

Viewing Christmas through Two Lenses
John 1:14-18 & 3:14-18

John shows us the Christmas story through a wide-angle lens. He says that what we are celebrating at Christmas is the _____ becoming _____. Jews knew that God's word represented His _____ and His _____. Non-Jews, the Greeks, had a similar view of the "Word" but without personality. John says that what we celebrate at Christmas is the creative power and eternal wisdom of God putting on flesh and coming to live _____. This creative power and eternal wisdom is not only personal. He is a person. And He isn't far removed from us. He made His dwelling among us. The "Word" _____.

We cannot begin to imagine the good, the value, the blessing that has come because the Word has moved into our neighborhood. John strains language to express that blessing to us. The Word made flesh is _____ to behold and is full of _____ and of _____—so full in fact that we have all received grace in place of the grace we have already been given. God's _____ of grace to us are many, but John says there is a grace on top of all that.

John 3:14-18 tells us what that grace beyond the grace given is. Because Jesus came, anyone who believes in Him will not be _____ to die for their sins and _____ from God. Instead, they will be forgiven, _____ and given _____.

In John 3, the Bible changes lenses to a _____ lens, helping us focus on the _____ of God sending Jesus: His _____ for you and me.

For all our many _____, we tend to think God must not love us that much. John says Christmas _____ to such thinking. God loves His creation, of which you are a _____, so much that Bethlehem happened.

In Bethlehem, God was doing His best, playing the first notes of His Magnum Opus, to reveal _____.