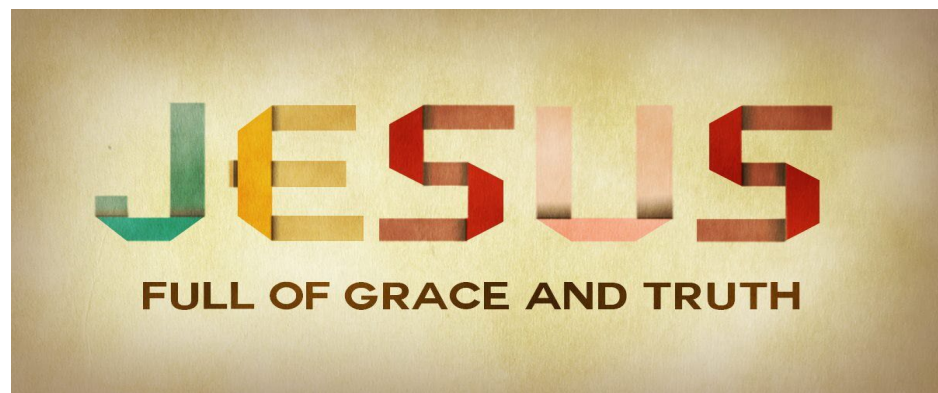


The Word Became Flesh

John 1.6-14

Jesus is God. He is the Creator. He is ‘the Word’ who reveals God to us. But what makes Him unavoidable is that He became flesh. Nothing can compare in all human history with this startling truth. What *was* Jesus for the world? How did mankind respond? What did Jesus show us?

- Jesus, the Light of the world (9)
 - *The prophets foretold it (Isa. 9.2; 42.6; 60.1-2)*
 - *“the true Light...enlightens every man.”*
- Responses to the Light (10-13)
 - *Unrecognized, or rejected*
 - *Received – believed: Children of God*
- The Wonder of the Word Becoming Flesh (14)
 - *He ‘tabernacled’ with us, and we saw His glory*
 - *He was full of grace and truth: Gospel essentials*



1. John 1.1-18 (the Prologue to John’s Gospel) is a summary “sketch” of his portrait of Christ, which he will portray with detail throughout the book. He presents Jesus as “the Word” who is God, who created all things, and who reveals God to us. John the Baptist is a man sent from God to introduce Jesus to the world. In the rest of the prologue, the spotlight is on Jesus in the world. In verses 9-14, how does John portray Jesus? What does Jesus embody for us? How do people in the world respond to Him?
2. A religious sect in the first-century believed John the Baptist was the Messiah (Luke 3.15), a claim he had to repeatedly deny (cf. Jn. 1.19-20; 3.26). Jesus is “the Light” (4-5); John the Baptist is *not* (6-8). In v9, Jesus is the “true Light which...enlightens every man.” A light doesn’t usually require a ‘witness’ to point it out! So why did John need to bear witness to Jesus?
3. As the New Testament was written, early Christians looked to the Old Testament to reveal the significance of what they read. What would Isaiah 9.2, 42.6, or 60.1-2 signify about Jesus as the Light?
4. John 1.10-11 are two of the saddest verses in Scripture. How would you characterize the amazing opportunity which Jesus coming into the world presented to mankind, and the response to His coming?
5. In v12, the Greek word translated “the right” or “power” is ἐξουσία (*exousia*). What single factor *enables* us to become children of God? Why does verse 13 strongly emphasize that this has nothing to do with human effort or will?
6. An early heretical sect taught that anything heavenly or divine was good, and everything earthly or physical was bad. Some taught that Jesus was not really human (called Docetists; Christian Science and some New Age “Christians” hold this today). Verse 14 demolishes such a view (Jesus became “flesh”; see Rom. 1.3; 8.3; 1 Tim. 3.16; and especially 1 John 4.2-3). Why is Jesus being God in the flesh so important? What are the implications for our spiritual lives?