

GRACE
SO AMAZING
TO BEHOLD

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TO BEHOLD CHRIST'S IMPLEMENTATION
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*.**

A few 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**.

The next week, we observed the grace so amazing as we looked at Jn. 1:15, and we beheld the *Identification* of Christ as witnessed by John the Baptist and should be the testimony of all believers.

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.

We then considered God's so amazing grace as available to all, able to meet all of mankind's needs due to His fulness, including "grace for grace" via His imputation of righteousness, by faith, for salvation.

III. GRACE SO AMAZING TO BEHOLD IN CHRIST'S IMPUTATION, 1:16

Jn. 1:16 And of his fulness have all we received, and **grace for grace**.

A. The Fulness of Christ, 1:16a “And of **his fulness...**”

B. The Fairness for Christians, “...have **all we** received...”

C. The Foundation for Christianity, “...and **grace for grace.**”

This morning, we continue to behold the grace so amazing as we look at Jn. 1:17, and we behold the *Implementation* of Christ's blessings which should motivate everyone to be thankful continually, not just on Thanksgiving Day.

❖ The wonderful provision of “grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”

IV. GRACE SO AMAZING TO BEHOLD IN CHRIST'S IMPLEMENTATION, 1:17

Jn. 1:17 For the law was given by Moses, *but* **grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.**

- ❖ This verse indicates the contrast between the mosaic Law and salvation in Christ.

- ❖ In essence, the difference is similar to that between bondage and freedom.
 - A. The Acknowledgement of Spiritual Bondage,
1:17a “For the law was given by Moses...”

- ❖ The law is an excellent portrayal of religion and its smothering of spiritual freedom.

Gal. 4:21 Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, **do ye not hear the law?**

22 For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, **the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman.**

23 But **he *who was* of the bondwoman was born after the flesh**; but he of the freewoman *was* by promise.

24 Which things are an allegory: for **these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage**, which is Agar.

25 For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, **and is in bondage with her children.**

26 But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.

27 For it is written, Rejoice, *thou* barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband.

28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.

29 But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him *that was born* after the Spirit, even so *it is* now.

30 Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.

31 **So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.**

- ❖ Seventh Day Adventists choose to be under the bondage of the Mosaic Law.
- ❖ For example, traveling on a Friday evening:
- ❖ A "Sabbath day's journey" was a unit of distance, 2,000 cubits, equal to about 2/3 of a mile (1 kilometer), that the Jewish leaders limited people to journey on the Sabbath, deeming journeying any further to be "work."

Jas. 2:10 For **whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one *point*, he is guilty of all.**

- ❖ Wearing clothing with mixed fabrics is against the Law.

Deut. 22:11 Thou shalt not wear a garment of divers sorts, *as* of woollen and linen together.

B. The Arrival of Something Better, 1:17b

“...*but* **grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.**”

- ❖ The Law was replaced by “grace and truth.”
- ❖ The Law was rigid, magnifying sin and death.
“Grace and truth” provided sin’s cure.

Rom. 5:20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But **where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:**

21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might **grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.**

- ❖ The Law, even though “the ministration of death...was glorious.” (2 Cor. 3:7)
- ❖ A comparison and contrast between Law and Grace should cause believers to rejoice!

2 Cor. 3:7 But if **the ministration of death, written *and* engraven in stones, was glorious**, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; **which *glory* was to be done away:**

8 How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?

9 For **if the ministration of condemnation *be* glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory.**

10 For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, **by reason of the glory that excelleth.**

11 For **if that which is done away *was* glorious, much more that which remaineth *is* glorious.**

- ❖ The Law was glorious, but “grace and truth” is much more glorious!
- ❖ The wondrous and amazing entrance of God’s grace came with the Lord Jesus Christ – “...*but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.*”
- ❖ The Incarnation is the manifestation of Jesus, a living revelation of the Father’s glory.

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.**

❖ Truth can be brutal:

- You're ugly.
- You're a filthy sinner.
- You're worthless.
- How could anyone love someone like you.
- You do not deserve God's blessings.

❖ But "grace" is mentioned first, before "truth." Grace declares "amazing truth:"

- I see you and your potential.
- I love you in spite of the truth that is negative.
- I will change you to be the person created for God's glory.
- I love you as you are.
- I will never leave you nor forsake you.

Summary

- ❖ The Law revealed that all of mankind has sinned.
- ❖ Grace and Truth revealed God's love to all sinners, and His solution of righteousness.
- ❖ God's provision of righteousness is the blessed hope found in the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Cor. 3:12 Seeing then that **we have such hope**, we use great plainness of speech:

13 And not as Moses, *which* put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished:

14 But **their minds were blinded**: for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which *vail* is done away in Christ.

15 But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart.

16 Nevertheless **when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away**.

17 Now **the Lord is that Spirit**: and **where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty**.

18 But **we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord**.

Conclusion

Col. 1:3 We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

4 Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love *which ye have* to all the saints,

5 For **the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;**

6 Which is come unto you, as *it is* in all the world; and **bringeth forth fruit, as *it doth* also in you, since the day ye heard *of it*, and knew the grace of God in truth:**