

John 1:15-18

15 John testified concerning Him and cried out, saying, This was He of whom I said, ^aHe who is coming after me has become ahead of me, because He was before me.

16 For ¹of His ^afullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.

17 For the ¹law was given through Moses; ^{1a}grace and ¹reality ²came through Jesus Christ.

18 No one has ever seen God; the ¹only begotten Son, who is ²in the bosom of the Father, He has ^{3a}declared *Him*.

Questions

The incarnated Word came after John the Baptist. Yet He is ahead of John. How? What verses in John 1 support this? What other verses in John support this?

Out of His fullness means what?
When did we receive it?

What is grace upon grace? How is grace upon grace connected to His fullness?

What is the law? What are its two main components? Why does John contrast the Law and grace?

I The Incarnated Word with Grace in Fullness and with Reality

Grace is God in the Son as our enjoyment; reality is God realized by us in the Son. The law makes demands on man according to what God is; grace supplies man with what God is to meet what God demands. The law, at most, was only a testimony of what God is. No man can partake of God through the law, but grace enables man to enjoy God. Reality is God realized by man, and grace is God enjoyed by man

II Declaring God in the Only Begotten Son of God

- A. The Father's only begotten Son declared God by the Word, life, light, grace and reality. The Word is God expressed, life is God imparted, light is God shining, grace is God enjoyed, and reality is God realized, apprehended. God is fully declared in the Son through these five things. The essence of them all is God Himself. It is by these things that God is declared.
- B. Although no one has ever seen God, the Son of God has declared Him in the way of being the Word, life, light, grace and reality. The more we receive the Word, have God as our life and let the light of this life shine within us, and the more we enjoy God as grace and apprehend Him as reality, the more God will be declared to us. To declare God means to express, explain, and define God. Christ declared, expressed, explained, and defined God by being incarnated as the Word with life, light, grace, and reality.