

Picture Perfect

/Craig Rees

Christmas

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Christmas Stock at Central

DECEMBER 10

PLEASE
SILENCE
YOUR PHONE



MERRY CHRISTMAS





Christmas **STORE**
at Central

DECEMBER 10

PLEASE SILENCE

John 1
pg. 1062

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Jesus doesn't simply tell people what God is like,
He reveals who God is.

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“The true light that gives light to everyone
was coming into the world.”

John 1:9

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φωτίζω phōtizō

“to shine, give or bring light,
to illuminate or enlighten”

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At Christmas, three things are unveiled:

1. Eternity unveiled (vv1-5)
2. Christ unveiled (vv6-8)
3. God unveiled (vv9-14)

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The Word became flesh and made his
dwelling among us.

John 1:14

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σκηνώω skēnoō

“to have one’s tent, dwell,
spread a tabernacle”

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Jesus doesn't simply tell people what God is like, He reveals who God is.

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“Jesus is the ‘true Light’—the original of which every other light is a copy—but the Jews were content with the copies. They had Moses and the Law, the temple and the sacrifices; but they did not comprehend that these ‘lights’ pointed to the true Light who was the fulfillment, the completion, of the Old Testament religion.”

Wiersbe, W. W., *Bible Exposition Commentary*, p. 286

φωτίζω phōtizō

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There's a difference
between showing and
telling!

Showing	Telling
Done with imagery	Done with narration
Allows the reader to infer the plot	Spoon-feeds the story
Allows us to infer our own conclusions	Draws the conclusion for us
Empowers the senses	Empowers the mind

“The prologue to John is not about a message that offers hope, but about The Message that is the only hope. It is not about an idea, but a person.”

Burge, G. M. *John*, p. 64.

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Ephesians 3:7-11

pg. 1175

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“Although I am less than the least of all the Lord’s people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ.”

Ephesians 3:8

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“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people.”

Ephesians 1:18

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“...the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the
glorious Father...”

Ephesians 1:17

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“Although I am less than the least of all the Lord’s people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ.”

Ephesians 3:8

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Jesus doesn't simply tell people what God is like, He reveals who God is.

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“...and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.”

Ephesians 3:9

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φωτίζω phōtizō

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Whereas John the Baptist bore witness to the Christ whose mission it was to unveil God, the apostle Paul bore witness to the plan of God in Christ, thereby unveiling a mystery that God had long kept hidden.

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“His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹ according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Ephesians 3:10-11

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“By her very existence as a new humanity, in which the major division of the first century world has been overcome, the Church reveals God’s secret in action and heralds to the hostile heavenly powers the overcoming of cosmic divisions with their defeat.”

Lincoln, A. T. *Ephesians*, p. 187.

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The presence of the Church as she unites hostile sections of humanity in one body, is picture perfect proof of what the Father accomplished in Jesus. Christmas is a celebration of peace and goodwill to all peoples and a witness to all authorities.

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A kingdom minded people never run from believers who are different from them. They stand tall, lock arms, and lift their heads while Jesus takes their photo and proudly displays it for all the cosmic doubters to see.

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