

Summer Topical Series #11
Full of Grace & Truth – Jn.1:1-3, 14-18

0.0 Introduction

- 0.1 And then there was John (cf. synoptic gospels) – possibly latest gospel, for Asia Minor
- 0.2 Unique characteristics: cosmic zoom (Jn.1), mostly centered in Jerusalem, extended personal/private conversations (e.g.Jn.2,3,4,11,17,21), overt evangel (e.g.20:30-31)
- 0.3 Jesus in cosmos (1:1-5) and incarnation (1:6-18) – raising this question: have you ever experienced something & had difficult time finding words to express it?

1.0 Incarnation (vv.14,18)

- 1.1 Incarnation < Latin *in + carne* = ‘in flesh, enfleshment’ (i.e. genuinely human)
- 1.2 Divinity takes on human form (Phil.2:7-8) – glory concentrated in space & time
- 1.3 The two natures become fully united but *not* fused/blended/mixed together:
‘One person, two natures’ (Tertullian)
- 1.4 “He lived (tented) in our midst...and made (invisible) God known”
- 1.5 “The relation of the two natures to one another will forever remain a mystery, far above our comprehension.” (Wm. Hendriksen)

2.0 Eternity (v.15)

- 2.1 He existed before John, during John’s time, and long after it
- 2.2 Similar to Rev.1:8, and contrasting with our linear experience in life
- 2.3 Similar to John the Baptist’s observation (Mk.1:7)
- 2.4 Infinite, unchangeable, and eternal: John’s gospel opens with Jesus’ “primordial existence”

3.0 Grace (vv.16-17)

- 3.1 “Fullness (of God)” often mentioned in Bible (e.g. Rom.15:29; Eph.3:19; Col.2:9)
- 3.2 “Grace upon (*anti*) grace” = “believers are constantly receiving grace in place of grace” (WH)
- 3.3 The *is* some grace in Law (of Moses): however...

4.0 Importance of This for Us Today

- 4.1 The essential center of Christianity is Jesus himself
- 4.2 When united to Jesus, people undergo metamorphosis (e.g. Jn.13:35)
- 4.3 How much *more* of God have we yet to experience...!

*Next week (Sept.20) – Fall Mini-Series begins on “Kingdom Expectations”
Part 1: Kingdom Pictures – Matt.13:31-35, 44-52*

John 1:1-3 (NASB)

The Deity of Jesus Christ

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. ³ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

John 1:14-18 (NASB)

The Word Made Flesh

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ John testified about Him and cried out, saying, “This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.’” ¹⁶ For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained *Him*.