



CHANGE YOUR MIND

Jesus, Grace, and Truth

Sunday 19th January 2025

John 1:14-18

In this six part series we are looking in detail at the beginning of the gospel of John and how this can transform your mind. Last week we considered the importance of knowing the beginning of everything. In today's passage we are introduced to Jesus by that Name for the first time, and, what He uniquely brings.

1 Only in Jesus Christ does the believing mind receive grace and truth in such a way that it can finally be free indeed.

Through today's message I want you to understand the only real solution to the problems we face (which are the consequences of sin) is found in the grace and the truth brought through Jesus Christ. It is an inseparable trio, that when you remove one piece the other two cannot survive. And equally, when you have all three, you have a combination you will never find anywhere else.

2 It takes fuel, heat, and oxygen to create a fire. You remove any one of those and the fire goes out. Starve a fire of oxygen and it goes out. Starve a fire of fuel and it goes out.

So it is with the Christian faith. We need to look at the impact of removing any one of this trio. But before that we must first see the essential nature of each part – Jesus, grace, and truth.

3 We start in verse 14,

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

4 John is writing from a first hand experience of having Jesus dwelling with him. John says this in John 19:25,

And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe.

Because of John's writing, you can believe in Jesus. The same Jesus who, before taking on human flesh was God and was always with God since before the beginning of time.

5 And when John says 'we beheld his glory' he means John and everyone else who ever met Him could see His glory; not some weird divine glow but the fulness of all God is – His wisdom, authority, love, compassion, forgiveness, justice, mercy, grace, and truth!

6 That was God's intention. Look in Colossians 1:19,

For it pleased *the Father that* in Him all the fullness should dwell

In no one else has God ever determined that all the fullness of God should dwell.

7 And when you see Jesus for who He really is, your pride melts, your ego disintegrates, your will bows down, you cry out in worship, because of this in

8 John 1:15,

John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.' "

9 John the Baptist is quoted here saying this Jesus, although Jesus was born (humanly speaking) after me, HE actually was before me. Jesus said it like this in John 8:58,

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

You can go back before the past tense even had its beginning and you will find Jesus saying, I AM. And that is why He deserves to be your highest priority.

10 Then we move onto verse 16 and discover the thing we knew we all needed, but never believed we would ever find it,

And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace.

Out of the fulness of God that dwells in Jesus; out of everything that God is, comes something none of us could ever give, nor will you find it in anyone else.

Grace for grace.

What is that exactly? (you ask).

11 Grace is unearned, unmerited favour and kindness from someone who is under no obligation to give it to you.

Imagine you have deeply hurt and offended someone. It was so bad you are certain they will never look at you again, or talk to you again. One day you get a call from them. They recall the words you said that broke their heart and crushed their spirit. You fully expect to be told that you will never hear from them ever again. But then after all that you hear them say, 'in spite of all you've done I forgive you...I forgive you.' You're struggling to hold back the tears, and really struggling to be sure if they really mean it, but you don't want to question it for fear of snuffing out this fragile sense of grace. And then they say it again, 'I forgive you'...and again 'I forgive you'. You want to accept their words and believe everything can be redeemed but you need to hear it over and over and over again. Why? Because guilt is accusation on repeat. And so you're going to need more grace to get your head around the grace you've just been given. And some more because you'll forget how much grace changed everything. And some more because guilt will come knocking at your door again.

12 So when John says, 'And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace.' That is an eternal fountain of grace for grace. And that's what you need to hear from God above anything else.

13 And then in verse 17, John gives us the cherry on top!

For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Moses gave the law from God to His people. And ever since then we have struggled with trying to mimic Jesus – after all the law, perfectly kept, is the image of Jesus. It says in Matthew 5:17,

“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”

The law could only be perfectly fulfilled by the One in whom the fullness of God dwells.

You can look through all of history and you will never find anyone who is full of grace and truth. No one that is, except Jesus Christ of Nazareth!

15 Without grace, there can be no salvation. Without truth there can be no freedom.

16

This message is called, 'Jesus, Grace, and Truth'. So what happens if it's just grace and truth (no Jesus). Simple. The grace runs out and salvation gets forgotten about and life is simply hopeless.

I've never met anyone who can give grace for grace and can only always speak the truth...no one except Jesus.

17

Okay, so what if we just have Jesus and truth but no grace? Then salvation is back on your shoulders, and your efforts. Once you've lost God's eternal grace, any hope of salvation rests 100% on you. You become your only hope.

18

So what if we just have Jesus and grace, but no truth? Then why do you need His forgiveness and salvation? Once you've lost the truth of right and wrong by God's definition, grace is meaningless, forgiveness is pointless.

You must hold onto these truths and have them renew your mind if you are going to successfully navigate your generation and honour the Lord in all you do and say.

19

To love God and love your neighbour...

1. Avoid 'internet evangelism'
2. Show up (in person) with truth and grace embedded in your mind
3. Avoid what appears popular, clever, or, on trend
4. Show up in the Bible and bathe yourself in truth and grace
5. Avoid comparison of yourself to others
6. Show up with a mind that is astounded by God's grace and hungry for His truth