



9:00 Live Sunday School at FBJ

Lesson 2: The Word is the Fullness Part 2 Luke 1:1-4; John 1:1-18

I. Continuation of John 1:1-18

A. John is making major theological statements:

1. God entered humanity through His Son
2. The Son was the Word
3. His Son became flesh
4. The Word was the completion of truth and grace

B. vv.6-8

1. John may have preferred to call JTB John the Witness
 - v.7 – “He came as a witness (Greek *martyria*) - Where the English word martyr comes from
 - In the NT 37 times – 26 used by John and 14 in the gospel
2. JTB still had disciples long after his death: Acts 19:1-7

C. vv.9-13

1. v.9 – Coming “into the world” was a Messianic acknowledgement
2. v.10 – This speaks to the Logos being Creator not created
 - “know” is the same context as sexual intimacy
 - He’s not concerned with head knowledge (plenty had that) it’s heart knowledge
3. v.11 – Another Messiah nod
4. v.12 – “But...” whoever did receive/really know Him had the right (KJV says power) to become God’s children
 - The Jews should have known, the world did not know but some did, and they have the right to be children
 - This comes about IF they believe and intimately know Him
 - It’s a precursor to sanctification
5. v.13 – IF in v.12 I have believed (free will) it’s NOT because:
 1. It’s my bloodline like the Jews and the covenant
 2. It’s not because I’m good enough (the flesh has been tamed) or
 3. I have “willed it” to happen (works)

- It's because of Jesus calling

6. Dr. Gerald Borchert's NAC commentary:

- It's not human relationships
- It's not human achievement
- It's not human determination
- "Jesus sought me when a stranger..."

D. vv.14-18 - The 2nd *Logos* focus comes in

1. Thus far we've seen the *Logos*:

- a. Co-exists with God (v.1)
- b. Is the Source of life (v.8)
- c. Is in the world He created that knew Him not (v.9)

2. 1st John 4:1-13

3. "dwelt" in the Greek comes from the Hebrew word for tabernacle - "We" have seen His glory as only the Son from the Father could shine – Like the Shekinah glory

4. The Word in flesh was full of grace and truth

5. v.15 - The was keeping JTB's disciples in line and maybe Gnostics

6. v.16 – "We" (those who have believed in Him and know Him) have received the fullness of the *Logos* which is grace upon grace

- "fullness" – Gr. pleroma – describes baskets at feeding of 4,000

7. What is the fullness? (hang on)

- Part of it is "grace upon grace" which is Hebrew way of using terms like "Holy of Holies" of "Song of Songs"

8. v.17 – This does NOT mean grace/truth have superseded the Law but the Law could only get you so far

- Like Paul, John knew the Law of the Old Covenant was a first stage of grace
- The "fullness" is the completion of the Messiah/*Logos* that is grace and truth
- John tells us who the *Logos* is: Jesus Christ

9. John's gospel shows the "fullness":

- a. Virgin conception of the *Logos* announced through JTB
- b. The sinless life of the *Logos* in the flesh
- c. The nailing of the *Logos* to the cross
- d. The resurrected *Logos* in the flesh

10. v.18 and summary: Even though no one has seen God, God made Himself known through the Logos who is Jesus Christ. Jesus was not created – He is the Creator. Jesus is the fullness of all truth/grace and completes the Law. He was here for a short time so that all who believed in Him and knew Him could become God’s children. JTB was aware of all this because he knew Jesus not only surpassed him but was before him Jesus Christ was the Light and for those of us who believed we received multiple blessings and grace upon grace.

Questions? Comments? Thoughts?

nick@nickwalters.org