

*Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

**Sermon Notes for September 13-14, 2003**

**Dale Whitehead**

**"The Word's Superiority"**

**John 1:17-18**

The Word's superiority over certain specific Old Testament prophets in John 1:15-17 makes Jesus qualified to reveal God to man.

The Word is superior to Moses (John 1:17).

The Apostle John in John 1:17 gives us a specific illustration of how the principle of grace upon grace can be seen in the transition from one dispensation to the next.

A dispensation is a stewardship arrangement in which the management or oversight of one's property is entrusted to a steward. The steward is both responsible and accountable, so that at any time a change can be made if the steward is found unfaithful.

The "Law" (NOMOS) is referring to the first five books of the Old Testament, all written by Moses, and which contains the Mosaic Covenant (Exodus 20:1-31:18).

God only kept the Mosaic Covenant, which was contained in the Law, in place until the promised seed came according to Galatians 3:19.

God did not give the Law in order to save men, but to prepare sinful men for their Savior by exposing their sinfulness (Galatians 3:24).

The word "realized" (EGNETO) can also be translated "came." When John says that grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ, he does not mean that grace and truth cannot be found in the dispensation of the Law.

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When John says that grace and truth came through Jesus Christ, he does not mean that grace and truth were not instrumental in the salvation of Old Testament saints.

"Grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ" means that no person at any time has been saved apart from the death, burial and resurrection of Christ

John 1:18 forms the climax to the entire introduction of the Gospel of John.

The introduction to the Gospel of John has given us all the reasons why the Word is qualified to reveal God to man. Verse 18 tells us that the Word has in fact done this.

The Word revealing God to man does not mean that He will show us the face of His father (Exodus 33:20).

The Word is able to reveal God to man by explaining Him to us. The verb "explained" (EXEGESATO) comes from a root from which we get the word "exegesis."

The word "bosom" (KOLPON) in this context is figuratively used to describe the affectionate relationship that the Word enjoys with His Father.

When we by faith behold the glory of Christ and He explains God to us in our lives, we will be dramatically and wonderfully transformed.