

**The Word Made Flesh**  
John 1:9-14,  
Sunday after Christmas December 28, 2014

Beloved of the Lord.....Sometime during the course of this year, I read a very sad article about a certain man who committed suicide. This was not the famous comedian who passed away this year, but he was a certain figure in the political world. In any case when this man was young, he had fallen into a certain powerful sin. The sin was so shameful that he kept it hidden and secret all his life as he grew up. Once he became a professional and very successful, he was diligent to keep his past life secret. This sin of the past however continually plagued him and his conscience. Eventually this man fell into the same sin again, and then it was publicly discovered so everyone knew what he had done. The shame he felt by the public scrutiny was so unbearable he committed suicide. What troubled me most about this article is that he went to various counsellors and religious people for help, but it doesn't appear anyone told him the Gospel, the forgiveness Jesus had for him by the cross. No matter how terrible his sins were, Jesus with love made those sins His own, and paid the price on the cross so that he would be forgiven. Perhaps if heard this, he never would have committed suicide.

Because of our carnal nature there are certain sins which are very powerful, or they grip a person terribly so. The darkness is so bad a person begins to believe it is not possible to get out of the sin or away from it. How can they be forgiven if they want to continue in it so badly? Moreover the nature of the sin is so shameful the person feels they cannot reveal it to anyone and they keep it secret inside, thereby tormenting their soul. My counsel and advice however to such a person would be this: No matter the power or strength of this sin within you, it is still true Jesus took these sins upon Himself on the cross, and He paid your price. God therefore forgives you of this sin, even all sins. Indeed God through the sacred blood of Christ pardons you of all transgressions, as Jesus said, "Thy sins be forgiven thee, go in peace." Therefore believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved! But please dear friend, do not keep this to yourself due to your sense of shame, but go to a fellow Christian and confess your sins to a fellow Christian who will keep it quiet. In this way you will not bear this burden alone. Such would be my counsel. In any case, when a person keeps and bears the guilt of sin within, it is better to confess this sin to a fellow Christian so the burden is not borne alone. But above all things today let us see that it was Christ Himself who bore our entire burden of sin upon the cross. Jesus did not stay in the heavens, but seeing our pitiful condition Jesus came down from heaven to save us. "The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

Jesus thus in the Bible is spoken of that true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. To this fallen world of sinners, Jesus shines like the sun upon the entire human race. Malachi thus calls Jesus the Sun of Righteousness with healing in His wings. Though we were born in spiritual darkness, captives of Satan and sin from our beginning,

Jesus now comes as the Light of the world, to save us from such darkness. Note also that Jesus is the TRUE Light, and not one of those false lights, those false saviors who cannot save. When we think we can deliver ourselves from the power of sin by our own efforts, or if we believe that by good works we can gain God's favor, we are becoming our own false savior, and thus despising our true Savior, the TRUE Light, Christ.

Continuing on the Bible says of Christ, He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him

not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. Neither the world nor the Jews welcomed Jesus when He came. They didn't recognize Him. Why was that? Of course nobody by sight would be able to recognize Jesus as God, because He looked like all other men. All the pictures we have of Jesus are men's creations or ideas of what He might have looked like. All who knew Jesus of Nazareth personally are now gone, and in heaven or hell. But this passage is speaking of Christ in the sense of spiritual knowledge, faith or lack thereof. It was because of man's sins, his captivity from birth to the devil, no man could recognize Christ. So the Light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. Because of the fall of Adam and Eve into sin, our entire nature has been corrupted by sin. When we are physically born into this world, we come out of our mother's womb with a blindfold covering our eyes. This is why we have so many questions about God, angry thoughts against Him, etc. It is also why we cannot stop sinning or deliver ourselves from sin's power. Yet God on His side knows well what our problem is, and He has the right to be angry with us for our sins. We are the darkness, we are evil, and Jesus alone is the light. But the thing is we can't see Him as Light, until we see our own evil sins.

We shouldn't resent God then for telling us the truth, that we are miserable sinners whom God must condemn for our sins. We have done wickedly in His sight and because of our sins we don't deserve to live. Hebrews 12:29 says "Our God is a consuming fire." If we in our present state were to try to stand before God as we are, we would be consumed like dry twigs in the presences of His holiness. We are Satan's children from birth, not God's children. We would rather live in the darkness of our sins than come to the light. In Mark seven Jesus described our evil this way; "That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man." Which one of us has not defiled our soul by the proud thoughts of our mind? Which one of us has not defiled our soul by the carnal appetites of our mind? Which one of us hasn't struggled with envy when our neighbor was praised but we wanted the praise? Which one of us has not defiled our soul by hateful or unforgiving thoughts toward our neighbor? Aren't their people we dislike and don't want to be around because of the continual anger of our own heart? Shouldn't we confess these sins and no longer deny them? And even if we tried and tried and tried to never have a bad thought toward this person again, do you think we would succeed? All this indicates our evil nature within. So God says of us in the Bible, "There is none that understandeth,

there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.”

Thanks be to God the Bible thus says, The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. While it is true God is just and righteous, and He must therefore because He is just, judge and condemn all sinners to hell, God is also gracious and merciful. It is from this grace and mercy, seeing our fallen condition, God elected and choose to send His only-begotten Son to save us from sin, Jesus Christ, and so the Word was made flesh. The Apostle John here knows well Jesus of Nazareth, because he spent three years with Jesus, hearing His words, and witnesses Jesus’ miracles. John and the other disciples surely “beheld His glory”, especially when Jesus was transfigured before them. But that glory by physical sight still pales in comparison to the glory Jesus has, when we see Him through the cross, as our Lord and Savior from sin. Then His light really shines, the light of our salvation.

Yet if we as men were to be saved from sin, and God’s wrath against sin still be satisfied, Jesus needed to be True Man, of our own flesh and blood, one of us, so He could stand as a Man before God in our place and be punished in our stead. Yet how could one Man atone for the sins of all men? Jesus thus had to be True God ALSO to do the impossible, save all mankind from sin. As Almighty God Jesus thus had no beginning, but was there with the Father and Spirit from eternity into the past, but there was a point in time, the fullness of time, where Jesus added to His divine nature a human nature, for our sake. Hence The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. This is likewise how we sinners behold the glory of Jesus. When the Gospel is preached, so much so that inwardly we realize and come to the understanding that Jesus is God Himself in flesh and blood, come to save me from sin!....that is when we truly behold the glory of Jesus. When we thus see this man Jesus suffering and dying on the cross, we who believe are able to say, this is my Lord, this is my God, who is suffering for my sins, even dying for me to save me from hell and Satan’s power! When Jesus thus offered up His body and soul as a ransom and payment for our sins upon the cross, God the Judge in heaven above, was so moved by that sacrifice, He could no angry no longer. Within Himself He now had peace with all mankind, forgiveness for every sinner, even a precious verdict which still says to all mankind NOT GUILTY. Indeed this is the very truth taught us in Romans 5:8-9 which says, “God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.”

This is why the Bible says as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. But how do we receive Christ as the Bible says? This answer is by faith alone.....to them that believe on His name. Saving faith then is something like the hand which RECEIVES God’s forgiveness, yet we do not reach out that hand and grab it. Rather God takes our hand and places forgiveness in it, and then He closes our fingers around it saying, “This is yours now because I give it to you, through the blood of My Son.” Indeed being given such a wonderful gift, how can we take credit for receiving this gift? Hence we were born not of

blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. Every Christmas when we see presents under the tree with our name on it, we do not open the present and say "This present is mine because I received it!" NO! Every child knows the present was first given to them, and so the gift can only be received, not earned. When we speak then of that faith which justifies us, our justification is to be found only in Christ. It is God that justifieth, but faith alone perceives or realizes this truth. Faith receives what God alone can give.

So again we were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. Though we were dead in trespasses and sin, God called us by the Gospel, and the Holy Ghost performed a resurrection surgery upon us. By taking away our sins, God took our death away. By giving us the forgiveness of sins God gave us spiritual life. Even more than this, God took away from us a stony heart, and He put a new heart within us, a soft heart which was made soft by the love Jesus revealed for us by the cross. How can we live in hatred and anger and fear any longer, when Jesus comes with grace and truth saying, "Son be of good cheer thy sins be forgiven thee." If then dear friend, you are able to think of Jesus and know He is both True God and True Man in one holy person, God manifest in the flesh, then also know and firmly believe God has put away your sins, blotted out your entire record through the blood of His only-begotten Son. No matter the size, strength or number of your sins, you are forgiven of all for Christ's sake, and Jesus truly wants you to know you are forgiven. God is not angry with you any longer, but He gives you full pardon, even life everlasting. And since they are all forgiven by Christ's sake, do not let your forgiven sins vex you. "For God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him." Amen.