

## Missions Reveals Jesus as God to the Nations

### John 1:1-18

Key verse: V7, “The same came for a witness, to bear witness”

We are His witnesses! John’s Gospel begins with two glorious declarations: first, that God became man, and second, that God sent John to be a witness to that glorious truth. Verse 17 elevates Jesus above Moses by contrasting the Law of Moses, which condemns, with the liberating grace and truth through Jesus Christ the Word. Jesus’ unique ministry is characterized by “grace and truth.” The Gospel narratives reveal a Jesus, who repeatedly confronted and contrasted man’s false religion with God’s liberating truth. Whether identifying religious leaders as “whited sepulchres” or taking a whip to the moneychangers, Jesus passionately proclaimed truth to expose lies.

And this same Jesus exhibited unreserved divine grace to all who sought Him, whether an insignificant woman who reached out to touch the hem of His garment, a sinner taken in adultery or a despised foreigner at a well in Samaria. How often have you considered the gracious gift of knowing God? Were it not for His grace and His truth, as revealed through Jesus Christ, God would be unknowable and we would all be groping in darkness.

The Jesus of John 1 is the Word and the Light. The precious message of John 1 is that we can not only know things about God, such as His majestic attributes of holiness, truth, omniscience (all-knowing), omnipotence (all-powerful) and omnipresence (everywhere-present), but we actually experience a personal relationship with Him. Jesus is that Bridge. He spans the gap of darkness that separated sinful man from a holy God. Because He is the Word, we can know what we otherwise could only hope or dream. Because He is the Light, we can see His truth, which exposes Satan’s dark lies and gives us assurance of eternal life.

Like John, we are “sent” to “bear witness” of the Light. Remember, the Gospel is not merely a message. We take Jesus to the world. We take the Word, the Light, grace and truth to every nation. If you have received “his fullness” and “grace for grace” (v16), then like John, you have been “sent from God ... to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe” (vv6-7). What a glorious privilege and sobering responsibility. Just as John 1 reveals the Light and a light-bearer, a message and a messenger, God calls upon each of us to reveal Christ to our generation. Witnessing is not simply something we do, it is our identity. We are sent by God *to be* His witnesses.

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