

## Christmas Day (2017-18)

**1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. **4** In him was life, and the life was the light of men. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

**6** There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. **8** He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

**9** The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. **10** He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. **11** He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. **12** But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, **13** who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

**14** *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.* **15** (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) **16** For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. **17** For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. **18** No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known. <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Jn 1:1–18). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

In the Name of Jesus.

Can y'all hang with your poor pastor, if I re-translate this? The Word was made flesh. 'God's Arrangement was made flesh!' 'God's Pledge was made flesh and dwelt among us!' Jesus Christ is God's WORD of His attachment to us now, His Love; in fact, ALL of Who and What He is: God is That Love, That Word, That Pledge, the One to Whom John bore witness! And now, and forever without hint or threat or suggestion of change, He IS our flesh, with Those Wounds that won for us God's Love!

And you, beloved children of God, are on the safest and truest ground when you turn from, run from, ignore, LAUGHT AT anything that darkens that Light! No matter who! Whatever mouth starts yackin' 'bout God and doesn't tout de' suite wrap Him up in Mary's womb, or nail to the cross, or place on the altar for the forgiveness of your sins—baby Jonathan has this wonderful face y'all should then imitate. He pulled it the other night with a mouthful of cabbage. And he wa'n't kidding! Yuck!

Y'all 'Yuck,' 'Ughh,' and 'P-tooeey!' any voice, any arrangement, any WORD that turns your Father, His Father, from grace to Law, from truth to Law, from Christ to Moses, or any Moses-ape: see the religions made up by men! That's what those born of God do! It's called believing in His Name, REJOICING at this proclamation— THAT is what Saint John means by 'receiving Him': it is He, God, Father of the Only Begotten, and our Father too, doing the whole deal.

So, any Word, voice, liar, devil, preacher, thought, Moses or big impressive whatever that turns on the fear and the doubt and gets you scrounging around back inside YOU for YOU to find something shiny and nice enough to catch heaven's eye—NOT for you, or me!

Oh—and not for the next poor man either! God, save us!

Beautiful FEET are for us! Not the feet only, but the messenger of peace the feet bring, or the sound of the feet on the way.

And your feet too, child of God! Were ever feet more beautiful?!

Oh, THERE is a present to ask for at Christmas! That when people hear OUR feet coming down the hall, or see our feet carrying us toward them, then the darkness clears away! Poor men and women and children—in the flesh all!—just KNOW, rejoice, BELIEVE that when WE show up, dear friends, THEY will NOT...HAVE...TO...HIDE...THEIR...SINS...EVER...AGAIN! For the Lamb of God has taken away the sins of the world! And now, the Lamb is the Shepherd and WE are sheep and lambs too, for the same glory and proper fame of heaven and heaven's God: 'Since all He came to ransom, by ALL be He adored! The Infant born in Bethle'em, Our Savior and our Lord!'

The prophet Isaiah gave the word: Your God reigns! The Old Testament version of the New Testament, 'Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand!'

Isaiah was speaking to those who SEEMED either to have been kicked OUT of God's Kingdom; or, far worse, whose GOD had FAILED to RULE! They were torn from heaven, the Promised Land. The constant, daily reminder that THEY were to blame for the darkness that divides them from their God.

Like us; stuck here; in this dark place.

Into THAT darkness, the VOICE of Comfort cries out: Fear not! YOUR...GOD...REIGNS! Meaning, at the VERY POINT that NO ONE CAN find a reason IN the people of God for God still to have them as His people—He reigns there, with them, in their midst, NOW!

In the Old Covenant it was just shadows and pictures and such: temple and ark and sacrifices of critters. But now—now, the Virgin Mary has given birth to God, ALL of God, to reign IN...THE...FLESH! Meaning—God is just NOT going to be pushed away so easily any longer; just because we happen to be sinners still. He's DONE that route—He reigns NEW now, IN...OUR...FLESH!

Which we contradict when we look down on the nest flesh, just because they prove to BE flesh.

DO...NOT...HIDE!

DO...NOT...DENY...THIS!

What's the point of THAT! Since God's Son is now in our Flesh and has ALREADY finished the work of hauling over God's Love from wherever it was, to US—what...IS...THE...POINT...OF...HIDING...ANY...WRETCHED...SIN? My dear ones?

Most wretched of all is to deny that He came in the flesh. Which we do—DO...NOT...FEAR!—you and I deny Christ came in the flesh, when the flesh of the next flesh drives away or snuffs out our love.

Which is why you should fall asleep in heavenly peace and joy this day, and when He summons you—fall asleep with the simple, Gospel word 'FULL.' No matter how low you and I run on human or heavenly Love, Christ came with Grace you can count on; Grace and Truth—the final True Word about God is that He is so PREDICTABLE now—confess your sins, and HE can't HELP HIMSELF! He's gonna pardon you!

And the Only Begotten did not only come with grace and truth; He came, the Word says, FULL of them; FULL of grace and truth!

Thanks be to God!

So the ONLY reason to DESPAIR about our religion lies IN US! But the TRUTH about God is NOT...FULFILLED in US! No; 'It is FINISHED' was cried out from the flesh of Mary's Boy, when He then gave up the Ghost. And Life began for all those who cannot raise themselves from death.

There is the gift of your Baptism. A water and a Word more despised even than the Baby in the cattle trough.

Perhaps even more despised still is His Body and His Blood. Good, grace, truth, life, light, forgiveness and God Altogether for those who cannot find in themselves an attraction for God's love.

If others want to stay in the dark, that is none of your business, child of God. Unless it is to pray to your Father—for them! Beautiful feet!

If He has begotten us from above, freely, without any merit or worthiness in us—then whom can He NOT redeem?

OUR flesh says, 'You want a list?!'

But His Flesh, the Word made flesh says, 'Just anyone Who is glad about My Birth, My Work, My Word, My Finish, can never perish, can never die, can never lose God or Me/His Love!'

Dear Father, grant that we who are gathered here for the Body and the Blood of your Word to us, made flesh, may grow and become nothing at all now, but witnesses to His light in the Name of Jesus! Amen!