

Sermon Text: John 1:14-18 The Filial Word: Grace and Truth

As the only-begotten Son of God, Christ makes the Father known.

1) Christ makes known the fullness of the Father's glory.

- a) "His glory"—the glory of Christ
- b) "glory as of the only-begotten Son from the Father"—the glory that only a son can have—the image of His Father
- c) John 14:8-9 "Whoever has seen Me has seen the Father."
- d) Glory refers to the manifestation of the attributes of God; God's display of His being and character
- e) **Application:** God can be known. God can only be enjoyed in Christ Jesus.

2) Christ makes known the fullness of the Father's grace.

- a) V. 16 "fullness"—divine and eternal being
 - i) V. 15 "He was before me"—Christ preexisted John
 - ii) V. 18 "the only-begotten God who is at the Father's side"—Divine Being and perfection of fellowship with Father
- b) V. 14 "full of grace"—Covenant Love of God
- c) V. 16 "grace upon grace"—old covenant promise fulfilled in new covenant reality
 - i) V. 17 "the law was given through Moses"—pedagogical use of the law (Gal. 3:23-4:7)
 - ii) V. 17 "grace . . . came through Jesus Christ"—goal of the law
- d) The love of God is a primary theme of the Old Testament story of God and His people. God's love is fully displayed in Christ.
 - i) 3:16 "The World"—international reach; cosmic scope
 - ii) 3:16 "He gave His only-begotten Son"—most treasured gift; most costly sacrifice
 - iii) "God's love is to be admired not because the world is so big, but because the world is so bad." D. A. Carson
- e) **Application:**
 - i) Assurance: God's love for you is pure grace.
 - ii) Adoration: Praise God for His grace in Christ.

3) Christ makes known the fullness of the Father's truth.

- a) V. 14 "full of grace and truth"—Covenant Faithfulness
- b) V. 17 "law was given through Moses"—OT promises of God contained in the law (not a mere legal code, but a covenantal document)
- c) V. 17 "truth came through Jesus Christ"—God's 'YES' to all His promises (2 Cor. 1:18-22)
- d) Application:
 - i) Assurance: God has sworn by Himself (Heb. 6:13-20)
 - ii) Adoration: Praise God for His faithfulness in Christ.

Doxology: "To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever. Amen!"—Revelation 5:13-14