

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for September 6-7, 2003

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"The Word's Superiority"

John 1:15-16

What we learn about the superiority of the Word to certain prophets in John 1:15-18 makes Jesus qualified to reveal God to man.

The Word is superior to John the Baptist in John 1:15.

The Apostle John in John 1:15 introduces to us the testimony of John the Baptist in order to support the doctrine of the incarnation outlined for us in John 1:14.

The first two phrases of John 1:15 presented an enigma to those living in the time of Christ. How can someone who is younger be superior to someone who is older?

In antiquity, it was widely held that chronological priority meant superiority.

John the Baptist solved the enigma by acknowledging the pre-existence of Christ in the last phrase in John 1:15 (Micah 5:2).

John 1:16 shares with us the benefit that comes to those who by faith are able to behold the glory of the incarnate Christ described in John 1:14.

Those who by faith are able to see the glory of the incarnate Word, who are able to see Him as full of grace and truth, will share in His fullness.

To share in His fullness simply means that we are participating in the salvation that could only be secured through the grace and truth that belong to Christ.

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The main idea of grace (CHARIS) is that of bestowing a gift upon one who does not deserve it.

When John adds the phrase "and grace upon grace" at the end of verse 16 he is explaining the experience of those who have by faith received of Christ's fullness.

The preposition "upon" denotes exchange. It literally means "grace instead of grace."

Have you chosen to behold by faith the glory of the only begotten from the Father and received from His fullness grace upon grace?