

Morning Worship - March 17, 2013

John 1:13-18, The Word Became Flesh, 2

1. Vs. 15 Birth did not affect Christ's _____ as Savior
 - a. **15 (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'")**
 - b. **Bore witness and cried out** - envisions the Baptist's ministry as still in process, preparing the way for Jesus - perhaps meaning that his words still echo from the grave.
 - c. John the Baptist made sure to point out during his ministry that although he was born six months before Jesus, Christ was "before him."
 - a. **In all four Gospels, Jesus entered public ministry after John.**
 - b. **One's follower is usually one's inferior. Not in this case, the Baptist insists.**
 - d. The OT generally supports the notion that rank and honor are tied to one's age. Thus, priority in time - such as being the firstborn - implied preeminence. The Baptist and the evangelist are at pains to show that Jesus really was "before" John and rightfully to be _____ above him
 - e. This quotation is aptly chosen because it makes three points important to the Gospel writer, especially in the Gospel's first major section [1-3]:
 - a. Jesus came after John the Baptist
 - b. Jesus had gotten ahead of John the Baptist
 - c. This was because he had existed before John the Baptist.
2. Vs. 16-17 Christ's fullness provides _____ to _____ grace
 - a. **16 For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.**
 2. **fullness** - [pleromatos] - completeness, full number, full measure
 3. **we have all received** - meaning all the Apostles and all those that are described as "children of God." Believers do not need to seek any other source of spiritual power but Christ [2 Peter 1].
4. **grace upon grace** - the idea that each "wave" (so to speak) of revelation has brought us grace. Each increase or added piece of knowledge or revelation from God has assisted humanity in some spiritual way and has prepared us for the coming of Christ. So, John says, from the reality of who Christ is [light coming in to world, the fact that everything was made through him, for him and by him], this is all grace - it is all the _____ of God on fallen and lost humanity, estranged from God...this was brought to a much greater level in Moses through the

- giving of the Law....but even greater / fullest degree through the coming of Christ.
- a. **Law was given through Moses** [Remember Galatians?] - meaning the Torah, the Ten Commandments and the laws that grow out of the Ten Commandments through Deuteronomy, that established Israel's national identity and the character that was required to please God in the Commandments - which paved the way for the One who would ultimately display the 10 Commands perfectly in his _____.
 - i. **Bruner** - "The Law, especially in its Ten Commandment summation, graciously spells out for humanity in general and for the people of God in particular the clear will of God for daily living. Knowing the will of God is a definite "grace."
 - b. **Grace and truth came through Christ** - the ultimate expression of grace, the ultimate expression of Truth - the complete "fullness" of God came in Jesus Christ - where the Law was actually _____ in the person of Christ as Jesus did not break any of them, but fulfilled them perfectly.
 - c. The Old Testament Scriptures are understood to point forward to Jesus, to anticipate him, and thus to prophesy of him. In that sense he fulfills them. If even the covenant of law is 'prophetic' in this sense (cf. Mt. 11:13), then when that to which it points has arrived, it is in some sense _____. It may continue in force as a continual pointer to that which it predicted, but its valid authority lies primarily in that which it announced and which has now arrived. The law, i.e. the law-covenant, was given by grace, and anticipated the incarnate Word, Jesus Christ; now that he has come, that same prophetic law-covenant is necessarily superseded by that which it 'prophesied' would come.
 - d. **through Jesus Christ** - John uses Jesus name for the first time and attaches to his name the title, "Christ," or _____ one;

Greek - Iesous Christos...**Hebrew** - Yeshua Mashiach

 - i. What God showed Himself to be through His revelation in the Torah, so now Jesus shows Himself to be through the _____.
5. This Gospel emphasizes in a series of presentations that the new order fulfills, surpasses and replaces the old: the wine of the new creation is better than the water which was used in Jewish religion, the new temple supersedes the old, the new birth is the gateway into a sphere of life which cannot be entered by natural birth, the living water of the Spirit which Jesus imparts is far superior both to the water in Jacob's well and to the water which was ritually poured out in the temple court at the feast of Tabernacles. Moses was the mediator of the law; Jesus Christ is not only the mediator but the embodiment of grace and truth. 'What God was, the Word was.'