

Skegness Community Church - Weekly Bible Study 2025

52 passages of Scripture that every believer should know

Week 44 - THE WORD BECAME FLESH John 1:14

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

Who is this “Word” spoken of in the opening verses of John’s gospel? Was it another one of the prophets sent from God to deliver His message to us? Was it some high and holy angel who had been dwelling in the heavens for millennia? **No** - this Word is infinitely more than any created being. This is God Himself, stepping out of heaven, clothing Himself in human flesh, and entering human history. John is explicit about His identity: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” (John 1:1). Many other passages in Scripture expand on this truth about Jesus. The incarnation, that period of thirty-three years when God invaded earth clothed in flesh and bone, is one of the most condescending displays of divine love to be found anywhere at any time. In the incarnation, we marvel at God’s garment, grace, and glory.

GOD’S GARMENT

“The Word became flesh.” Jesus came down to where we are so we could go to where He is! He came to us and took on our flesh. He was not God *and* man as He walked the ways of the world. He was the unique God-man. As God, He walked on water, calmed the storm, healed the sick, and rose from the dead. As man, He got thirsty and tired; He felt sorrow and pain. Think about it. Jesus came, not clinging to all the brightness of His glory, not shunning us for our sinful condition, but humbling Himself to become a servant and to clothe Himself in flesh. By doing so, He would be able to say, “I understand” every emotion, temptation, and pain we experience. This is amazing condescension: in Jesus, God Himself took on the garment of human flesh.

GOD’S GRACE

In the incarnation, we also see God’s amazing grace. Yes, He “made his dwelling among us ---- full of grace and truth.” This was our Lord’s mission. He came here, for a time, in order to pay the penalty for our sin, that He might bring us to the Father. Thus, He “made his dwelling among us,” but only temporarily in human flesh. The text continues to inform us that Jesus was “full of grace.” **Grace** is defined as “unmerited favour.” Jesus was full of grace. There is a difference between mercy and grace. *Mercy* is not getting what we do deserve. *Grace* is getting what we do not deserve. Jesus’ love is always manifested in His grace. Consistently in Scripture we find Him extending this undeserved and unmerited favour upon sinners. Even at the cross we find Him praying for the forgiveness of those who were persecuting and killing Him. The Word, who became flesh, truly was “full of grace.” Jesus came, not to talk to us about God, but to show us what God was like so that the simplest mind might know the Father as intimately as the most intelligent academic.

GOD’S GLORY

In Christ’s incarnation, we also catch a glimpse of His glory: **“We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father.”** There is little doubt that John was reminiscing about the Transfiguration when he wrote these words. He had been there, along with his brother James and Simon Peter, when our Lord was transfigured into His glorified body. John saw “His glory” all right! On that mountain John witnesses Jesus as “His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light” (Matthew 17:2). The incarnation of Christ should not be thought of as a past, historical phenomenon. In a sense, it can be a continuing experience. This same Jesus who was born in Bethlehem, who took on human flesh, longs to be born again in our hearts. His desire is to take up residency in you, to dwell in your heart today. Paul revelled in this thought when he said, “Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27). Have you personally “beheld His glory” in yourself?

As you memorise this verse, meditate on Christ’s amazing condescension. He laid aside His glory to enter human flesh....for me....for you.