

## He wants to be with you” February 1, 2009 - Skip MacMillan

John 1:3-18 - The nature of God is to make Himself known to you.

### **PATTERN: Two Parallels in John 1:3-18**

Jesus as Creator; Jesus enters into His Creation; Jesus is rejected, yet Jesus continues to make Himself known to everyone.

### **John 1:3-5, 9**

<sup>3</sup>Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and that life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. . . <sup>9</sup>The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.”

#### **1. Jesus is Creator**

“Through him all things were made” (v. 3).

“The visible universe with all its complexity owes its origin to the creative mind and power of God. Apart from His Word, existence is impossible” -Tenney.

#### **2. Jesus enters into His Creation**

“In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness” (vv. 4-5).

**Life:** “In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.”

Jesus is the Creator, Sustainer of life, Acts 17:24; Source of life and Giver of life; Both physical and spiritual life; John 20:31, 5:40, 10:10, 10:28; 14:6, 35 times.

Source of life: “I am the way, the truth and the life”.

Giver of Life: “The Son gives life to whom He is pleased to give it” (John 5:21).

“For the Bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world” (John 6:30).

“Those who live Christ-less lives *exist*, but they do not know what *life* is. It is as if God was saying: ‘I created human beings that they should have real *life* . . . through their sins they have ceased to live and only *exist*; I have sent them my Son to enable them to know what real *life* is. . . . Jesus is the one person who can make life worth living, and in whose company death is only the prelude to fuller life” -Barclay.

The life Jesus gives is an eternal and personal relationship with God, **John 17:3**.

**Light:** “The light shines in the darkness”.

Light is from God (Genesis 1); Jesus is the light of the world, John 8:12; Father, James 1:17. Represents goodness, truth, hope, clarity, purity and growth.

God initiates.

God shines His light into dark places; He moves into the darkness. He doesn’t wait for an invitation, nor does He ignore or fear it. He is not overwhelmed but moves into it.

God shines His light into our darkness, even when we are drowning in our chosen sin. He offers real life and light (goodness / hope) to you and the world (Ephesians 2:1-10).

God is a gracious aggressor.

### 3. Rejections of Christ

"the darkness has **not understood** (comprehended, overcome) it.

Why?

- a. **Just don't get it**, Christianity seems ridiculous, Christopher Hitchens of the world.
- Don't have the context to put Christ in, no Biblical understanding, or truth.
  - It is as if we cannot understand God without additional help from God, Holy Spirit.

b. **Something darker, John 3:19-20**

- "Men loved darkness instead of light because their **deeds** were evil".
- "Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be **exposed**."

c. **Nature of Darkness**: hides, conceals, lies, deceives and creates fear of exposure.

- Darkness makes us feel as if we are not vulnerable; false security, temporary.
- There are no secrets with God, 1 Cor. 14:25.

d. **Nature of Light**: makes known, reveals truth, true nature of something (good or bad). Uncovers secrets; revealing people for who they really are. Light makes deception and manipulation known. We become vulnerable in the light of God.

Ever purposely not opened your Bible or skip worship because you're fearful of God's light?

At that point you are choosing darkness over Christ, you are fearful of being exposed. You have a choice to make in those moments, either to bring the issue into the light or continue hiding in darkness.

"We are aware of God's power (light) by feeling it within us" -Calvin.

**God shines His light into your life, seeing all you are and still has unfailing love for you.**

### 4. Jesus continues to make Himself known to everyone.

"The true light that **gives light** to every man was coming into the world" (v. 9).

Jesus is the true light, "there is no other source or cause" for Him (Calvin).

Does not stop Christ from shining His light into everyone's lives.

It is the nature of God to shine light (hope) into dark and hopeless situations.

**Jesus calls you**, John 12:35-36 - "Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. The man who walks in the dark does not know where he is going. Put your trust in the light while you have it, so that you may become sons of light."

### John 1:10-14

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and though the world was **made** through him, the world **did not recognize him**. <sup>11</sup>He came to that which was **his own**, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— <sup>13</sup>children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

1. **Jesus is Creator** - "though the world was **made** through him" (v. 10), Architect of the world.

2. **Jesus enters into His Creation** - "He was in the world."

The Creator enters His Creation: graciously, lovingly, with power and strength.

### 3. Rejections of Christ

“though the world was made through him, **the world did not recognize him**” (v. 10).

1. The world did **not recognize** Him (it’s Creator).

- Creation (world and humanity) did not know, understand, perceive, have knowledge of.
- Knowing this, Christ still entered into the world.

2. “His own did **not receive** Him.”

- Jews did not take Him in, join or associate themselves with Him.
- Jews did not accept Christ to be as he professed and withheld from Him their acceptance and obedience; received with the mind.
- Prophesied, “The stone the builder rejected” and Isaiah 52-53.
- Knowing this, Christ still entered in.

### 4. Jesus continues to make Himself known to everyone

“Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, he gave the right to become children of God” (v. 12).

- He is LORD over all, and all who believe in Him, He makes a child of God.
- The road is narrow but open to all nations, languages and continents.
- We must receive and believe in His Name.

#### **PATTERN:**

Jesus as Creator; Jesus enters into His Creation; Jesus is rejected, yet Jesus continues to make Himself known to everyone.

### John 1:14-18

<sup>14</sup>The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. **We have seen his glory**, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’ ” <sup>16</sup>From the fullness of his grace we **have all received** one blessing after another. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father’s side, has made him known.”

### 1. **Jesus enters into His Creation**

#### **a. Logos became flesh**

#### **b. “made His dwelling among us”**

**Dwell** - to put up a tent, to dwell (temporarily) in a tent (tabernacle).

Jesus put up a tent with us, lived among us.

He dwelled with us that we might dwell with Him.

Tent is in reference to the Tabernacle (tent) of the Old Testament.

The Tabernacle was a huge tent that housed God’s glory.

It was in and among the people of Israel and a precursor to the Temple.

#### **c. Glory** “We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only.”

#### **Glory (Shechinah):**

- the visible presence of God among men and women, Light, the presence of God, the weight of importance of God, the radiant power of the Creator appearing in creation (Boice and Barclay).

- The human eye cannot see God’s glory without facing death (Ex. 33:17-23).

- As God's glory settled in the Tabernacle (Ex. 24:16) so He settled in human flesh.
- The radiance of God became visible in the person of Jesus Christ.
- Jesus is the Tabernacle, the Temple in which the glory of God dwells, is revealed (John 2:19-21).

**- Purpose of God revealing His glory is:**

John 2:11 - "He revealed His glory, and his disciples put their faith in Him."  
 When God reveals His glory to you, it is an offer to believe in Him!

**2. Jesus was "not" rejected but received**

"We have seen His glory . . . we have received one blessing after another".

We have seen, touched and heard Jesus; receiving grace and truth, one blessing after another.  
**Some did see and receive Him!**

**Point: I want to be with you**

**1. The nature of God is to make Himself known to you.**

- Three times it's mentioned: light – v. 5, in the world, v. 10, dwelling among us, v. 14.
- God continuously reveals Himself to the world, John 5:17 - "My Father and I are always at work".
- In Scripture we see miracles, seas parted, mountains ablaze, skies lit up with a pillar of fire, enemies scattered and defeated again and again, thousands fed, person after person healed, eternal truth spoken and life given.

What about in your life, think of the times He has shined His light into your life, made Himself known in your world, blessing you and saving you again and again.

**Our response to God making Himself known is either**

- Don't understand, don't recognize or receive Him.

**God does not give up or quit; He is full of grace and truth.**

He continues to shine His light into our lives until the day we die.

He continues to dwell among us.

He continues to reveal His glory.

He wants you to see, receive, and believe even in your darkness.

- Understand, recognize, receive and believe in Him.

**How successful was Jesus?**

- How many followers did He have? What great building or city did He build?
- 12 to 120 followers max.
- At the Cross, 5 people; after the Resurrection one house filled with people.
- Why is this?

**Holy Spirit, John 3:5-8**

"Spirit gives birth to spirit" and "you must be born again".

We absolutely need the Holy Spirit in our lives to recognize, receive and understand who Jesus is and to begin and maintain our relationship with God.

**Trinitarian Work:** the Father loves; the Son atones; and the Spirit awakens, empowers, gifts, character, comforts and teaches.

**The purpose of it all is that we will believe in Him and have life in His name.**

**Believe:**

- Logos, with God, was God, Creator, Sustainer of life.
- This is God's nature: to make Himself known; he comes to you in your darkness.
- He is the light of humanity and the light to salvation.
- He can make you a child of God through belief in Him.
- He is full of grace and truth.
- He offers one blessing after another.
- He is the One and Only Savior and King.

**John's opening verses are written to give us a clear picture of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

This is the Jesus John the gospel writer heard, saw and touched.

This is the Jesus John the Baptist points to and says, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world" (John 1:29).

This is the Jesus for whom the disciples dropped everything, followed, lived and died for.

This is the Jesus John wants you to believe in and find life in.

This is the Jesus that has made you or will make you into a child of God.

This is the Jesus in the rest of this gospel of John.

**John 8:12 "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."**

**He wants you to be with Him.**