

Looking Back to Bethlehem
John 1:14-18 (12/13/09 AM)

1. God Was Made a Man (14)

God Appeared As One of His Own Creation

• **This is more than mere _____**

The Word that was “in the beginning” at a point in time “became”!
God took on a human nature. This is infinite condescension. Jesus is both God and man in one person. Colossians 2:9, “For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.”

John’s Gospel Is not Presenting an Abstract Philosophy but a _____

• **This is the most _____ person in all of history**

The words “only begotten” mean one of a kind or the one and only.
Jesus is completely unique as He is the eternal Son of God. John the Apostle was an eyewitness of this person.

1 John 1:1-2, “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life...”

John goes on in his epistle to identify this person as Jesus. He was also on the Mount of Transfiguration and witnessed a visible glimpse of Christ’s glory. He heard the truth that Jesus taught and proclaimed during His ministry. Truth is the expression of the thought of God.

The very truth of God resides in Jesus. John 14:6, “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

Only As We Know _____ Can We Know the Truth

2. Jesus Is Testified by Men (15)

The Ministry of John the Baptist

In Matthew 11:10 Jesus connects Malachi’s prophecy to John the Baptist. “For this is he of whom it is written: Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way before You.”

• **What John testified about Jesus is still _____ today**

John was announcing Christ’s coming before Jesus was presented to the nation of Israel. When Jesus came into public view John “cried out saying, ‘This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me is preferred before me for He was before me’.”

In that age it was widely held that those who came first were the superior. The Jews venerated Abraham, Moses and the fathers of Israel. But John said that though Jesus came after him Jesus is “before” meaning first. The word “preferred” means surpassed.

John Recognized that He Was of Yesterday but Jesus Was of _____

This pattern of testimony is still true today. Jesus commissioned the apostles and the church to be “witnesses to me”, Acts 1:8.

3. Jesus Brings Grace to Men (16-17)

Grace Represents the Sum Total of all God’s Blessings

All those who have “received Him” (14) receive the completeness of God’s grace. It is an abundance of grace.

• **God’s grace to those who believe in Jesus is continuous and _____**

We can never deplete the store of God’s grace in Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:17, “...those who receive abundance of grace...”

Paul begins every letter and ends many with “grace”. God’s grace to His children will always be equal to and beyond every circumstance, 2 Corinthians 12:9, “My grace is sufficient for you...”

- **The Law could only reveal but Jesus can _____**

The Law could only reveal man's sin but could not remove it. Provision was made by God for atonement or temporary covering through the sacrificial system, Hebrews 10:4-5. Only on the cross could grace and

truth be reconciled in the offering of Jesus Christ for our sin, 2 Corinthians 5:21, "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us..."

John the Baptist presented Jesus Christ to the nation of Israel with these words, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (29). In the upper room Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper with these words. "For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins", Matthew 26:28.

John says in his epistle "And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins," 1 John 2:2. The word means satisfaction. God's holiness demands sin's payment. Jesus paid for our sins on the cross.

Jesus Is the Only _____ of Receiving God's Grace

4. Jesus Reveals God to Men (18)

Jesus and the Father Are One

There is no definite article before "God". John is saying that no one has ever seen deity, the essence of God. God is a spirit and invisible. Jesus Christ came to make God visible and knowable to us. He "is in the bosom of the Father". John uses this term in 13:25 when he describes himself as "leaning back on Jesus' breast" when he asked Him who the betrayer was. The word means intimate association with someone.

- **The child born in Bethlehem is the _____ God come to reveal Himself to us**

The word exegesis is a form of the word "declared". It means to interpret or to explain. Jesus is God's living explanation of Himself to man. He is again the unique one of a kind One. There is no one else.

Colossians 1:15, "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation." The word "image" is where we get our word icon. Jesus is the perfect copy, the exact image of God because He is God.

Hebrews 1:3, "who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person"

Jesus Is the _____ Representation of God