

**GRACE**  
**SO AMAZING**  
**TO BEHOLD**

GRACE SO AMAZING  
TO BEHOLD CHRIST'S IDENTIFICATION  
Jn. 1:14-18

Jn. 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) **full of grace and truth.**

15 John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me.

16 And of his fulness have all we received, and **grace for grace.**

17 For the law was given by Moses, *but* **grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.**

18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, **he hath declared *him*.**

Two weeks ago, we began to behold the grace so amazing in Christ's Incarnation. Born of a virgin, the Lord Jesus Christ was God in the flesh, the God/Man who gave Himself for mankind.

## I. GRACE SO AMAZING TO BEHOLD IN CHRIST'S INCARNATION, 1:14

Jn. 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and **we beheld his glory**, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) **full of grace and truth.**

- A. Behold the Amazing Tabernacle – “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us...”
- B. Behold the Amazing Truth – “...(and **we beheld his glory**, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) **full of grace and truth.**”

This morning, we continue to behold the grace so amazing as we look at Jn. 1:15, and we behold the *Identification* of Christ.

## II. GRACE SO AMAZING TO BEHOLD IN CHRIST'S IDENTIFICATION, 1:15

Jn. 1:15 John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me.

A. The Present Witness of His Person – 1:15a  
“John bare witness of him...”

- ❖ The Holy Spirit moved the Apostle John to record the testimony of John the Baptist about his witnessing of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ❖ John the Baptist's example should motivate us as to the importance of witnessing for Christ.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: **and ye shall be witnesses unto me** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Isa. 43:10 **Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD**, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I *am* he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.

11 **I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me *there is no saviour.***

- ❖ A believer has the indwelling of the Holy Spirit which provides the spiritual encouragement to witness for the glory of God in honoring the Savior.

Jn. 15:26 But when **the Comforter** is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, *even* **the Spirit of truth**, which proceedeth from the Father, **he shall testify of me:**  
27 And **ye also shall bear witness**, because ye have been with me from the beginning.

- ❖ Too many believers focus upon themselves and too often, because of pride or some other insecurity, will not offer a testimony for the Lord Jesus.
- ❖ Believers must focus upon glorifying the Savior and nothing else, never being ashamed of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Rom. 1:16 For **I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ:** for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.



B. The Powerful Witness of His Preeminence –  
1:15b “...and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me...”

- ❖ John the Baptist gave witness of the Lord Jesus in the past, (“he of whom I spake,”) and was continuing to testify of the Savior.
- ❖ When John the Baptist “cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me...” he was displaying the intensity of his respect for the Lord with a humble recognition of His superiority over all things, especially himself.

❖ Consider how the Lord Jesus described John the Baptist in Mt. 11:11:

Mt. 11:11a “Verily I say unto you, **Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist...**”

❖ Yet, consider how John the Baptist compared himself with the Lord Jesus:

Jn. 1:27 He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, **whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose.**

❖ John the Baptist ranked the Lord Jesus so much higher than himself. Where does He rank within our hearts and within our lives?

❖ Consider the Apostle Paul's testimony:

Phil. 1:21 For **to me to live is Christ**, and to die is gain.

Phil. 3:8 Yea doubtless, and **I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord**: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them *but* dung, that I may win Christ,

## C. The Prophetic Witness of His Pre-existence – 1:15c “...for he was before me.”

- ❖ John the Baptist’s witness included the declaration of the preexistence of Christ.

Jn. 1:1 **In the beginning was the Word**, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God**.

Jn. 17:5 And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self **with the glory which I had with thee before the world was**.

❖ The Lord Jesus mentioned the glory which He had in heaven before the Incarnation. Throughout eternity believers will identify the place of honor of Christ and observe the magnificence of His glory. Shouldn't believers today honor Him in order to honor Him throughout eternity?

Eph. 3:20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, 21 Unto him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

## Summary

- ❖ John's Gospel magnifies the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. In Jn. 1:14, we observe the *Incarnation*, that Jesus is both completely God and completely man.
- ❖ In Jn. 1:15, we observe the *Identification* of Christ as witnessed by John the Baptist.
- ❖ John the Baptist gave testimony to the Lord Jesus regarding His *Person, Preeminence, and Preexistence*.
- ❖ John the Baptist was not ashamed to give honor and glory to the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ❖ Believers today should be ready always to give a testimony for the honor and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

## Conclusion

❖ As John the Baptist gave witness of the Savior, so should all believers “live” a testimony that properly represents Him.

1 Pet. 3:12 For the eyes of the Lord *are* over the righteous, and his ears *are open* unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord *is* against them that do evil.

13 And who *is* he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?

14 But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy *are ye*: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;

15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be ready* always to *give* an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

17 For *it is* better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.



1. Believers are protected by the Lord – observing us and open to our prayers, opposing our enemies, 3:12.
2. Believers are to suffer boldly, with a positive attitude and no fear, 3:13-14.
3. Believers are to have a sanctified heart, prepared **ALWAYS** to present a defense of the faith to all that see Christ in the life of the believer, 3:15.
4. Believers should have good conscience and godly conduct which will confront the evildoers, 3:16-17.