

John 1:15-28: Moses, Jesus, Grace And Truth.

John 20:30-31 - *And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.*

1. (15-18) John presents Christ.

The one announced by John the Baptist - Jesus Christ – comes after him, preferred than him and existed before him - is the Word made flesh.

He is the source of endless/limitless/infinite grace (gift-undeserved) and truth, contrasting with an order of rigid laws and regulations **given through Moses (moral, ceremonial or judicial)**.

Galatians 3:24 - *Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.*

Ephesians 2:8 - *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

John 14:6 - *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*

The Law commands, forbids and condemns when guilty, grace forgives and frees. Some unfortunately misunderstand grace as freedom to sin; yet God's undeserved favours and forgiveness should compel us to flee from sin.

Jesus is the embodiment of all truth - pertaining to God, man and all created beings (against all falsehood and deceit).

Jesus, the Word, is the perfect declaration of the unseen God.

2. (19-28) John the Baptist.

For John, it was unthinkable that attention would focus on himself, because he was not the Messiah, he wasn't Elijah (though there was resemblance in appearance and similarity of ministry and probable misinterpretation of Luke 1:17). His job was to prepare people to receive Jesus and point them to Messiah. He was simply a signpost; his ministry would actually decline and end after introducing the people to Jesus Christ.

His baptism was a preparatory cleansing for the King. The idea is, "get cleaned up, get ready for a royal visit!"

The Jews in John's day practiced baptism from ceremonial washings. But the Jews of that time typically reserved baptism for Gentiles who wanted to become Jews. So to submit to John's baptism, a Jew had to identify with the Gentiles.

2 Peter 3:17 - *You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.*