

Text: John 1:14-18
Title: “Christmas Glory”

Good morning and Merry Christmas. Open your Bibles to John 1. I hope you’re planning to join us for the Christmas Eve service tomorrow evening at 5pm. Next Sunday we’ll have both worship services, 9am and 11:15am, with no SBS. Now we’ve been camped in the first eighteen verses of John 1 this Christmas season. This is what commentators call the Prologue of the Gospel of John. It may originally have been a kind of poem. Think of it as an early Christmas carol used in the church to confess what we believe about Christ and why He came. So if you think you’re going to scream if you hear “Santa Baby” or “Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer” one more time, perhaps this confession of our faith will refresh your soul. In these eighteen verses Jesus is revealed as the Word who created everything in the universe and the mind that controls everything in the universe. In Him was life and in Him was light. Now John sums it all up in a powerful confession of what happened when God became a man. **Read John 1:14-18.**

Now look again at v.14. It’s one of the most important verses in the NT in terms of understanding Christmas and all that God did in the Incarnation. Let’s unwrap this verse like the precious gift it is. It’s a powerful confession of what we believe about our Savior. First, it is ...

1. THE CONFESSION OF CHRIST’S WEAKNESS

John 1:14a - The Word became flesh...

Why would we want to confess this about our great Lord and King ... His weakness? Well, when it says the word became “flesh” it means that God took on the limitations of a human body that can’t be considered anything but weak compared to God. Our bodies are *physically* weak. We can’t always do what we decide we want to do, no matter how hard we try. We catch colds; we get cancer. We get tired and we need to sleep. Our bodies are *emotionally* weak. Our feelings get hurt. We feel grief and sadness. We get discouraged. And, most tragically, our bodies are *spiritually* weak. We have been infected with the disease of sin and we become sinners. No matter how hard we try we can’t always keep God’s commands or measure up to His holiness. As Jesus said, “The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

One of the reason God became a man, the Word became flesh, was to identify with us in our weakness.

Hebrews 4:15 - For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.

Jesus came to live a perfect life in a human body so that we would know that He sympathizes with us in our weakness, but also so that He could redeem us through the sacrifice of His body on the Cross. We'll be reminded of this in a moment when we share together in the Lord's Supper. When you hold that tiny wafer of bread it's a reminder for the body of Christ that was offered for us. This is the confession of Christ's weakness and ...

2. THE CONFESSION OF CHRIST'S NEARNESS

It says in v.14 that, "The Word made his dwelling among us." Literally He "pitched his tent among us." He moved in with us.

ILLUSTRATION – Someone once explained the Incarnation with a fable. There was this great king who was respected far and wide and was powerful enough to have anything he wanted. Surprisingly this king fell in love with a humble servant girl in his kingdom and wanted to marry her. He asked his advisors what they thought. They said, "King, she will certainly be most honored that you have favored her by taking her as your wife and into your palace." But the king wondered, "If she married me and moved into my palace would she love me for who I am, not just because I am the king?" And he was troubled by this. So the king made a startling decision. He would marry the servant girl, but to insure that she knew him and loved him for who he was as a person, not just as king, he would not have her move into his palace. He would strip himself of his power and wealth and move into her humble shack. And after the king had won her heart and he knew she loved him freely, then she would move into his palace.

That's what Christ did at the Incarnation. He stepped out of the palace of heaven and into a human body. We confess His weakness and His nearness. This is also...

3. THE CONFESSION OF CHRIST'S GREATNESS

John 1:14b - We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father...

When John says, “We have seen his glory...” He means that. John was one of Jesus’ closest friends. He heard the teaching of Jesus, saw the miracles of Jesus, witnessed the resurrection of Jesus. John is telling the truth when he said, “We have seen His glory.” God’s greatness or glory is the out-shining of all His great attributes. And God’s glory became visible in the person of Jesus Christ. Hebrews 1:3 says, “The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being ...”

Now John goes on to explain...

John 1:18 - No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father’s side, has made him known.

God the Father is invisible and God the Son made Him known. There are things about the greatness of God that we cannot comprehend. So God sent His Son to show us what God is like. So there’s the confession of Christ’s weakness, His nearness, His greatness and there’s...

4. THE CONFESSION OF CHRIST’S FULLNESS

John 1:14c - full of grace and truth.

Every ounce of Jesus’ body was packed to capacity with grace and truth. Grace is God’s favor and kindness given to us when we don’t deserve it, can’t earn it, and certainly can’t get along without it. To accomplish anything that God expects of me requires grace. But also v.14 says that He is also full of truth. Truth simply means the way things really are, no matter what someone says or thinks. And to say that Jesus is the full of truth means that in Him we see God as He really is. We see life as it really is. We see the only real way to live life. And John goes on to say in...

John 1:16 - From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another.

We all need grace and we find it in Christ. It’s available to everyone. John said we have *all* received one blessing after another. This is inexhaustible grace. He never runs out.

I love what Beth Moore wrote recently on social media: “I just want to say this about Jesus to somebody this morning. There is no end to His goodness. No

bottom to the well. You can't wear Him out. He's not running low. He's not in a bad mood because it's you again." From the fullness of His grace we have all received one blessing, one gracious gift after another.

John 1:17 - For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

You see, before God revealed Himself in Christ, He revealed Himself through the Law, the Ten Commandments. The Law served at least two purposes: First, to show us what God is like and His righteous values. Second, to show us how far short we come in measuring up to God's righteousness. And that's why it was necessary for God, in the fullness of time, to reveal Himself in the Person of Jesus Christ. Through Christ God fulfilled His righteous law and showed us grace when Christ came and lived and died and rose again. When we put our trust in Him the truth will set us free and grace can make us to become all God wants us to be in His Son.

This is why we share together in the Lord's Supper ... to remind ourselves of all that God did in sending His Son. The Lord's Supper is a picture and a symbol to us of Christ's death on the Cross for our sins. We invite all who have trusted in Christ and been baptized to share in this.

LORD'S SUPPER – Read I Corinthians 11:23-26. The Word became flesh and lived among us and we have seen His glory.

The last time the glory of God was on display was in the first coming of Jesus Christ. The next time the glory of God will be on display will be in the second coming of Christ.