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Jesus Christ Is Full of Grace and Truth

First preached in Fall 1730-Spring 1731,
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“And of His fullness have all we received,
and grace for grace.” John 1:16

In the beginning of the chapter this beloved disciple is setting forth the glory of the word that is of Jesus Christ, who is often by this apostle called by this name. He takes notice both of the glory of His person and office, and commends the Person of the word from thence, that it was from a divine person. “He was in the beginning.”

And he commends the glory of His office as a Savior by saying that He was the fountain of life and light, that He was the true light, and that He gives power to as many as receive Him.

In verse 14 he takes notice of that which was peculiarly wonderful concerning this glorious Person, and that was that He was made flesh and dwelt among us, which this apostle declares as what he could testify from what he had seen himself; for he adds “we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of

grace and truth.” He had beheld that glory which was an evidence of His divinity. It was inimitable and unparalleled. It was such a glory as was becoming a divine Person, and suitable for the only begotten of the Father. He appeared full of grace and truth.

John had seen this glory of Christ in His conversation as well as in His instruction, in those gracious words that from time to time proceeded out of His mouth.

Christ was full of grace and truth in His miracles. His miracles showed a divine power; they showed that He was the God of nature in His transfiguration, for, as you may remember, John was one of those three disciples that were admitted to see the glory of Christ’s transfiguration in the mountain. There He appeared in a glory becoming the only begotten of the Father. There He appeared full of grace and truth.

All the moral excellence of any being may be comprehended in these two things, grace and truth. Truth is the excellency of the understanding and grace is the excellency of the will. So in grace and truth light and love are comprehended all the gracious communications from God to the creature. In truth and light are comprehended the proper good and enjoyment of the understanding; in grace and love are comprehended the enjoyment of the will. These