

WE SAW GOD'S GLORY IN JESUS.

TEXT: JOHN 1: 1-18.

THEME:

The light of truth and holiness exists perfectly only in God himself. John tells us that this light and truth came into the world in Jesus Christ.

Grace, peace, and mercy, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I have a sermon illustration I want to start the sermon off with.

Just Passing Through! (09.16.05--Heavenly Citizens!--John 8:51) How disturbing it would be to take a trip and every time you came to a town or city you were compelled to stop and investigate every facet of where you were; to taste and see everything there was; everywhere you went.

So inclined you might never reach your ultimate destination. We all have the same goal in life. Let's face it; no one wants to end up in hell. The difference is, some will reach the goal while others won't.

The distractions along the way are just so alluring that it often becomes difficult to stay focused on the destination. "Perhaps we should stop here and try this lifestyle?" Or, "It really wouldn't hurt to take a risk, and try the shortcut that leads through the land of self-gratification--would it?"

I found this illustration interesting because it hits the nail on the head. Many people are just so wrapped up in the lives they live, they make this life, the be all, and end all to their existence. What a tragedy that is. Many people neglect and fail to see that this life is but a journey on the way to the real eternal life in heaven.

You and I know that heaven is the reality of all that we hope for, it is the place where all our dreams will come true. We are told in the Bible that 'eye has not seen nor ear heard, nor can we conjure up any thoughts of what we could even begin to imagine what heaven would be like'. What we missed out in this life will be fulfilled in its reality in heaven.

Why do we believe and think that there is a heaven? The Bible tells us so! In our gospel lesson today, from the gospel of John, and I'm sure that most of us would be able to recite the first sentence by rote memory without a problem at all. John 1:1 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.' That's as familiar to us as Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

As we see in the gospel of John, the Word means Jesus. Unlike today where the 'word' has such a contemporary meaning. Used in slang it can go something like this; 'the word is out, you're it! Song title, "My name means the holy word'. The Word in our gospel reading is Christ who revealed God's divine glory, in his living, dying and rising. His whole life was a testament of God's love for his people. God loves you! He loves the whole world.

This is the reality that God has made known to the whole world, and many people know about it. But in all sincerity, the question has to be asked, 'who is really caring about having God in their lives'? It had to be asked: not only for this current age, but also in ages gone past. God saw how people were rebelling a long time ago and it grieved him very deeply [still grieves him] when people reject him in their lives.

And when you think that he created man in his own image; making them a little lower than the angels, so that he can have a relationship with: then its simply time for him to act.

He can't stand not just by and let his most loved creation blast them-selves off into etemal damnation without providing means of access to himself. Although God made the reality of his love known to his chosen people Israel, [if it's any consolation] they cared a little bit more for God than the rest of the world, simply because they know that they are God's own chosen race.

And I guess that if you know that you are God's people, then you do everything in your power to hold onto that truth, and pass it onto others.

The bottom line is that; if people have forgotten to love, worship and adore the Creator who made them. The one who gave them life, then these

people will unfortunately be on a one way ticket to hell if they still rebel against the continual love he that he is pouring out upon them.

That's the reality that cannot be changed. And if people who know of God and what he means, and they don't have a change their heart and perspective of him, the [head/heart] 45.72 centimetres [18"] of salvation, then their doom is sealed indeed.

God doesn't want anyone to go to hell, that's the truth. He has a great love, mercy and patience for all people. So, he did something about it. He has got involved with his creation and has involves himself in the ultimate way, by sending his beloved Son Jesus, who come in the flesh, to provide a way to come to him.

Who is Jesus? He is God in the flesh! Jesus became flesh so that all the peoples of the earth may see the glory of God. And when Christ came; he told of the

Father's love for all mankind. He lived God's life, he didn't sin. He lived a life that was pleasing to God so that all may see why he came.

So when people see what Jesus has done for them, through his incarnate life and ministry, the way is made so that all can come and be united into the Father's kingdom.

Many people *think* that they are living in the light, but by all probability they are living in the darkness. The darkness still rejects the light and threatens life itself. People who love the darkness will still reject God's light. We all know what happens when you talk to people who don't have Christ in their life? They use logic, reason and whatever psychological perspective's they have, to tell you that no one needs a Saviour in their lives [we're all our own little gods] and why on earth are you doing so!

They tell you that "as long as what a person does; doesn't hurt anybody; it feels good; then spoil yourself and simply do it. By all means and calculations it must be allowable if no one is arguing against it; and no one will condemn you for doing so. We're all going to heaven in the end, aren't we"? AND there is no such thing as the Devil, and all that nonsense!

That might sound good, but that is really dark worldly talk, and in a lot of occasions and circumstances, you will hear that sort of chatter a fair amount of the time with people whom you come into contact with.

People think that they are enlightened and that they have a fairly good world-view. And a lot of people do have very good extraordinary minds, so don't get me wrong, I'm not knocking them! I'm into people and their mindsets, people fascinate me.

Start a conversation and I'm all ears! I'd like to know what makes you tick and where your thoughts are coming from.

People pride themselves in how they converse and articulate and one of the sad thing for me is that a lot of these people would make very good Christians even though they know of God and what he has and is doing for them. And in this age of science and technology, it does seem like humanity has found all the answers to every question that used to make people really question what is behind the real puzzlers that get us stumped.

Nowadays, start up your computer and put in a question and a ready made answer will come out for you. By and large people are knowledgeable, but does their knowledge contain and consist of the truth, the way and the life that leads to salvation and eternal life?

God is joined to Christ and Christ is now joined to us, and in him and through his name, we now have eternal life. There is no other way to the Father, but through Christ who came as the Word. The Lord Jesus whom all his followers and believers love and adore is the revelation of the Father and his glory.

In God's glory through Christ, people now share in obtaining God's infinite grace, and mercy. To now have access to God's divine reality, through Jesus' coming to us in the flesh is a matter of accepting, believing and trusting in him. We worship a God who is alive. The living Lord is still active among the nations through the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen