

Food for thought from the Gospel of John

4 John the Baptist – Continued

“The Sharply-focused message of John the Baptist”

Read John 1:14-17

John 1:15 – John the disciple inserted a quote of John the Baptist. The flow of John 1:14 to verses 16-17 seems to be interrupted by a statement, in which John the Baptist is quoting himself – a statement that points to a conversation from somewhere else and is similar to one of John the Baptist’s statements, later, in John 1:27.

The point: It must be something that John the Baptist said often. It is very important. Jesus was physically born after John the Baptist (by about six months (Luke 1:24-31). But in the bigger reality, Jesus was long before John. He was before all of us. He is the eternal Son of God (John 1:1-3,14). Therefore, Jesus is the preeminent one and John the Baptist’s ministry is to introduce and promote the person and work of Christ (John 1:6-8). John the disciple wants us to know who Jesus is, not just what He did.

Now let’s look at what Jesus did and is still doing in John 1:14,16-17:

- Jesus (the Word) became flesh and dwelled with us.
- People could behold His glory – glory which came from the Father.
- Jesus was full of grace and truth – something that people could receive and partake of it.
- This grace is an unending source for us (“*grace upon grace / grace after grace*”).
- Moses gave us the law – something which reveals the truth about God’s nature and His will, along with the truth about our sin.
- Jesus gave us truth that told us about God’s deliverance from sin – gospel truth / “*the truth as it is in Jesus*” (Ephesians 4:21).
- Jesus also gave grace which enables us to repent, believe, and obey God.
- This grace is spiritual life that empowers us to believe the truth of the gospel. Through the grace of Christ and the truth of the gospel, we are delivered from the penalty of our sin and the power of our sin nature.