

**The Last Word:**  
**The Children of Abraham 'In the Bosom of the Father'**  
**(Reflections on September 11 and John 1)"**  
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□ **John 1:16**

- Craig Keener: This phrase “grace for grace” describes “an inexhaustible supply of \_\_\_\_\_.”
- *Desire of Ages*: “The gift of \_\_\_\_\_ reveals the Father’s heart. . . . Having undertaken our redemption, He will spare nothing, however dear. . . . No truth essential to our salvation is withheld, no miracle of mercy is neglected, no divine agency is left unemployed. Favor is heaped upon favor, gift upon gift. The whole \_\_\_\_\_ of heaven is open to those He seeks to save. Having collected the riches of the \_\_\_\_\_, and laid open the resources of infinite power, He gives them all into the hands of Christ, and says, All these are for man. Use these gifts to convince him that there is no love greater than Mine in earth or heaven. His greatest happiness will be found in loving Me.” (57)

□ **John 1:17-18**

- Robert Smith (v 18): “The unique one, himself God, who is at the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, has made God known.” (*Wounded Lord* 13)
- Craig Keener: “in the bosom of the Father” (v 18) describes “absolute \_\_\_\_\_.”
- NIV (v 18): “. . . who is himself God and is in closest \_\_\_\_\_ with the Father.”
- Robert Smith: “John’s gospel is usually heard to be asserting, ‘Jesus is like God.’ That way of thinking assumes that we know in advance who and what God is. But this climactic verse of the prologue declares quite clearly that God is not known. That we might know the unseen and therefore unknown God, the evangelist invites us to draw near to Jesus and contemplate his story. The evangelist reverses ordinary ideas about the relation between God and Jesus. He is not saying, ‘Jesus is like God.’ Instead this verse suggests, ‘\_\_\_\_\_ is like \_\_\_\_\_.’” (14)
- *Steps to Christ*: “None but the Son of God could accomplish our redemption; for only He who was in the bosom of the Father could declare Him. \_\_\_\_\_ who knew the height and depth of the love of God could make it manifest. Nothing less than the infinite sacrifice made by Christ in behalf of fallen man could express the Father’s love to lost humanity.” (14)

□ **And September 11**

- In the parable of the rich man and Lazarus the beggar, Jesus describes heaven with the Jewish idiom, “in the bosom of \_\_\_\_\_” (Luke 16:22, 23).
- All three monotheistic religions on earth today claim \_\_\_\_\_ as their Father (see Luke 16:24).
  - Genesis 16:15—“So Hagar bore Abram a son; and Abram named his son, whom Hagar bore, \_\_\_\_\_.”
    - A baby son preserved by divine \_\_\_\_\_ (God’s visit with Hagar).
    - He was the father of the “children of the \_\_\_\_\_” (Genesis 25:6, 18)—the father of the children of Islam.
  - Genesis 21:3—“And Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him—whom Sarah bore to him—\_\_\_\_\_.”
    - A baby son born by divine \_\_\_\_\_ (God’s visit with Abraham and Sarah).

