
“GRACE AND TRUTH CAME THROUGH JESUS CHRIST”

STUDY NOTES FOR CARE GROUPS – JOHN 1:18

July 5, 2009

God is actively seeking to reconcile each one of us to Himself. And in order to accomplish that He seeks us by sending His Son. And He reaches the world by sending us.

JOHN 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

Whatever this "Word" (John 1:1) is, what claims are being made above?

The Word is someone who can be referred to as a "Him" (John 1:3).

- A. He was "with God" (John 1:1)
- B. He "was God" (John 1:1)
- C. He existed from "the beginning" (John 1:1 & 2)
- D. Everything was "made through Him" (John 1:3).

VS 1-3 John starts his gospel in a similar manner as Genesis starts off speaking of creation, God's Word, and light and darkness.

Jesus existed before creation, and what existed before creation is outside of creation and more specifically outside of time. However even before time began God in His wisdom planned to redeem people to Himself.

"We speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began." 1CO 2:7

"This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time." 2TIM 1:9

"A faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time, and at his appointed season he brought his word to light through the preaching entrusted to me by the command of God our Savior." TITUS 1:2,3

JOHN 1:4-13 In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

⁶There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

What role was John the Baptist sent to perform?

JOHN 1: 7-8 states that he was to, "bear witness of the/that light." This whole idea of bearing witness or being witnesses is there from the beginning.

Who is the "light"?

JOHN 1:10 onwards refers to the light as "He" and "Him", and states that the "world was made through Him", equating Him to the "Word" above. So the "Word" above is now being referred to as the "light."

Where is this "light"?

JOHN 1:10 states, "He was in the world," and John 1:11 states, "He came to His own," although "His own did not receive Him."

What is "his own" in John 1:11?

The Israelites.

Who can become children of God?

"Those who believe in His name." (John 1:12)

JOHN 1:14-1 ¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' " ¹⁶From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

What happened to the "Word"?

"Became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14) --- He became a human being and lived among us. This is an amazing truth that we need to meditate on.

What is His name?

"Jesus Christ". (John 1:17)

What is unique about His relationship with God the Father?

John 1:18 states that Jesus is the Father's "*only begotten Son*", this literally means "*one of a kind*" - i.e., "*unique*" or "*incomparable*", and this indicates no defined start to Jesus' existence; He had always existed from the "*beginning*" (John 1:1) with the Father.

Grace and truth comes to us through Jesus Christ. And as we live in the world as His disciples this grace and truth should be seen in our lives as well as a witness to our Lord.

We must identify with Jesus – He is our Master and we are His disciples. We must take ownership of the lost that God placed in our path.

God will not hold us accountable for the results; but He will hold us accountable for our faithfulness in carrying out His work of seeking people to be reconciled with Him.