

A Humble Messenger with a Profound Message

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John 1:15-18

Oak Community Church (PCA)

John the Baptist - an impressive witness

- John reveals John the Baptist - an impressive witness, humble, courageous
- angel announced John's birth^{Lk1:15-17} and tasks
- John confronted hypocritical leaders^{Mt3:7} and even wicked King Herod^{Mk6:8}
- May we also be bold like John the baptist was bold in declaring Jesus!

John - Humble and Not the Savior

- John was careful to point to Jesus, not self^{ln1:20}
- Saw own unworthiness compared to Jesus^{Mt3:14-15}
- John saw Jesus as God so wanted to be baptized (cleansed) by Jesus
- Jesus' reply^{Mt3:15} *fitting to fulfill all righteousness*
- Jesus was perfectly righteous but needed to fulfill law to be a priest^{Num8:7}
- John's declaration points to Jesus' eternity & uniqueness - Jesus is God!

Jesus the Fullness of All Blessings

- John speaks of Jesus' "fullness"
- here "fullness" = the sum total of all that is in God
- Idea throughout Scripture^{Eph1:23;3:19;4:13;Col1:19;2:9}
- When we see Jesus, we get all the fullness of God - so look in faith!

Jesus Gives us Grace Upon Grace

- *grace upon grace*¹⁶ literally grace instead of grace or in place of grace...
- Possible understandings:
 - in Christ we have found one wonder leading to another - it just keeps getting better!
 - in Christ we get the exact grace we need when we need it – 2Cor12:9

A Glorious Contrast

- *grace and truth*¹⁷ slightly different use that v14 shown in contrast to law
- Salvation has always been by faith^{Rm4:3;Gen15:6} but pharisees missed that
- Law given to show holiness^{Rm7:7,12}; we can't keep law though we try^{Rm7:14-23}
- Why God sent Jesus... Paul's lament *Oh wretched man that I am!*^{1Rm7:24}
- Rejoice in the answer *Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord*^{Rm7:25}
- John & Paul agree: Jesus is what we need! Jesus brings grace & truth!
- Under Christ righteousness is received by faith in Christ and His obedience

Jesus is Unique because in Him we can see God!

- Remember John's audience: Greeks & Jews^{Ex33:20} - God was separate...
- John tells us *the only God [Son]* has made God known
- *only* is *monogenes*^{Greek} = unique, same as Jn 3:16 *only begotten Son*
- Jesus was sent uniquely to make God fully known to men!

Do you Receive this Unique Savior as Yours?

- John has a goal^{Jn20:30} and is teaching profound truths about Jesus
- Jesus doesn't just tell us about God - He shows us God^{ln14:8-9}
- Make a choice^{Jn3:36}: believe God = eternal life; don't obey=wrath of God
- Believe and rest in the Glorious Jesus whom God sent^{Jn3:16-17}