the Person of Jesus. We now meet and worship God only in and through Jesus. *“There is a place where God does still meet man and hold fellowship with Him. That place is the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ, ‘in whom dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.’ The manhood of Christ is become to us the anti-type of that tent in the center of the camp! God is in Christ Jesus! Christ Jesus is God! And in His blessed Person, God dwells in the midst of us as in a tent.”* – Charles Spurgeon, *Sermon #1862.*
- Why is God in human flesh so important? Salvation. Jesus had to be human to die for our sins on the cross – Hebrews 2:14,17. Jesus also identifies with us. Jesus affirms and sanctifies each stage of human existence. Jesus lived perfectly holy and can now help us in our struggles – Hebrews 4:15,16. Jesus as God in human flesh impacts our worship. We worship Him as the only One worthy to take the deed of the earth – Revelation 5:2-5.
- John the gospel writer and other disciples saw the glory of Jesus in His earthly life and in His transfiguration – Matthew 17:2. Glory is splendor and that which brings honor and praise. As He lived, He revealed the presence and power of God, thus revealing His glory – John 2:11. But the sad reality is Jesus’ glory is not seen by everyone (see verse 11 again).
- John the Baptist points to Jesus as a witness to His glory – verse 15. Even though Jesus came after John, John says that Jesus was before him. *“The One who comes after me (in time) is before me (in status/dignity) because He existed before me (in time).”* – Murray Harris, *John.* Jesus is absolutely superior and supreme over all prophets including John – John 3:30.

2.WE SEE THE GLORY OF JESUS AS THE EMBODIMENT OF GRACE AND TRUTH – verses 16-17

- Jesus reveals God’s glory as He brings the fullness of grace and truth – verse 14. Jesus brings to His people grace upon grace – verse 16. All believers - “we” - are now witnesses to the grace of God in Jesus! We have received from the ocean of His grace an abundant supply, lapping up daily like the waves of the sea.
- Grace upon grace is also pointing to the supreme grace we receive in Jesus. The grace we have in Jesus supersedes the grace of the Old Testament and the Law – Exodus 34:6. The abounding love and faithfulness (truth) of God is fulfilled fully in Jesus Christ. Moses and the Law are incomplete without Jesus Christ. The Law shows us our sin and points us to the Savior Jesus – Galatians 3:11-13; 23-26. The shadows of the Law become light in Jesus. He is the perfect and eternal sacrifice – Hebrews 10:11-14. Jesus is the Ultimate Prophet, Ultimate Priest, and Ultimate King.

3.WE SEE THE GLORY OF JESUS AS THE REVEALER OF THE INVISIBLE GOD – verse 18

- No one ever at any time has seen God the Father – 1 Timothy 1:17; 6:16. But in Jesus the invisible God is made visible – Colossians 1:15. Jesus is the supreme revelation of God. Jesus is “the Only Son, who is God.” There is no one else like Jesus! It is Jesus and no other who explains or reveals God. Jesus is the final chapter in God’s narration of His plans. How Jesus reveals God will be explained in the rest of the book of John. The one who leaned on the bosom of Jesus describes Jesus as the One who is in the bosom of the Father – “at His side”- in close communion with Him – John 13:23. In Jesus we have God’s heart opened for us and laid bare before us.
- If you want to know God, look at Jesus. If you want to know God, you must come through Jesus. Without Jesus we can never know God – John 14:6; 17:3. Without Jesus there is no eternal life, no salvation. In Jesus the whole story is now made known. Everything we need to know is in Jesus Christ. – Hebrews 1:1-3. Our future is secure in Jesus Christ. He who dwelt among us will take us to dwell with Him forever – Revelation 21:3,4; 22:3-5. What we lost in the Garden of Eden we will have restored plus a whole lot more!

Concluding Applications:

- Where are you at with Jesus Christ?
- Are you a daily witness to the grace of God in Jesus Christ?
- Do you see the glory of God in Jesus in His Word, the Bible?
- Are you sharing the grace and truth of Jesus Christ?