

Hello my dear brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ. I am brother Jim Sullivan of the Boston Ecclesia. My wife, Sis. Cindy and I live in the seacoast town of Marshfield, Massachusetts with our two sons, Bro. Joshua and Luke. I'm overjoyed to be able to talk to you about the subject of grace and truth as it is revealed in the gospel of John. It says in the opening verses of John's gospel that 'the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ'. Grace and truth represent the love of God working in perfect harmony with His righteousness, through His son, to bring about a change both in the mind and the heart of those who are called to be transformed. We will consider, LORD willing, John the Baptist and how he came to know Christ as 'the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world' a remarkable declaration brought about by grace and truth. We'll take a look at the brief but powerful story of Nathanael, who through Christ's use of grace and truth went from asking 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth' to declaring 'Rabbi, thou art the Son of God, thou art the King of Israel'. We'll consider the slow but telling transformation of Nicodemus from a man in total darkness to an openly, faithful servant of Christ at the Lord's cross. We'll also look at the story of the woman of Samaria and how she came to say 'Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?', as well as the events surrounding the 'saving' of the adulterous woman in John 8. We'll also consider the surprising courage and loyalty of the man born blind in John 9 and where those attributes came from. These stories are all revealed to us that we might recognize the harmonious presence of grace and truth in our lives. In our community we can sometimes get caught up in the idea that it's appropriate to lean in one direction or the other when it comes to the grace of God verses the righteousness of God, but there is nothing further from the truth. These two aspects of God's character are not at odds with each other, they are instead in perfect harmony; a harmony that can open the mind and free the heart to fully appreciate all that the Father represents and is represented in his son, His word made flesh.