

John 1:1-18 The Word became flesh ENCORE

- 1) Verse 14 is central to our passage today. Discuss some of the implications of this awesome truth.

- 2) What are some of the names or terms John uses to describe Jesus in this chapter?

- 3) What are some of the more common ideas about the identity and nature of Christ among people with whom you associate?

- 4) How would you answer the person who says; “Jesus was just a good man or moral teacher”?

- 5) Why is it important to believe Jesus Christ was a real man?

- 6) How do you know the word “dwelt” (NKJV) is a reference to the Tabernacle of God mentioned in the Old Testament?

- 7) How was the revelation of Christ different than the revelation of the Old Testament Law (v.17)?

- 8) Read verse 14 and discuss the following statement: When Christians forget the glory of Christ all that is left is lifeless formalism, or a shadow of what God wants for us.

- 9) What does your life say about “Who Jesus is”?

- 10) Who do you say Jesus is? Have you “received” Christ or accepted His offer of salvation?

- 11) Make a list of your friends and neighbors who need to know the grace and truth that came through Jesus Christ. Commit to pray for these individuals.

1 Peter 4:1-11 Don't waste your life

Monday (v.1-2) One of the blessings of being a Christian is our identification with Christ and its resulting privileges. However, just so we won't take those blessings for granted, assuming that they will result in our being loved and respected by the world, God also allow us to suffer. In fact, the apostle Peter in his first epistle clearly shows that those most blessed in the faith suffer the most. The Christian life is a call to glory through a journey of suffering, that's because those in Christ are inevitably at odds with their culture and society. All Satan-energized systems are actively at odds with the things of Christ. The Apostle John said a person can't love both God and the world (1 John 2:15), and James said "Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God" (James 4:4). – John MacArthur

Tuesday (v.3) I can certainly identify with this verse. I know I have spent (wasted) enough of my past lifetime living for myself. I would imagine most of us have wasted some (a little or much) of the time God has given us. Let's take up Peter's challenge today and purpose not to waste another minute! Give your heart and yourself to serving God; doing His will instead of seeking your own.

Wednesday (v.3-5) No one can live for God's glory and be entirely comfortable in this world. You shouldn't be obnoxious or try to be a misfit, but if your life is Christ-like, then you will bear some of the reproach He bore. We live in a day when many want to make Christianity easy, but the Bible says it is hard. Many want to make Christians lovable, but God says they will be reproachable (1 Peter 4:14). Christianity must confront the system by being distinct from it. It must expose sin before it can disclose the remedy. Be sure your life reflects your commitment to Christ. That's what will make you distinct from the world. – John MacArthur

Thursday (v.6-9) Christians are to love to the limit, which involves covering a "multitude of sins." Sin must be dealt with but must also be forgiven. That's what "cover" implies. We are to put a blanket over past sin that has been dealt with. Examine yourself. Do you hold a grudge against someone in your house? If you do, remember that Jesus already paid the penalty for whatever that person did wrong. Your inability to forgive belies your love. And if a lack of forgiveness is characteristic of your life, you may not be a Christian. Inevitably, those who have the greatest sense of forgiveness are quickest to forgive others. The people who know they've been forgiven much are able to forgive much. I hope that's true of you. –John MacArthur

Friday (v.10-11) In the 60s and 70s, much was heard about the right of individuals to "do their own thing." People were encouraged to be themselves, to get to know themselves, and to express themselves. Of course a Christian should never pursue an unhealthy individualism that glorifies self and ignores God. But when we remember our responsibility to others and acknowledge our dependence on the Lord, He can use our distinctive skills and spiritual gifts for His glory. In a commercial airliner, the pilot, co-pilot, mechanics, engineers, and flight attendants all have different responsibilities. What jeopardy the passengers would be in if each crew member neglected his duties for another role! In much the same way, serious harm can come to a church if its members clamor for the position of another. Don't settle for less than God's best by coveting a position you may not be suited for. Recognize the gift God has given you and "do your own thing." And do it well! – R W De Haan

Saturday (v.11) Reckon that every sermon is a wasted sermon which is not (if it is not) Christ's Word. Believe that all theology is rotten rubbish which is not (if it is not) the Word of the Lord. Do not be satisfied with going to a place of worship and hearing an eloquent discourse, unless the sum and substance of it is the Word of the Lord. My brothers and sisters, whether you teach children or their parents, do not think you have done any good unless you have taught the Word of the Lord. For saving purposes we must have the Lord's Word, and nothing else. – C H Spurgeon

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