

**SERIES: The Christ of Christmas  
"The Son of God"  
John 1:15-19, 34, 49**

**Big Idea – Jesus Christ as Son of God reveals God to us.**

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.' "

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

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

18 No one has ever seen God. But the one and only Son is himself God and is near to the Father's heart. He has revealed God to us.

At least nine times in John's Gospel, Jesus is called "the Son of God" (John 1:34, 49; 3:18; 5:25; 10:36; 11:4, 27; 19:7; 20:31).

John 1:33 "I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'

34 And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."

Nathaniel at the end of the chapter, v. 49 said, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

Remember John's purpose in writing is to convince us that Jesus is the Son of God and that we could have eternal life through Him. (John 20:31)

At least nineteen times, Jesus is referred to as "the Son." He is not only the Son of God, but He is God the Son. Even the demons admitted this (Mark 3:11; Luke 4:41).

John the Baptist as one of the most important persons in the New Testament is mentioned at least eighty-nine times. John had the special privilege of introducing Jesus to the nation of Israel. He also had the difficult task of preparing the nation to receive their Messiah. He called them to repent of their sins and to prove that repentance by being baptized and then living changed lives.

We learned last week that John the Baptist was sent to “bear witness” to Jesus Christ the Light (1:7) He is one of six persons named in the Gospel of John who gave witness that Jesus is God. The others are Nathanael (John 1:49), Peter (John 6:69), the blind man who was healed (John 9:35-38), Martha (John 11:27), and Thomas (John 20:28). With Jesus Himself (John 5:25; 10:36), you have seven clear witnesses.

Notice what John the Baptist had to say about Jesus Christ

### **1. Jesus Christ is eternal (John 1:15)**

John 1:15 John...cries out, saying, “This is the One I told you about: ‘The One who comes after me is greater than I am, because he was living before me.’ “

John the Baptist was actually born six months before Jesus – the angel told Mary in Luke 1:36 that her cousin Elisabeth was already 6 months pregnant with John, this is referring to our Lord's preexistence, not His birth date. Jesus existed in eternity past before John the Baptist was ever conceived.

### **2. Jesus Christ has fullness of grace and truth (John 1:16-17)**

John 1:16 “Because he was full of grace and truth, from him we all received one gift after another.

17 The law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”

What is grace?

“Grace is God's favor and kindness bestowed on those who do not deserve it and cannot earn it.”

If God dealt with us only according to truth, none of us would survive; but He deals with us on the basis of grace and truth.

Jesus Christ, in His life, death, and resurrection, met all the demands of the Law; now God is free to share fullness of grace with those who trust Christ.

Grace without truth would be deceitful, and truth without grace would be condemning.

In John 1:17, John did not suggest that there was no grace under the Law of Moses, because there was. Each sacrifice was an expression of the grace of God. The Law also revealed God's truth.

But in Jesus Christ, grace and truth reach their fullness; and this fullness is available to us.

We are saved by grace (Eph. 2:8-9), we also live by grace and depend on God's grace in all that we do.

2 Corinthians 12:9 He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

We can receive one grace after another, for "He giveth more grace"

James 4:6 But God gives us even more grace, as the Scripture says, "God is against the proud, but he gives grace to the humble."

10 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God so He can exalt you in due time.

In John 1:17, John hinted that a whole new order had come in, replacing the Old Testament Mosaic law system.

Jesus Christ transitioned His followers from the age of law to the age of grace. We are now living in the age of grace aka the church age. This will continue up until the Rapture of the church when the world goes into the Tribulation and Great Tribulation

### **3. As Son of God Jesus Christ reveals God to us (John 1:18)**

John 1:18 "No one has ever seen God. But the one and only Son is himself God and is near to the Father's heart. He has revealed God to us."

In His essence God is invisible

In 1 Tim. 1:17 Paul called Him "... the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God"

Heb. 11:27 says Moses "... forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing Him Who is invisible."

Man can see God revealed in nature

Psalms 19:1 says "The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship."

Romans 1:20 "For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, but he cannot see God Himself."

Jesus Christ reveals God to us, for He is "the image of the invisible God" (Col. 1:15) and "the express image of His person" (Heb. 1:3).

The word translated "declared" gives us our English word exegesis, which means "to explain, to unfold, to lead the way." Jesus Christ explains God to us and interprets Him for us. We simply cannot understand God apart from knowing His Son, Jesus Christ.

Luke 1:31 Listen! You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus.

32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of King David, his ancestor.

The word Son is used for the first time in John's Gospel as a title for Jesus Christ (John 1:18). The phrase "only-begotten" means "unique, the only one of its kind." It does not mean to suggest that there was a time when the Son was not, and then the Father brought Him into being.

Jesus Christ is eternal God; He has always existed.

"Jesus Christ the same, yesterday, today and forever.

Matthew 3:16-17 16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.

17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

The Trinity is seen here – Jesus, God the Son, The Holy Spirit of God, descending like a dove, and God the Father.