

Xmas Day 2020

John 1

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. ¹

In the Name of Jesus.

‘O, Come! All ye FAITHful! Joyful! Triumphant!’

You are the faithful, dear children of God: ‘born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.’ ² Full of God; filled by the Holy Spirit; and...FAITH—more than enough to fill us and spill over to us to the world:

¹ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Jn 1:14–18). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

² [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Jn 1:1–13). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

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.

Hold on, there! Almost sounds like ‘scolding!’ Which is the poison I beg you this fine Christmas Day to smell and beware of and repent of and let us ALL—children of God!-thank God for the Body and Blood given to us to eat and to drink from the Word made FLESH!

‘Oh! The WORLD did not receive Him! His own PEOPLE, the Jews, did not receive Him! But—WE did!’

THAT, my lovelies, is the foyer that leads us to the sad place Dr Luther calls ‘Moses and the hypocrites.’

Excuse grampa’s lame joking. It comes with the title, I guess.

But when I’m not sitting at Luther’s feet and learning, a lot of my day is unfamiliar. TV was telling me about some exciting New Year’s special coming up with a HOST of big name talents that will hop up and down and wail at the camera lens I am inexplicably paying to connect to my house. And after the dozen or so names flashed by in two

seconds, I realized I had recognized precisely NONE of those national treasures.

But then I read about this group, ‘Moses and the hypocrites!’ Now, those are some words I’d heard before! Checking my source, it was, of course, Luther. He WAS talking about a group; and they own much of the TV; but they were not connected to New Year’s Day, but to Isaiah 52 from this morning.

Your God reigns. [Dr Luther wrote]: You do not have Moses or a hypocrite, but you have Christ Himself to teach, free, comfort, and encourage you.³

Sorry; but my head turned that into the rock-group ‘Moses and the hypocrites!’

There are two deadly mistakes to make when you hear Moses’ commandments: You WILL attach all you are to the Real God and you WILL attach your precious self to the next man, or else!

³ Luther, M. (1999). *Luther’s works, vol. 17: Lectures on Isaiah; Chapters 40-66*. (J. J. Pelikan, H. C. Oswald, & H. T. Lehmann, Eds.) (Vol. 17, p. 210). Saint Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House.

Mistake one is to be an American and ignore that warning and the coming darkness and being forever shut out. Oh, I dunno. Maybe spend thousands of dollars you don't have, week after week of stuffing ourselves, as the year ends. And call THAT Christmas! NOT the reception of the Mass of Christ!

But I just made the far more deadly mistake. I did! Y'all don't look down on those whose religiosity at Christmas is weaker than y'all's; right?

To MISTAKE Moses' deadly words for an invitation to join some sort of TEAM that Moses is forming. When Moses stands alone; utterly. SO alone, that he disqualified even HIMSELF from entering the land of promise by HIS sin!

The Law is One Thing; the Gospel is another. Moses is utterly one thing and alone; Christ, in our flesh, is utterly another and died alone crying 'It is finished!' But He is NOT alone! 'I and the children God gave me!' That's Isaiah also!

My dear ones: When The Word was made flesh—that means that Word of God was made sin. All that Moses

could condemn, HE BECAME! From the womb to the tomb, from swaddling clothes to being wrapped in a sheet.

But now, my dear ones, He is alive. He laid down His life for those who would not receive Him, could not receive Him; and yet, many have! NOT by their will, blood, decision, religion, church-attendance, blah, blah, blah.... But because of a birth GIVEN from Heaven to earth, as Christ was given, as His HOLY Spirit is given by the Gospel and His precious gifts of HOLY Baptism, HOLY Absolution and the Holy Christmas Meal!

So, hear me warn you—tiny bit of repentance today!—about turning into a ‘scold.’ [Am I scolding you about not scolding?]

The Law of Moses tells us to do this thing called ‘attachment,’ ‘stick-to-it-ness,’ ‘devotion’—why?! The same reason I tell my grandson, Samuel Paul, to pick up his toys! Because, we are NOT doing it!

S.P.D. may suffer a ‘time out.’ Moses threatens and means it! A time-out that does not end. Run by a cemetery; or check in with your conscience, if God has left one to us. It knows.

But A...N...Y...O...N...E...--hear ME! Anyone who DREAMS that Moses' pointing hand of accusation and death is some kind of nuclear bomb that WE may take IN...HAND! Turn into the wagging finger, the wagging tongue, the rolling eyes and shaking head and now I'm getting sad.

There's the Law and Moses; and then there's hypocrites.

And then, there's our Brother, 'I ascend to your Father—mine too! Your God—and I claim Him too!'

Jesus is SO FAR from knowing how to SCOLD us into our religion, that He speaks what no one has ever dreamed and no one I have ever heard is ever preaching, yet it's all your poor, miserable pastor knows.

John...Ten!

I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, . ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me . ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me . ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of

my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”⁴

REPENT! Of....THIS:

Since Jesus has the love of God, even fulfilled what His Father told Him to do, then, well...THAT is something WE can get in on!

THAT is the language of the hypocrite! And opens the door to all the popular Christian-apes out there: NOW, you need to....believe, cash the check, use the gift card, blah, blah, blah... Waddle on over to church and write me a check and the world gets a little darker, don' it?!

I say to you—rise from scolding!

The ONLY REASON the Father can even STAND His Only-Begotten, is that YOUR enfolding in the Father's arms is BEYOND QUESTION!

⁴ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Jn 10:16–18). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

BEFORE...ANY...OF the scolds, the liars, the religious carnival barkers, the preachers and pastors and lying popes and other demons...

Before ANY of THEIR words come true: 'You ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING GOD'S LOVE.....unless....!'

Jesus Christ will be kicked out of OUR Home, our Father's Mansions, Our God's lap—and cast out for good.

UN...WRAP... THIS!

The ONLY reason God the Father LOVES His Son, is that the Son, in our flesh, has SO laid down what He is---- in place of what WE INSIST on being...

That the Father cannot keep Himself from smiling at us.

The MOMENT that smile from OUR God is---how do I say it?! It CANNOT BE!

But...delusion! Hypothetical NONSENSE!

The MOMENT God is NOT beaming on us with wave after wave of love...

Then it's time to get on a plane to Jerusalem and FIND that tomb and HE...IS...STILL...THERE.

But He is not THERE. He is HERE. To give us to eat and to drink, His Body and His Blood. They were sin; now they're heaven's ambrosia.

The only food, really, that's fitting for you, me, and FOR all the children of God. Merry Christmas! In the Name of Jesus.