



SERIES: September 2022 – February 2023 Believe

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Thursday, September 8, 2022

Scripture: John 1:14-18

TITLE: Look Who Moved In

Are you a better giver or receiver? I suppose it depends on what you're giving or receiving, right? My mother is a giver. She finds great joy in blessing people over and over and over again. She is a cheerful giver.

Well, those who follow Jesus are the recipients of endless gifts. How so? Listen to what John writes in John 1:14-18 (ESV).

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

John begins in verse 13 by saying "the Word" that is Jesus Christ. The divine Word became flesh. Let's pause there. Some cults, apostate churches, and cynics claim that Jesus *became* God or was *a god* or some other variation. But that is not what the Bible says. Jesus Christ has always existed and been in a relationship with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. One God – three persons. And 2,000 years ago, Jesus took on flesh. He remained fully God while taking on human flesh.

And then John says that he "dwelt among us." He set up shop. He moved into the neighborhood. He didn't set up a webcam to be watched. He didn't drive in for a cameo and go back to His hotel. Jesus Christ was born and lived among us. God experienced all we experience. Incredible.

And because of who Jesus Christ is and because of a relationship with him, you can receive grace upon grace. What is grace? A gift. According to Ephesians 1, God's spiritual children are the recipients of every heavenly blessing. God promises to meet His children's needs. Psalm 23:1 reminds us that as His sheep, we will lack nothing. He gives us exactly what we need. And this passage reminds us that he will grace us again and again. This doesn't mean we get anything we want when we want it. But it does mean that God's grace – His gifts continue to flow. And it is first, and best met in His gift of salvation and peace with Him. That gift is also realized in seeing God face to face through Jesus Christ.

Wow.

So here's my challenge for you today: receive and give the grace. We all have above and beyond what we deserve. So how can you receive God's grace and pass it on to someone else?

Allow God's grace upon grace to spill into the life of someone else.

When you receive and give God's grace, we all win the day.