

John Series: That You May Believe
#4: Experience of Believers in Christ (Prologue Part 3)

Text: John 1:14-18

The Experience of Those who Believe in Christ (vs. 14-18) Paragraph 3. Witnesses are produced to show the experience of those who put their faith in Jesus, the Word of God.

I. Eye-Witnesses of Christ (vs 14-15)

1. The incarnation! "*The Word became flesh.*" Luke uses 2500 words to describe the incarnation of Christ. John uses 4. God became a man.

A. The God-Man. "When the Word became flesh He did not cease to be what He had been, but as an additional experience He assumed human nature." He became the God-Man. Perfect God and perfect man – **a totally UNIQUE being**. As such He can represent God to man, and man to God being the one Mediator between the two (1Tim 2:5). Jesus had a real body, not just a spirit and not an illusion.

B. How? By the miracle of the virgin birth (Is7:14,Mt 1:18-25, Lk 1:26-38).

2. God's Tent. "*and dwelt among us.*" "Put on a tent." "**Tabernacled** among us." (2 Cor 5:1, 2 Ptr 1:13). With the Tabernacle of Moses, there was hidden glory. It's outward appearance showed no glory. The outward furniture was brass, and the outer covering of the Tabernacle was dull badger skin. Inside, however, the furniture was gold, there were blue, purple and scarlet hangings. Outside was the cloud; Inside was the shekinah glory of God! God's glory had resided in the Tabernacle. Now God's glory was in the Person of Jesus Christ.

3. The Eye-witnesses' Testimony. "*we beheld His glory.*"

A. John produces **more witnesses!** He is referring to Himself and the other apostles, disciples and followers of Jesus. (1 John 1:1-4)

B. Uniqueness of Christ. "*as of the only begotten of the Father full of grace and truth.*" We've already learned that there are many "children of God," who believe in Christ (v12). But Christ is set aside as unique – the only begotten. We are not going to be Jesus Christ. He is forever unique and exalted!

4. The Testimony of John the Baptist (v15). John the Baptist's testimony agrees with John the Apostle's in verse 8. John is building his case with witnesses to Christ. It is interesting to consider that John the Baptist was born **before** Jesus (Luke 1:35-36) but testifies that Jesus "*was before*" him. John 8:58

II. Experience of Believers (vs 16-17)

1. "His fullness." (v16) John the Baptist, John the Apostle, the disciples and all believers have the same experience with Christ: Life through His name. The believer in Christ receives "grace in the place of grace." Christ is wonderful! There is enough of His pleasures and fullness for all who will believe. (Eph 1:3, Col 1:19, 2:9-10)

2. "Grace and Truth." (v17) The "2" sides of God. God's kindness and severity (Rom 11:22). Love & light. "Grace without truth would be deceitful, and truth without grace would be condemning." The Law was not bad, but could only reveal sin, it could not remove sin. The Law contained prophecies and shadows; Christ is the substance and fulfillment. Moses gave the Law, but no power to obey it. The Law was "*given,*" (impersonal, written on cold tablets of stone); Grace and truth "*came,*" (in the warmth of a Person). Christ brought grace (to atone for our breaking of the Law) and truth (the fulfillment and substance of the types & shadows of the Law).

God is Happy AND Angry. Happy with Christ ("*This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased*") and those who are in Christ, while His anger comes down on those outside of Christ (The ARK).

Love, Wrath. Mercy, Justice. Jesus is full of Grace AND Truth. (2 Cor 3:11-16)

III. Christ Declares God. (v18)

1. *"No one has seen God at any time."* People saw manifestations of God in the Old Testament, but no one can see God's fullness and live. Even Christ came in the appearance of a man, laying aside the full visibility of His glory.
2. *"only begotten Son."* Could be translated "only begotten **God**."
3. *"who is in the bosom of the Father."* Speaks of a timeless state, eternal condition, boundless love, fullest intimacy, fathomless affection. This relationship continued unbroken after the incarnation.
4. *"He has declared Him."* **Declared** – from where we get our word Exegesis, meaning "to explain, unfold, lead the way." Christ the Word of God has fully REVEALED and SHOWN God to man. **"Jesus is the incarnate exegesis of God."** Col 1:15-23

Reference: many Quotes, Outlines & Ideas for this sermon taken from the commentaries on the gospel of John written by Charles Erdman, Warren Wiersbe, John Phillips and William Hendrickson.

Scripture References

1Tim2:5 – "For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus"

Is 7:14 – "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."

Mt 1:18 – " Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit."

Lk 1:31-35 – "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. **32** He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. **33** And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." **34** Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" **35** And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God."

2Cor 5:1 – "For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens"

2 Ptr 1:13 – "Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you"

1Jn1:1-3a – "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life-- **2** the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us-- **3** that which we have seen and heard we declare to you..."

Lk1:36 – " Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. **37**For with God nothing will be impossible."

Jn8:58 – "Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."

Eph1:3 – "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ"

Col1:19 – "For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell,"

Col 2:9-10 – "For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; **10** and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power."

Rm11:22a – "Note then the kindness and the severity of God..." (ESV)

2Cor3:11-16 – "For if what is passing away was glorious, what remains is much more glorious. **12** Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech-- **13** unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away. **14** But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ. **15** But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. **16** Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

Col 1:15-23 – “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. **16** For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities; all things were created through him and for him. **17** And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. **18** And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. **19** For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, **20** and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. **21** And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, **22** he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, **23** if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.”