

“FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH”

INTRODUCTION

- I. The ONLY times the term “grace and truth” is found in the scripture is in John 1, found 2 times.
 - A. Both times, the words are found with reference to our Lord’s first coming. John 1:14-17
 1. The first was with reference to His being made flesh and dwelling among us. v. 14
 2. The second was with a contrast between what Moses brought and what Jesus brought. v. 17
 - B. Jesus is referred to as the “WORD” of God, which alludes to His pre-earthly existence. 1:1-3, 14
 1. The Greek word *logos* (meaning “word”) is applied to the Lord, several times in John, 1 John and Revelation.
 2. Perhaps this is because Christ is the **message** and **messenger** of God’s will, to offer salvation to a lost and dying world.
 - C. The word “grace” is found 4 times in the entire context of John 1:14-17.
 1. Twice it is stated that “grace and truth” are associated with Christ’s coming. (v. 14, 17)
 2. Twice it is found in the term “from grace for grace.” v. 16
 - a. This term is much like the term “from faith to faith” as found in Rom. 1:17.
 - b. THAYER and VINE (2 Greek authorities) say that the first “faith” of Rom. 1:17 is objective (referring to the *source* of faith through the gospel), and the second use of the same word is subjective (referring to the receiver of the gospel in believing, or reacting TO the gospel; and this is confirmed throughout the N. T.
 - c. Just so, God, through the gospel, is objective (1 Pet. 5:10), and the believer is (subjective) as the receiver of the grace, so it is “from grace for grace.”
- II. With these thoughts in mind, let’s analyze the text of John 1:14.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, note the first part of verse 14, “AND THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH.”

- A. This refers to Jesus’ coming **in the flesh**, to become a human being, and in turn to be the sacrifice for sin—representing man TO God in His role as mediator.
 1. Jesus was conceived in the womb of Mary while she was unmarried (as a **virgin**) to fulfill prophecy of the Old Testament. Isa. 7:14
 2. Jesus was born as the **only begotten Son of God**, that He would represent God to man in His role as mediator, to demonstrate the love and sacrifice of God for fallen man. Luke 1:(26-37, Analyze as desired)
 - a. He needed a body of flesh and blood in order TO be sacrificed. Heb. 10:5
 - b. Jesus declared that His body and blood made up that sacrifice. Matt. 26:26-28
- B. Then, John says “he dwelt among us”, referring to His life on earth, from birth to death, as He came to be identified with man—as a babe, a young boy, as a carpenter in Nazareth, and then as the Son of man, preparing for His kingdom.

II. 2nd, let’s note the parenthetical statement of John 1;14, “(AND WE BEHELD HIS GLORY, THE GLORY AS OF THE ONLY BEGOTTEN OF THE FATHER).”

- A. The word “we” is probably used here to refer to the **apostles**, who were with Jesus and personally “beheld” or saw His glory.
 1. The apostles beheld (or saw) His “glory” on the mount of transfiguration. Luke 9:28-36; cf 2 Pet. 1:17
 2. The apostles beheld the “glory” of the Lord in what He DID to glorify the Father. John 2:(1-11, study as desired, noting especially verse 11)
 3. Then, the apostles beheld the “glory” of the Lord in the resurrection of Lazarus. John 11:(1-39 summarized, then v. 40 on “glory”).
- B. This parenthetical statement is followed by the first time the expression, “grace and truth” is found.

III. 3rd, let's analyze the next and last term, "FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH"

A. Jesus emptied Himself of His being exclusively equal with God, in becoming man. Phil. 1:6-8; cf ASV on v. 7

B. The words "grace and truth" come next, describing what is available TO man FROM God, through Jesus Christ, who (1) Is the fulness of grace and truth, and (2) Who brought grace and truth when He came to earth.

1. "Grace" is the favor that Jesus wanted man to have with God in when saved.

a. Jesus WAS "grace" in his person, as He always walked in God's favor. Matt. 17:5; 6:38; 8:29

b. This "grace" is the basis for our salvation being granted. Eph. 2:8-9

2. "Truth" refers to the saving message of salvation, in contrast with the Law of Moses from God through Moses (that could NOT save, once a person became a sinner). John 1:17; 14:6; 17:17

a. "Grace and truth" **go together** in the coming of Jesus to earth.

b. "Grace and truth" also **go together** in the matter of salvation, for there is NO salvation from sin apart FROM God's grace, without obeying the truth. Jas. 1:18; 1 Pet. 1:22

C. Now, Jesus is the fulness of "grace and truth" and offers the fulness of both to mankind today.

1. Jesus brings that grace to man in salvation on earth, and the climax will be enjoyed in the resurrection after the end of the world.

2. Jesus doesn't hold back part of the truth as to what to DO to be saved, how to worship and how to live to ultimately enjoy heavenly grace in eternity.

CONCLUSION

I. So much MORE can be said about Christ, His grace, and truth, but this is sufficient for this lesson.

II. What does the coming of Jesus mean to YOU?

A. Without His coming, we would ALL be helpless and remain lost in sin.

B. We need to acknowledge Jesus as the saving Son of God, repent of all sins, and enter into fellowship with God by being immersed into Him for salvation.

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