Gospel of John

To SEE Him and To FEAST upon Him

PROLOGUE – John 1:1-18

PURPOSE of John's Gospel – John 20:30-31

To lead people to a personal belief in the PERSON of the SON of GOD and so to have LIFE through Him

KEY TERMS

1- "Belief" – 98 times in John
– Calls for faith in action

"Repent" – 0 times; Not used
"Faith" – 0 times; Not used

2- "Life" = Relationship w/ Jesus Christ
– 36 times in John, 7 in Mt, 4 in MK, 6 in Lk
– The MAIN TOPIC of this Gospel ~~but~~ LIFE as found in Him. John 1:4 is the front door KEY as John 20:31 is to the back door.

PERSPECTIVE

John 1:1- Begins in ETERNITY PAST
1:3- Begins in CREATION of Genesis
1:14- Begins about the INCARNATION of Christ

Isa. 40:9-10 – Verses in the O.T. which looked forward to John's Gospel

THE REVELATION 1:1-14 **WHO HE IS**

A.- Before Incarnation (1:1-2)

1- Expression of God - "The WORD"
2- Personal distinction - "WITH GOD" – 17:5- "And now, O Father, glorify Thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was."
3- Deity - "WAS GOD" – His nature was DEITY
– Heb. 1:1-3
– Col. 1:19- "For it pleased the Father that in Him should all fulness dwell."

Col. 2:3 - "In whom are hid all the treasure of wisdom + knowledge."

4 - Pre-Existence
- Co-Equality w/ the Father + Spirit
- Co-Existence w/ the Father + Spirit
- Co-Eternal

B. Creator - (1:3)

1 - Created in 6 literal days - Gen. 1+2
NO EVOLUTION; NO DAY-AGE theory
2 - "It is upon man's attitude toward this opening sentence of the Bible, that is his faith in the whole Scripture is determined." M.R. DeHaan
3 - "ALL things were made by Him."
"without Him was not any thing made that was made."
4 - Rev. 4:11 - "Thou art worthy, O Lord to receive glory + honor, + power: for Thou hast created all things, + for Thy pleasure they are + were created."

HOW GREAT THOU ART

"O Lord, my God, When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power through all the universe displayed.
Then sings my soul, My Savior God to Thee;
How great Thou art, How great Thou art;
Then sings my soul, My Savior God to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art."

C. Light and Life - (1:4-5)

1 - The substance of the Creator + BESTOWER of Life
2 - "DARKNESS" - the world is in both MORAL + SPIRITUAL darkness
3 - DISTINCTION - "Comprehended it not"
- Literally "laid not hold of it"
* SATAN, FALLEN ANGELS, LOST MEN
- 1 Jn. 1:5 - "This then is the message which we have heard of Him, + declare unto you, that God is Light + in Him is no darkness at all."

NB - People in AFRICA in darkness thru IGNORANCE!
People in AMERICA in darkness thru REJECTED LIGHT

4 - THEREFORE;
(a) Argument w/ unsaved does no good - 1 Cor. 2:14
"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

(b) Therefore the need of a TESTIMONY + INVITATION - Ps. 34:8 - "O TASTE + SEE that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in Him." (3)

(c) Jesus Christ is THE LIGHT of the World who gives THE LIFE as a free gift to those who believe on Him.

D. The Witness of John the Baptist (1:6-8)

WITNESS TO THE LIGHT

1 - There was a "SENT MAN"
- Sent from God
- Sent to TESTIFY
- He was named JOHN
- Son of Zacharias + Elizabeth (Lk. 1:5-25, 60)

2 - He came for "A WITNESS"
- Witness to THE LIGHT (1:7)
- PURPOSE - "That all men thru HIM might be saved"
- Disclaimer - "He was not that Light" (1:8)
  - Rather, John was the forerunner + preparer of the way
  - See 1:23 quoting ISA. 40:3
  - Quoted in all 4 Gospels

3 - John's task was only to ATTRACT people to THE LIGHT
+ That is our task also - Acts 1:8 ←
- John 8:12 ←
9:4-5 ←
12:35-36 ←
- Phil. 2:15-16 ←

E. The Word Incarnate (1:9-14)

1 - THE TRUE LIGHT (1:9)
- Superiority over all others
- Revelation to ALL people
- The CREATOR!!
- In the World + is NOT KNOWN

2 - His rejection
- Gentile world was rejecting their Creator
→ - Ps. 19:1-6
→ - Rom. 1:19-20
- Jewish people rejected their Messiah
  * God's CHOSEN PEOPLE since Abraham
  * Recipients of deliverance from Egypt

* Given God's Law by revelation
* Prophets revealed promises of a coming MESSIAH

-BOTH rejected the Redeemer

3- His receptors (1:12)
- Children of God by faith (TEKVOS)
- RECIEVED HIM — Born of God
- "Partakers" of the New Birth (2 Pet. 1:4)
- To bring into being a NEW RACE OF PEOPLE
  * Children of God w/ relationship to God
  * Open to "as many as recieved Him"
- The way into this New Race was open to "them that believe on His Name as SAVIOR (v. 13)
- Westcott - "The new birth is not brought about by descent, by desire, or by human power."
- Not heredity, not natural instinct, not by human volition

4- The INCARNATION (1:14) — "THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH"
- Eternal Deity became united w/ Humanity = THE GOD-MAN
- He "tabernacled" among Israel for 33½ yrs.
  * 1:1-13 - What He WAS
  * 1:14 - What He BECAME
  * He "dwelt among us" AVAILABLE to ALL — Jews, Gentiles
- WHY Did He Come?
  (a) To show God's love for all
  (b) To be the Savior of the World
  (c) To purchase our redemption on the CROSS
- We see His GLORY - At His baptism, At His transfiguration
  The disciples were THERE: EYEWITNESSES!
- Full of grace and truth — (1:14 + 17)
  * He was the MODEL of these
  * SAME DEITY + Humanity w/o sin nature
  - 3 times in this paragraph — 1:14, 17, + 16

"The LOGOS speaks of God's coming when we are, taking our nature upon Himself, entering the world's struggle, + out of this agony winning man's salvation." (Morris, John 117)

- "When they came to this name (the WORD) in the original (Greek text) the readers + Translators substituted some other expression they thought more reverent, such as 'the Holy One' or 'The Name', they said 'THE WORD (Memra)." (Albright, New Horizons in Biblical Research, 48).

E. The Word's Surpassing Excellence: (1:15-18)

1- The Baptizer's Testimony - (1:15)

- "He bare witness:" John's witness to the WORD becomes FLESH
- John occupied the stage center til Jesus appeared - THE FORERUNNER
- Our Lord was John's cousin + was 6 mos. younger than John
- John had been 18 months preaching REPENTANCE + baptizing responders before Jesus came to Jordan to be baptized. In that sense "our Lord came after him" was clearly True
- 15a - SUPERIORITY of Messiah over His Forerunner
- * Difficulty re 1:16-18 whether these are the Baptizer's words or the writer's
- In any case the Baptizer is clear:
  - * He cometh after me
  - * Is preferred before me - EXISTENCE
  - * He was before me - ETERNALITY

2- The Apostle's Testimony: (1:16-18)

- "Of His fullness" πληρωμα
  - * Col. 1:19 - "For it pleased the Father that in Him should all fullness dwell"
  - * Col. 2:9-10 - "For in Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in Him, which is the Head of all principality + power."
- F. B. Meyer: "God longs for us to live full lives + that we may, He has stored all His glorious resources into the →

nature of the Man Christ Jesus, so making them accessible + putting them w/i the reach of the weakest + most sinful of His children." (John, 30)

- "Have all we received" — AORIST
- "Grace for grace" = Grace added to grace
  NEW GRACE exceeds O.T. grace
- Explanation - (1:17)
  * For = Because
  * LAW given by MOSES = WORKS
  * GRACE + TRUTH by Jesus Christ
  * Involves DEVELOPMENT in God's divine plan — Grace + Truth - 1:14, 16, 17

CONTRAST

- "Came by Jesus Christ" - NOW NAMED — SAVIOR/MESSIAH
- 1 Tim. 1:17 - "Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor + glory for ever and ever."

3 - The Summation - (1:18)

- "No man hath seen God at any time"
  * The DIVINE ESSENCE has been veiled
  * Manifestations in O.T. were partial
    - Ex. 33:18-23
    - Not MOSES, ELIJAH or Big 3 Disciples
- "The only-begotten Son — 1:14, 18, 34, 49 μονογενης
  x BOTH "only-begotten" = UNIQUE
  * AND GOD!
  * "Which is in the bosom of the Father" = A TIMELESS RELATIONSHIP
  * "Father" = πατηρ - 120X in John's gospel

- UNIQUELY QUALIFIED
  * His ETERNITY — Prov. 8:22 ff

"Jehovah possessed me in the beginning of his way,
Before his works of old
I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning
Before the earth was...
When he established the heavens, I was there...
Then I was by Him, as a master workman
And I was daily His delight"

* His NATURE
  - "Only-begotten of the Father"
  - God has many sons, but only ONE SON
  - Ps. 2:7 - "Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten Thee."
  - Clear that Jews understood His claim of DEITY, for they charged Him w/ blasphemy — John 8:54-59

* His INTIMACY
  - "In the bosom of the Father"
  - As John was at the Last Supper - Leaned on Jesus' breast indicating close relationship

* His HUMANITY
  - "The WORD was made FLESH"
  - The God-Man
    * Son - 1:18
    * Son of God - 1:34 + 1:49
    * Son of Man - 1:51
    * Phil. 2:5-11

4. - The Declaration: (1:18 c-d)
   * "The Father" is the One Who declared Him
   * Matt. 3:13-17
   * Matt. 17:1-5+6
   * In the Father's Name Jesus came
     - John 4:23
       20:16-17, 21
   * FULL REVALATION — John 1:1-18 is the SEED PLOT for all that is to come in 21 Chapters

So The Prologue is completed

The Historical Narrative follows 1:19-20:31
Then there is an EPILOGUE in Ch. 21

1:19-51 The BEGINNING OF JESUS' MINISTRY

THE MINISTRY John 1:6-8

"YOUR PASTOR---THE MAN AND THE MESSAGE"

1

INTRO: A.-"WHY" Of The Messages?:

1-More than a year of preaching at OKBC
1-More than ½ year as PASTOR
3-Beginning of a moving of God's Spirit thru Wemp's preaching
4-NEEDS -Understand each other
-Appreciate the past -192 Yrs
-Evaluate the present WHERE WE ARE NOW
-Expectations + plans for the FUTURE
5-Series in 1966 on BOOK OF TITUS

"What will be your program" asked in Columbus when I candidated

4-Branch works

B.-"WHAT" of this Messages?:

1-Proper understanding---Facts we face
--Principles of the Word
--Problems ahead
--WHO we are * As Pastor * As People

2-Personal commitments
--To the Lord
--For the future
--In this testimony

3-BUT, we need INFORMATION before, DEDICATION to the tasks.

so... PROP.

Understand the man + the ministry God has for O. K. B. C.

I.-THE MAN---------John 1:6-8:

A.-Introduction:

1-This passage has as its exposition the life & ministry of John the Baptist
2-That is not our purpose now
3-Rather we will use it by way of application

I.- THE MAN'S -HUMAN LIMITATION---"There Arose A Man": John (1:6a)

A.- Man of 1-Like Passions--Preachers are similar to other people
1--Preference for certain areas of the country
** Texas
** Pennsylvania
2--Preference for certain friends Helpful to all Drawn to some
3--Preference for certain methods "Mother, I'd rather do it myself"
4--So--------Preachers are PEOPLE !!

B. MAN of Like Problems
1--Family needs wife children
2--Finances (1963 cash surrender of Life insurance vs. 1969 very adequate care)
3--Auto repairs & car payments

Bus ministry
Christian School
Visitation
Bible Teaching

BOORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®

4 --Gets **tired & discouraged**
5 --**Health** problems ** My background of work since age of 9 when Dad left
** **My hands** shake somewhat
** Dr. Petrie--"Don't we all have some limitations?"
6 --Time for **prayer**
C.- A MAN of 7 --Needs **friends** and **a PASTOR** !! ← David Schmidt, L. E. Thomas, Harold Freeman
Like Potential:
1-Rise to great usefulness
2-Fall to great ruin
3-Settle for mediocrity in between
4-PCR at Spring Branch was very greatly helped by those who "loved me through some of my inadequacies"
5-Ps. 18:35--"Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy right hand hath holden me up, and thy gentleness hath made me great."

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II.- **1**--So....Pastor is **INTENSELY HUMAN**----"There arose **a man**"

THE MAN'S
2-**DIVINE AUTHORIZATION**----"Sent From God". (John 1:6b)

GOD'S MAN !

A-Called of God --No one but God signed his papers !!
--This is his **basis of authority**
--Col. 1:23--"the gospel...whereof I Paul am made a minister"
--Heb. 5:4--"No man taketh this honor unto himself, but he that is called of God."
--Gal. 1:15-16
--1 Tim. 1:11-12
--**No man dare intrude** into the ministry of Jesus Christ unless he is sure of the call of God upon his soul

- Called to serve as the PASTOR-TEACHER in the local ch.

Plan + program of God CENTERS in the local church

B-Trained of God
--**My own preparation** for the ministry
** Ungodly home — No gospel
** Father deserted us
** Learned hard work on the farm
**Business — Safeway / A+P
** College
** Salvation & call & **MY WIFE**
** Seminary training
** **Pastorates** ← Houston, Placentia — Berkeley, Columbus
** Missions executive
** Teaching in Houston Extension & WBBC & SFCBA Sem. + ABC

exposure. Before Salvation

After Salvation

2--NOT PERFECT in wisdom — Appearance of severe
3--BUT **a PRO** at his task ** Not a novice — I take my
** Not a quack trap. SERIOUSLY !
** But a proven expositor & leader

Pastor-Teacher is

4--SHEPHERD of a flock
- ** Leads the sheep
- ** Feeds the sheep
- ** Protects & guards the sheep
- ** Rebukes the sheep
- ** Binds up the sheep
- ** Tenderness toward the sheep
- ** THIS IS THE TASK of the man who is "sent from God"

Think ahead + discern the needs is my need; BUT flexible in attainment

B-Balanced of God

1--Through COUNSELLORS
- ** 1 Kings 12:1-16
- ** Under 40, have counsellors who are over 40
- ** Over 40, have at least 1/2 of counsellors under 40
- ** Discussion with Elders (+ other mature leaders)
- ** Discussion with Elders about use of my time in teaching and Pastoring

"In a multitude of counselors there is wisdom."

2- Through CO-WORKERS
- MANY significant co-laborers
- My WIFE
- Deacons + Trustees
- Church Secy — Margaret Berry
- Leaders of Missionary Groups ← Gladys Campbell, Joyce Block, Nancy Williams
- S.S. Staff
- Awana Workers
- Collegians from A.B.C.
- Song leader/Choir Director — Steve Hopkins
- Musicians
- CONG — Care of godly men + women

3--Without these "balance-adding helpers" no one would be able to accomplish this work

4--Certainly O.K.B.C is not a "ONE MAN MINISTRY"

5--Sincere thanks to every one of these....and OTHERS !!

III.- THE MAN'S B.-EARTHLY MINISTRATION----"The Same Came For A Witness": John 1:7

A-Praying--Col. 1:9-14

List of the Needy

--"In everything by prayer" Phs. 4:6 + Acts 6:4

--This is our POWER together — MOST IMPORTANT

B-Laboring--Col. 1:29--"Whereunto I also labor, striving according to His working, which worketh in me mightily"

--1 Cor. 15:10--"But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."

--Some wonder if the ministry is really WORK ?
- ** Come follow me for a 70-80 hour work wk.
- ** Come share burdens & heartaches

- Hospital rooms
- Funeral homes
- Office for counsel
- Homes
  - Teens
  - Parenting
  - Vocation
  - Job loss
  - Marriage Relations

** No intended slap at any other man's labor pattern & responsibilities is intended (4)

** BUT, The ministry is WORK — Physically + Emotionally DRAINING

Work w/ God's people are a TEAM!

--Labor without sloth

--Where to put energies? ** Spiritual areas??
** Physical areas ??
*** BOTH — Constant series of CHOICES

--Laboring must all be done in the power of the Holy Spirit

C-Suffering 1-Attacks on REPUTATION--Calvary Church (False brethren) Hackelman — Charge of Bad checks

2-Threats on BODY--------Gun pulled on me here at Westbrae in this Sanctuary

3-Spiritual concern for the flock + esp. for unsaved husbands of women

--Gal. 4:19--"My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you"

--Suffering the agony of knowing there is so very much more to be done than is being accomplished

--Gal. 6:17--"From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus."

--2 Cor. 1:8--"For we would not brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life:"

--POEM--

"Pressed out of measure, and pressed to all length,
Pressed so intently, it seems beyond strength,
Pressed in the body, and pressed in the soul,
pressed in the mind, 'till the dark surges roll,
Pressed by foes, and a pressure by friends,
Pressure on pressure, till life nearly ends.

Pressed into knowing no helper but God,
Pressed into loving the staff and the rod,
Pressed into liberty where nothing clings,
Pressed into faith for impossible things,
Pressed into living a life from the Lord,
Pressed into living a Christ-life outpoured."

PAUL

D-Ministering --Acts 28:23--"And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses and out of the prophets, from morning till evening."

JESUS
- PUBLIC CROWDS
- SMALLER GROUPS — S.S. Class — Deacon Training — TEAM
- INDIVIDUALS — Disciples — Counseling

--EXPOUNDING — Teaching from the Scriptures

--TESTIFIED — Giving personal witness

--PERSUADED — Pressed the claims of Christ

--This is the "stuff" of which ministering the Word of God is made

E-TO WHAT RESULT ??--Acts. 28:24--"And some believed the things that were spoken, and some believed not"

--Just that simple.....and DIVISIVE

--Some believe

--Some refuse to believe

--Can't make their decisions, but we can give them the TRUE BASIS for their decisions.

IV.-THE MAN'S HEARTFELT ASPIRATIONS: (This man's)

A.-Faithful People Of OKBC:

1-Some are--On the roll, but not attending
--Attending, but not with regularity
--Saved AND showing it !!

2-Responsibility belongs to THE WHOLE BODY
--Pastor as leader & example
--People as followers
--ALL seeking the spiritual welfare of the needy brethren

3-ASPIRE to see life centered in spiritual values & activities--Present regularly in services
--Growing steadily in grace & knowledge
--Sharing faith constantly so many are saved
--Giving sacrificially to underwrite the ministry
--TRANSFORMED by the reality of Christ in us all

B.-Fruitful Leaders Of OKBC:

1-Biblically **qualified** for their positions

2-**Aspiring** to office so as to serve God and their brethren

3-EXAMPLE that is EXEMPLARY:
--Honorable & godly in life
--Faithful & committed in service
--Growing and reaching out in witness
--Fulfilling their personal & peculiar ministries
--DOING the ministry, as well as DECIDING in meetings

4-**Pattern**--For young men to emulate
--For the unsaved to be drawn to Christ
--For all men to see & respect

5-REPRODUCING--in the lives of others
--**Specific targets** they claim for God
--People they take under their wing & disciple into godliness

6-A CHALLENGE to all who know them

C.-Fulfilled Lives At OKBC:

1-ABUNDANT LIFE--Experienced by Pastor
--Exemplified by leaders
--Experienced by all is Christ's desire

2-What is involved in this **Abundant Life**??
--Genuinely saved & know it
--Joy & peace on inside
--Spirit controlled life
--God-honoring priorities
--Christ-centered homes & families
--Vibrant witness of savation to others
--INVOLVED in the lives of **OTHERS** !!

3-Abundant life is a MAGNET--Draws to Christ
--Draws to Christ's Church
--People want to be a

part of that which is ALIVE
and VIBRANT !!

D.-Future Plans For OKBC: (==Projections For Action:

1-Wilburn--"A vision without action is just a dream."

2-PEOPLE PLANS:
- --Unsaved reached with the gospel (esp. HUSBANDS)
- --Unchurched drawn to OKBC
- --Youthministry
- --Senior Citizens ministry

3-PROGRAM PLANS
- --Awana follow-up for S.S. & Church attendance
- --Discipling of converts
- --Month of Missions--Feb. 1986
- --MARCH TO S.S. IN MARCH
- --Prayer
- --Teen ministries ** Camp at Alpine
  ** Films in gym
  ** Activities
- --Internships
- --Childrens' Church expanded

4-PURCHASE PLANS (==Finances)
- --Gym paid off in 1986
- --Organ purchased soon
- --Hymnals for Sanctuary
- --Staff increases

5-John Foster:
"The regulation of **every man's plan** must really depend on the course of events, which come in an order not to be forseen or prevented. But in accomodating the plans of conduct to the train of events, the difference between two men may be no less than that, in the one instance, the man is subservient to the events, and in the other the events are made subservient to the man."
(On Decisions Of Character"...Quoted P. 180, Turnbull)

6-OUTWORKING OF PLANS:
- --**Live** as if Christ were coming TODAY
- --**Plan** as if Christ will allow 100 yearsof ministry
- --**Work** as if all we'll ever be able to do for Christ must be done THIS WEEK !!

E.-Father Glorified At OKBC:

1-NOT OUR GOAL
- --To build a name for OKBC
- --To build a kingdom for a pastor

2-BUT OUR GOAL
- --To build a testimony which will be a citadel of the faith in the Kanawha Valley
- --With **GOD** getting the **honor** & **glory** from it all

3-Seeking accomplishments in these aspirations which require that **GOD INTERVENE** for them to occur

Anticipating THE MIRACULOUS !!

Not possible to accomplish these spiritual goals by **fleshly means**

4-Jn. 15:8 "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples."

CONCLUSION:

A.-Summary Reminder:

1-Human LIMITATION--------The man
2-Divine AUTHORIZATION----The man called, trained &
3-Earthly MINISTRATION. balanced
** Praying
** Laboring
** Suffering
** Ministering
4-Heartfelt ASPIRATIONS for OKBC
--Faithful people
--Fruitful leaders
--Fulfilled lives
--Future plans
--Father glorified

B.-Spiritual Reaction:

1-**Leadership** by Pastor
Followership by people

2-CONTACT is necessary in order to have IMPACT
--OKBC is the area of MY IMPACT
--Then each of you needs to stake out & emphasize YOUR IMPACT area & persons
--Eph. 4:11-12--"And He gave some apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers: for the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry for the edifying of the body of Christ...."

3-Slogans--General Electric:
"**Progress** is our most important product"
--OKBC
"PEOPLE are our most important product"
--Life verse of some churches is an abbreviatio of Phil. 2:3"LET NOTHING BE DONE"
--Let us respond:
"There is MUCH TO BE DONE, and we will do it for God's glory"

C.-Specific And Personal Responses:

1-**Pastor**--Life & ministry are synonymous terms
2-Officers--Deacons
--Trustees
3-Staff workers--Sunday School
--Awana
--Youth workers
--Others (Treasurer, etc.)
4-WHOLE CONGREGATION is **needed**
--Workers, not shirkers
--Participants, not spectators
5-This is--**God's work**
--Great work
6-Suggestions to you about God's man, lent to you as

your pastor by your heavenly Father
--Love him
--Pray for him
--Support him (financially)
--Work with him
--Forgive him (for he'll fail occasionally)
--FOLLOW HIM for the Lord's sake !!

BOORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®

CONCLUSION:

A.-Summary:

1-Human limitation---each of us has his own
2-Divine authorization--Called of God
3-Earthly ministration---THIS is our sphere of sharing
--Praying
--Laboring
--Suffering
--Ministering
4-This is a short summary of the work of the man of God

B.-Spiritual Output:

1-It takes CONTACT to product IMPACT
2-YOU are the ones whom God has given me upon whom to have my impact
3-Then.....you have your own sphere of influence upon which to have YOUR IMPACT
4-General Electric slogan:
"PROGRESS is our most important product"

5-Christian ministry slogan:
"PEOPLE are our most important product"

C.-Personal Reactions To This Picture:

1-I can't speak for you
2-Hope you'll keep an open mind until we complete the picture in 1 or 2 more messages
3-QUOTE: (Samuel Chadwick--Methodist of Eng.)
"I have loved my job with a passionate and consuming love. I would rather preach than do anything else I know in this world. I have never missed a chance to preach. I would rather preach than eat my dinner, or have a holiday, or anything else the world can offer. I would rather pay to preach than be paid not to preach. It has its price in agony of sweat and tears, and no calling has such joys and heartbreaks, but it is a calling an archangel might covet; and I thank God that of His grace he called me into this ministry.

"Is there any joy like that of saving a soul from death? any thrill like that of opening blind eyes? Any reward like the love of little children, to the second and third generation? Any treasure like the grateful love of hearts healed and comforted? I tell you, it is a glorious privilege to share the travail and the wine of God. I wish I had been a better minister, but there is nothing in God's world or worlds I would rather be."

4-I say....."A M E N" !
5-BUT--"Who is sufficient for these things?"
--2 Cor. 3:5-6
6-SUGGESTIONS TO YOU about God's man:
--Love him
--Support him (finances)
--Pray for him
--Work with him
--Forgive him.....AND ..FOLLOW him

Read John 1:1-14 -Text-John 1:6-13.--THE TRUE LIGHT

INTRO:--A.-"was the Word"--Eternal existence
Deity & Personal distinction
Creatorship & seat of life.

B.-Timeless past, but 1:6 takes place in time of record
ed history, for now we have the ministry of testimon

I.**THE WITNESS (OF THE LIGHT)---1:6-8.

A.-There was a man---

1-was = arose = came into being--contra X-Eternal existence
2-a man---contra X--the creator and not the creature.
3-Name was John---told of his supernatural birth in Lk. 1
4-He was God's MESSENGER***promised in Mal. 3:1

B.-His purpose--God's phonograph in the wilderness---1 record

1-purpose was TESTIMONY
2-The Light was the object of his testimony---testified til
the light came & then got out of the way.
3-Reason for testifying was that men might believe.

C.-His identity

1-not that light--some thought he was Messiah, but he denie
that he was. ILLUS.--The story is told of a little girl who was shivering her way along a main street in one of our great cities. Seeing the beautiful lights of a church bldg. & hearing the music coming from within, she went in & warmed herself as she listened. The preacher's text was, "I am the light of the world." At the close of the service she went to the minister & said, "Did you say you are the light of the world, sir?" The minster replied "No, dear child. Christ is the LIGHT of the WORLD, and I am one of the lights." The little lass looked at him for a moment, and then solemnly said, "Well, sir, I wish you would come down & hang out in our alley, 'cause its awful dark down there!"---John was in the dark alley of religious profession and he was pointing as a light to the LIGHT OF LIFE WHO IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.

2-He was to bear witness to the light---was faithful...

a-1:29---Work
b-1:36---Person } sent his own followers to Jesus 3:28-30
c----FAITHFUL in his testimony. He was not like the case when a motorist was run down by a train at a grade crossing. The old signal man in charge of the crossing had to appear in court. After severe cross-examination he was still unshaken. He said he had waved his lantern frantically, but all to no avail. The following day the superintendent of the line called him into his office. "You did wonderfully well yesterday, Tom," he said, "I was afraid at first you might waver." "No, sir, replidd Tom, "But I was afraid that old lawyer was going to ask me whether or not my lantern was lit." John had "oil in his lamp"

3-John was faithful. He was a voice-- not seen, but HEARD as he turned all attention to Jesus.

II.** THE TRUE LIGHT 1:9 Read other Translation

A.-True = Genuine or Original--not spurious or not derived.

illus.-Light as the sun and not as the moon.
He had the light in Himself, for God is light 1 Jn. 1:5

B.-What the light Does..."coming into the world"--He who made the world condecends to limit Himself and become a part of this world, that He might win us for His own.
2-sheds His light upon every man--
a-shone for the Jews--Mt. 1:21
b-shone for the Gentiles--Isa. 49:6
Equal provision for ALL
Jn. 1:29, 3:16, 2 Cor. 5:19, Heb. 2:9; Lk. 2:

III.*THE REACTION 1:10-13

A.-Rejection
1-The world (equals Mankind)--made by Him, but KNEW HIM NOT****ignorant
2-contrast the material world--Mt. 8:23-27 "What manner of man is this that even the winds & the sea obey him."
2-His OWN---His inheritance--The Jews---John 5:39-40 illus
a-had a relationship to Him
b-had the Scriptures & promises
c-received Him not--would not open their hearts to Him--
Some perhaps did know Him, but wanted something other than what He offered. "And so when John came with his stern ascetisism, you felt he was not one of you. He was in one direction outside your boundary line, and I, as the Friend of Sinners, in the other direction. The axe which he wielded you would have laid to the tree of the Gentile world, not to that of Israel and of sin; the welcome and fellowship which I extended, you would have had to 'the wise', 'the righteous,' and not to sinners. Such was Israel as a whole. Edersheim.

B.-BUT..... Ep.2:14
1-But is a "corner word of Scripture"--2 Kings 5:1/ turns us to a NEW DIRECTION---not the nation, but individuals. Not "the lost sheep of the house of Israel but "as many as"
2-Appropriation---by receiving--Savior is a Person
spontaneous reaction--no works---receive as a gift.
3-power = authority = right----this is no option. When He is received, then it must follow that we enter God's family.
4-What happens??????
a-become the CHILDREN of God----RELATIONSHIP
-not sons---term of maturity--used by Paul-Rom.8:14-17
-how?--by exercising belief in X--take Him at His word
(not a process but an act of God)
b-BORN of God
-it is a supernatural birth--Jn. 3:3, I Jn. 5:1
-not of blood--heredity
" " will of flesh--natural instincts
" " " " man----volition of human father.
BUT, BORN OF GOD.**supernatural power.

CONCL.**1-We have John's witness.
2-We have the LIGHT in Jesus-8:12; 9:5; 12:46
3-Our part is to RECEIVE Jesus X as Savior by believing
4-God's part is to bring new birth uniting you to X
5-You do your part, God will do His.

Believe the facts
Receive the Savior

Read John 1:1-14 Text-Jn. 1:1-5: "In Him Was Life"

Intro: A-Purpose of writing John's Gospel:
Jn. 20:31 1-Believe that Jesus is the Christ or Messiah
2-Believe that Jesus is the Son of God
3-Believing will result in having LIFE THROUGH HIS NAME

B-Orientation--"Beginnings"
1-"In the beginning was the Word"--John--John 1:1
2-"In the beginning God created"--Genesis--John 1:3
3-"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, & our hands have handled of the Word of Life"--I John--John 1:14

I.-THE WORD**THE PERSON OF CHRIST

A.- Designation or name for X to show it is He who is the expression of the Godhead. It is He with whom we have to do. "No man hath seen the Father" Jn. 1:18
1-Adam, 2-Enoch, 3-Noah, 4-Abraham, 5-Isaac, 6-Jacob, 7-Joseph, 8-Moses, 9-Isaiah, etc.

B.-"In the beginning was the Word"---ETERNITY
ILLUS**John 8:58--"Before Abraham was, I am."

C.-"and the Word was with God"--DISTINCT PERSONALITY
distinct from the Father & Spirit in person. One in plan, one in purpose, but different in person.

D.-"and the Word was God." --DEITY
The WORD here is not the BIBLE, but the manifestation of God in flesh in the person of Jesus Christ--"For it please the Father that in Him should all fullness dwell" Col.1:19

II.-THE WORK**CREATION BY CHRIST

A.-All things came into being by creation.
1-Gen 1:1- heavens & earth
2-Gen 1:21- birds & marine life
3-Gen 1:27- human life

B.-Creation was accomplished BY HIM — Col.1:16-17
Creation ascribed in different places to each member of the trinity. Shown here of Christ to prove by His pre-incarnat work that He is God.
-Nothing came into being apart from His creative acts.

III.-THE WONDER**LIFE IMPARTED BY CHRIST TO MAN.

A.-Jesus Christ was the seat of life in the PYSICAL SENSE
1**"For as the Father hath life in Himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in Himself" Jn. 5:26
2-This life was imparted to man in a PHYSICAL SENSE.
"And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." Gen. 2:7

B.-Jesus Christ shines in the World and is the POSTENTIAL light & LIFE of men in the SPIRITUAL SENSE.
1-Christ's light shines in a world of darkness
a-moral darkness--John 8:1-12
b-spiritual darkness-John 8:37-41, 44.
c-physical darkness--He is "Sun of R.", "Daystar"

2-Reaction of man is:

a-lack of realization that only the creator can be the savior

b-rejection of light and choosing of darkness--John 3:19-21

C.-Why the need of the light of life?

1-Man is dead in tresspasses & sins--Eph. 2:1-3

2-Physical life is transitory--Message of Isaiah. "The voice said, "Cry" And He said, "What shall I cry?" "All flesh is grass and the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field: the grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand forever." Iss. 40:6-8

3-Man must, then, be related to HIS CREATOR*GOD

4-ILLUS- What is wrong with a corpse??????

a-education?? d-social position????

b-clothes??? d-NO---A CORPSE NEEDS LIFE

c-money???

5-The unsaved man must have SPIRITUAL LIFE. This is only found IN THE SON.**** illus.--John 6:66-69 -in context

Concl--1- Man's need is LIFE

2- How to get life? --by RELATIONSHIP** illus -birth -Physical/

Must also be by the God who created you & can give life. I John 5:10-13 Read

John 8:12-"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

John 11:25--"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."

John 14:6 quote

3- No other path to eternal life than by the Son. Life is on the basis of RELATIONSHIP*** Believing is the way of relationship--John 20:31--"These things are written, that ye might believe that Jesus us the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing ye might have life through his name."

4-Science may add years to your life, but ONLY CHRIST can add LIFE TO YOUR YEARS.

Jn. 1:1-18

Jesus, The Work Of God

Intro A.- Seeks "Salvation Is A Person"

B.- Examine what the Gospel of Jn. has to say about this Person — With Whom Do We Have To Do?

I. THE WORD IN HIS OWN NATURE 1:1-5

A.- Time + Place
1.- "In the beginning" = "before the world was" of 17:5 — Eternal Existence

2.- With God in Heaven

B.- Equality with God
1.- Eternal Existence
2.- With God
3.- Direct equality stated
) affirmation of eternity, personality + deity of X

C.- Manifestations + Revelations of God
1.- Creation — by Father + thru Christ
2.- Life - Source + Sustainer of it
3.- Light - Divine Truth shining in area of man's moral + spiritual darkness.

D.- ∴ the designation THE WORD
1.- reveals God's person
2.- reveals God's truth
3.- reveals God's ways
) Incarnation

E. This is Jesus Christ — vs. 14

II THE WORD'S REVELATION TO MEN & REJECTION BY THEM. 1:6-13

A.- John's Witness
1.- there arose a man - temporal existence contrasted with v. 1
2.- Also from God
3.- Sent as a ~~witness~~ witness to the truth - fact + person
4.- Specifically points to Jesus
5.- Specifically points away from self

B.- The Light Himself
1.- v. 9 not the universal conscience
"the true light, which lighteth every man, was coming into the world"
- every man - as Ro 1:16
- earth = world
2.- world = earth
those outside the Ch.

C.- Coming + Rejection + Reception
1.- "unto his own" = larger than the Jews. embraces all of inheritance + thus the whole earth of vv. 9+10
2.- "and his own" - restrictive to the Jews - His own people - the world wasn't looking for Him but the Jews should have been + should have been ready to receive
3.- "received him not" - no national acceptance as the Christ

"but"

4.- spontaneous, personal + individual reception

5.- power - declarative + not optional

(a) all have capacity for becoming sons of God

(b) He gives the right or power

6.- sons - should read children

Paul uses legal term of sons. Here it is family term of likeness, "nature", + life resulting from the New Birth

7.- Reception is by laying hold by faith - expresses strongest kind of belief

8.- 3-fold denial of human generation having any thing to do with Regeneration. IT IS OF GOD

III THE INCARNATE WORD'S REVELATION OF THE FATHER 1:14-18

A.- Pre-existent Logos Became Flesh

1.- took on new human nature

Incarnation 2.- new manifestation

3.- dwelt = tabernacled = tented.

This was the house of the Shekinah Glory among men.

B- Jn. the Baptist's witness

C.- v. 16 - Because of His Fulness (πληρωμα) we have all received

a.- "have we all" [Apostle's witness
All who have experienced it.

D.- V. 17 BY = Through

St. Jn. no longer speaks of the Logos = Word; the Logos has become incarnate & is spoken of henceforth by the names which he has borne in history — Jesus Christ

E V. 14 — Summation — to be the visible revelation & interpretation of the Father.

Concl. [A.] This person is himself eternal God

[B] This person has come to earth in human form to make God known to us

[C] This person has received Heaven's witness of truth

[D] Jn. 20:31 — The point is "that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; & that believing ye might have life Through His name

[E] Won't you too receive Him — the Person — and become the child of God.

John 1 — The WORD; His Baptism + Opening Calls to Salvation

Who? Jesus
John the Baptist
John the disciple (un-named)
Andrew
Peter
Philip
Nathanael

What? God made Flesh
John His herald
John His baptizer
Salvation to 5 disciples

When? — Eternity Past — God
Birth ——— Incarnation
26 A.D. — Baptism + Ministry

Where? — Heaven
Jordon
Galilee

Why? — 1:18 — Declare the Father by means of the Son.
— 1:29 — Provide Redemption for man

How? — Teaches much concerning Christ
a.- Deity, Eternity, Incarnation
b.- Titles of X in Ch. 1
— Humility of John the Baptist
— Faithfulness of John the Baptist
— Salvation precedes anything else as a Divine Requirement.

Read John 1:1-14 - Text John 1:14 "God Pitched His Tent"

Intro. A.-In the O. T. men built a TENT for God to dwell in called a Tabernacle. Moses was the ministering prophet, but he pictured a greater Prophet--De. 18:15-19

B.-In the INCARNATION God Tabernacled or dwelled or TENTED amon men in a human body like ours. This was God manifest in the flesh. H ere we have this greater prophet of whom Moses spake.

I.--THE WORD BECAME FLESH

A.-The WORD- -

1-Eternity, Personal distinction, DEITY.

2-The creator

3-The one of whom John witnessed

4-The one rejected by the world as a whole & Israel as a nation 1:10-11

B.-Became-

1-By the miracle of the Virgin Birth, God BECAME what He had not been.

2-There took place the inseparable union; the God-Man

3-Gal. 4:4-"But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his SON, made (born)of a woman, made (born) under the law,"

4-Isa. 9:6 "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given . . ."

5-Rom. 1:3---Humanity
Rom. 1:4---Deity

C.-Flesh--

1-Heb. 2:14, 16, 17--Purpose--Win our freedom from Satan
--Be our High Prist

2-Phs. 2:5-8--Humiliation--To die for our sins.

D.-The Result of Incarnation---THE GOD-MAN

1-True God from Eternity

2-True Man from Birty

3-True God-Man for eternity--I Tim. 2:5 "For there is one Mediatory between God and men, the man Christ Jesus"

II.--AND DWELT AMONG US, ( ) FULL OF GRACE & TRUTH.

A.-Pitched H is tent among ours----33 years. Yet

1-A Man among men--Gospels of Mt., Mk., Lk.---Perfect

2-Knew all temptation & yet had a perfect life--Heb. 4:15
Heb. 2:18

3-Perfect Sacrificial DEATH made the value of the person capable of being ours.

4-ILLUS-A Jewish soldier had been attending services where he heard much of the character & teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ. He went to his Rabbi and said, "Rabbi, the Christians say that Christ has already come, while we claim He is yet to come." "Yes," assented the Rabbi. "Well," asked the young soldier, "When our Christ comes, WHAT WILL HE HAVE ON JESUS CHRIST?"----What could the Rabbi say? What is there to say???

B.-Ministry

1-Word--Taught)---This is the work of God, that ye believe
2-Works--Did on Him whom He hath sent--Jn. 6:29

14:11

"Believe me that I am in the Father, + the Father in me; or else believe me for the very works sake."

When the first missionaries went to Japan, a young Japanese who wanted to learn English was given the Gospel of John to translate into his native tongue. In a short time he became very restless and agitated. At last he burst out with the question, "Who is this man about whom I have been reading, this Jesus??You call him a man, but He must be God."

C.-Full of Grace and Truth--

1-Col. 1:19 "For it pleased the Father that in Him should all fullness dwell." Col. 2:9 "For in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily."

2-Grace without truth would not satisfy the conscience, nor give peace.
Truth without grace would only proclaim our just damnation.

3-Truly the Psalmist was right when he said, "Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him; that glory in our land. Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other in him." Ps. 85:9-10

4-Thinking of this meeting of Grace & truth in Christ I am reminded of the time when Mr. Moody came to the home of some Christians named McCormick who had an 11 yr old son. Moody had left his satchel & umbrella at the home of a neighbor & he asked the boy if he would walk over & get them for him. He was glad to go, but on the way home while carrying the satchel on the end of the umbrella over his shoulder, he stumbled & broke the umbrella. Being greatly disturbed by the accident & feeling so guilty, he didn't know what to do. Finally he thought, "I will tell mother; she can tell Father, & he can tell Mr. M." Crushed with the burden he hurried home to tel mother. She was sympathetic, told father, & he broke the news to Mr. M. "So you broke my umbrella," said Mr. M. in whatseemed a stern voice, "come here a minute." Fearfully the boy went to him. He said "You became frightened & ashamed when you broke the umbrella, didn't you?" "Then you thought, if I can tell mother or dad, THEY can go to Mr. M. & straighten things up. Now that your father has straightened things up you can come to me. Now, son, that is the way it is with all of us; we were sinners--afraid of God. But God has provided a Mediator who is full of Grace & truth--Someone to go between us & Him--and it is Jesus. You must come to God through Jesus. He died for us & is the way to God."

D.-(And we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only-begotten of the Father)

1-Speaks of the time when Peter, James & John saw Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration.

2-Picture of how He will appear in the ages to come--His Glory will not be veiled.

3-DESCRIPTION OF CHRIST*****During the public ministry of Jesus upon the earth, the following description of His person was sent by Publius Lentulus, President of Judea, to the Senate of Rome. It is from a very ancient MSSS. "There lives a man of singular character, whose name is Jesus Christ, in Judea. The barbarians esteem Him as a prophet, but H is own followers adore Him as the immediate offspring of the immortal God. He is endowed with such unparalleled virtue as to call the dead from their graves, and to heal every kind of disease with a word or a touch. This Person is tall and elegantly shaped; His aspect is amiable and reverent; His hair flows into those beautiful shades which no united color can match, falling into graceful curves below His ears, and parting on His head like the head of a Nazarite. His forehead is smooth and large; His cheeks without either spot, save that of a lovely red; His nose is smooth and formed with exquisite symmetry; His beard is thick and of a color suitable to the hair of His head, reaching a little below the chin, and parted in the middle like a fork. He rebukes with majesty, commands with mildness, and invites with the most tender and persuasive language; His whole address, in deed or word being elegantly graceful and characteristic of so exalted a being. No man has ever seen Him laugh, but many have seen Him weep, and so persuasive are His tears that the multitude cannot withhold theirs from joining in sympathy

with His. He is very temperate, modest and wise, and in short, whatever this phenomenon may turn out in the end, He seems at present from His excellent bearing and Divine perfection, in every way surpassing the children of men."

Indeed His bearing and perfection were Divine and in every way surpassing the children of men, for, "THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH AND DWELT AMONG US, FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH.

Concl -1-Jesus Christ was truly God and Man manifest in the flesh.
2-Only He is capable of representing God to Man and Man to God.
3-Won't you accept Him as your Savior, for he came to earth to woo you and died on the cross to win and save you for His own.
4-"But as many as RECEIVED HIM, to them gave he the power to become the sons of God, even to them that BELIEVE ON HIS NAME."

Solo.

Jn 1:12

GOD REVEALED IN JESUS CHRIST

"THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH"

Jn. 1:1-18
1 Jn. 4:9-10

INTRO:

A.-Some Men Say That Christ Is Not God:

1-He was, they admit
The most dedicated of all martyrs,
The most influential of all examples,
The most zealous of all religious leaders
The most profound of all philosophers,
The most effective of all teachers,
The most gifted of all orators,
The most noble,
most sincere,
most compassionate of all men,
But he was just a man.
A GOOD man.....but ONLY a man.

2-They say He was not God!

B.-Poem (Edwin Scroggins)

Should all the world deny my Lord
And skeptics give their doubting nod,
Within my heart the Living Word
Proclaims the truth that Christ is God!

O see the agony of unbelief,
With naught but silent death beneath the sod!
Would those whose hearts cry out in painful grief
Receive new hope in faith that Christ is God!

At Christmas usage, OMIT 3rd stanza

Who is this without the tomb,
With robes of white and eyes of flame?
The joy of God will end your gloom
When I but tell you His name:

C.-He Is:

the Rose of Sharon (S. of Sol. 2:1)
the Lily of they Valley (S. of Sol. 2:1)
the Light of the world (Jn. 9:5)
the Good Shepherd (Jn. 10:11)
the Bread of Life (Jn. 6:48)
the True Vine (Jn. 15:1)
the Great High Priest (Heb. 4:14)
the Only-Begotten of the Father (Jn. 1:14)
the Image of the Invisible God (Col. 1:15)
the Resurrection and the Life (Jn. 11:25)
the Creator of Heaven and Earth (Col. 1:16)
the Way, the Truth, and the Life (Jn. 14:6)
the Head of the Body, the Church (Col. 1:18
the Chief Cornerstone of the Building (Eph. 2:21)
the Firstborn from the Dead (Col. 1:18)

Jn. 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God.

Jn. 1:14 And 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.

Jn. 1:18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him."

D.-Preview:
1-The FACT of God revealed in Jesus Christ
2-The MANNER of God revealed in Jesus Christ
3-The CHARACTER of God revealed in Jesus Christ
4-The LOVE of God revealed in Jesus Christ
PROP → Revelation in Jesus Christ
5-Necessitated because:
--Nature is not enough in its revelation
--Bible anticipates Christ coming in prophecy

I.-THE FACT OF GOD REVEALED IN JESUS CHRIST (1:14):

A.-The NATURE Of The Incarnation--"The Word was made flesh"
1-Who is "The Word"?
2-Jn.1:1-3--He is eternal
Read --He is a person
--He is deity
--He is equal with God— Coexistent
--He is all-powerful — Creator of ALL
3-Inescapable--God became man without ceasing to be God
--Deity took on humanity
--By Virgin Birth acc. to Matt. & Luke
--So we have in this One called "The Word" a
Define Theanthropic person; A GOD-MAN
--Fully God & Fully Man in one person
4-1 Jn. 4:2--"Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jeus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:"
5-2 Jn. 7--"For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist."
6-Not now enter into the NOW of incarnation (Phs. 2:6ff)

B.-The LIFE Of The Incarnation--"and dwelt among us":
1-Figure of speech of a Tent; Tabernacle
2-Jesus Christ "pitched His tent in our midst"
3-They observed Him occupying this temporary dwelling of flesh
4-His life was "AMONG US"
-Christ was not an escetic
-Christ was not a hermit
-Christ was almost always with people
**in homes
**in markets
**in sysnagogues
**in temple
**in streets
**at meals
**in crowds
5-So, His incarnation is amply testified to as "AMONG MEN"

C.-The **WITNESS** Of The Incarnation--"and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father":

1-We--disciples
--Apostles
--multitudes

2-Beheld--"took a good, long, hard look"
--"saw with insight" — Insight from the Father

3-Seen in Mt. 16:13-17 (READ)

4-Those who SAW HIM with eyes of faith were NEVER AGAIN THE SAME as they had previously been

5-The glory of the same essence as that of the Father had been SEEN by them — When? Mt. Of Transfiguration

6-Became glad witnesses of Christ

7-1 Jn. 1:1-3--(READ)

D.-The **CHARACTER** Of The Incarnation--"full of grace & truth":

1-Was He--an impostor?
--a faker?
--a charlatan?

2-Some today say He was

3-But those who saw Him then said: He is "full of grace & truth" — EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY

4-Inward marks of the Son of God
--grace--------revealing a God of LOVE
--truth--------revealing a God of LIGHT
--Never was He "out of character"

5-"We trace His image on each page
In holy letters lined with light:
Redeemer, Prophet, Priest and Sage----
Who finds His presence reads aright."

6-So----The FACT Of God Revealed in Jesus Christ is seen in:
1.The NATURE of the incarnation
2.The LIFE of the incarnation
3.The WITNESS of the incarnation
4.The CHARACTER of the incarnation

7-ILLUS--Dr. H. Clay Trumbull was once interrogated by an exceptionally intelligent student with strong agnostic views, but one who was willing to accept reality. Dr. Trumbull suggested that he study the Gospel of John with the sole purpose of examining in complete fairness its representation of Christian truth.

The young man did so, considering only the internal evidence of the book's genuineness. Later he confessed: "THE ONE OF WHOM THE BOOK TELLS US IS EITHER THE SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD OR HE OUGHT TO BE."

So great was the impact of the truth upon his mind & heart that he was ready to accept the claims of Jesus.

II.-THE MANNER OF GOD REVEALED IN JESUS CHRIST:

A.-Pre-Incarnate Christ:

1-Promised in revelation--Gen. 3:15 — "And I will put enmity between thee & the woman, & between thy seed & her seed: He shall bruise thy head, & thou shalt bruise His heel."
--Gen. 22:18 with Gal. 3:16 — "And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice"
--Isa. 40:5--"And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, & all flesh shall see together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

2-Veiled appearances of the Angel of Jehovah
--Gen. 18:1, 2, 22-----To Abraham at tent in Mamre
--Gen. 32:24, 30-------To Jacob at Peniel
3-Father & Spirit still not seen--Jn. 4:24

Define "Incarnate" = "Dwelling in Flesh"

B.-Incarnate Christ:
1-Christ is the manifester & revealer of the Godhead
--Direct
--Uncomplicated
2-God manifest in the flesh--1 Tim. 3:16
3-Heb. 1:1-2--"God, who at sundry times & in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son..."
--Contrast in times
--Contrast in vehicles of revelation
--Contrast in fullness
--Sublime CULMINATION
4-Heavenly information--Jn. 3:13--"And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but He that came down from heaven, even the Son of Man which is in heaven."
--Origin is GOD in Heaven
--Destination is MAN on earth
5-Walvoord--"When He became incarnate, He became a declaration in human flesh of what God is." (Christology Notes, P. 24)
6-Jn. 1:18--DECLARED=="exegeted", "expounded"
=="To bring out from invisibility to visibili
=="to bring forth authoritatively into visibility what has been latently true of God all the time"
--THUS, Jesus is the EXEGESIS of God
--From the bosom of the Father to the heart of man
7-ILLUS--A Chinese believer was witnessing of Christ to the scholar in her town market place. He heard her courteously & after a little said: "Madam, you speak well, but why do you dwell on Jesus Christ? Let him alone and tell us about God."
Whereat she replied, "What, sir, should we know about God if it were not for Jesus Christ
"HE HATH DECLARED HIM"

C.-Never A Post-Incarnate Christ:
1-Humanity & deity were eternally united
2-Christ died and raised-----IN HIS BODY!
3-There's a man in the glory ——— Permanently!
4-He declared and goes on declaring God!

III.-THE CHARACTER OF GOD REVEALED IN JESUS CHRIST:

A.-God's Essence Seen:
1-Truly God Himself--Jn. 1:1 (note Gk. reflexive)
2-Fully God--Quantitatively
--Qualitatively
--Col. 2:9
--Hypostatic Union

3-Express image--Heb. 1:3--"Who being the brightness of his glory, & the express image of his person, & upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;"
--Perfect & exact reproduction of the ORIGINAL

4-Glory seen in flesh--Jn. 1:14

5-Illus--In the Rospigliosi Palace in Rome is Guido Reni's famous fresco, "THE AURORA," a work unequaled in that period for nobility of line & poetry of color. It was painted on a lofty ceiling.

As you stand on the pavement & look up at it, your neck stiffens, your head grows dizzy, & the figures become hazy & indistinct And so the owner of the palace has placed a broad MIRROR NEAR THE FLOOR In it the picture on the ceiling is reflected & you can sit down before it and study the wonderful work of art in comfort.

Jesus Christ has done precisely that for us when we try to get some notion of God. He is the MIRROR OF DEITY. He is the express image of God's Person. He interprets God to our dull hearts.

In Him God has become visible & intelligible to us.

In Jesus we find that God has come down..... down to our level in order that we may KNOW HIM.

B.-God's Power Seen:
1-Creation ascribed to Christ--Jn. 1:3
2-Nicodemus' witness to Christ's miracles--Jn. 3:2
3-Christ had the power to save
--1 Cor. 1:24--"But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God."
--Heb. 7:25 Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

C.-God's Wisdom Seen:
1-Preview in Proverbs 8
2-Description of Christ in eyes of Believer
--1 Cor. 1:24
--Power to save
--Wisdom that leads to salvation 2 Tim 3:15
3-Witnessed to by officers of the Pharisees
--Sent to trap Christ
--Impressed by Jesus
--Witnessed to His wisdom
--Jn. 7:46--"The officers answered, Never man spake like this man."

D.-God's Life Seen:
1-From His nature--Not created
--But before creation
--Col. 1:15 (GK)--"Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn before every creature:"

LXX
Eyw eimi o ov.

2-Presented in O. T.
--Ex. 3:14--"And God said unto Mises, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you."
--"I AM"=="The self-existent One"
--Basis for Covenant Name, "JEHOVAH"
--Taken from the present tense of Hebrew verb "to be"

3-Claims by Jesus to be "I AM"
--I am the Messiah (Jn. 4:25-26)
--I am the Bread of Life (6:35,41, 48)
--I am the Light of the World (8:12; 9:5)
--I am From Above (8:23)
--I am Before Abraham (8:58)
--I am The Door (10:9)
--I am the Good Shepherd (10:11)
--I am the Resurrection (11:25)
--I am the Life (11:25; 14:6)
--I am the Way (14:6)
--I am the Truth (14:6; 18:37-38)
--I am the King (18:37)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

4-Apostles gave their lives because they believed Him!

* 5-Do you believe Him? ? ? ?

6-Johann von Goethe, German philosopher, poet, & scientist of distinction wrote: "The further the ages advance in cultivation, the more can the Bible be used....I esteem the Gospels to be thoroughly genuine, for there shines forth from them the reflected splendor of a sublimity proceeding from the person of Jesus Christ."

E.-God's Silence Seen:

1-Question is often asked---"Why doesn't God speak in the face of all the tragedies & inhumanities of man to man on this earth?

2-Book written on this--"THE SILENCE OF GOD", by Sir Robert Anderson

3-Thesis is--"What more can God say?"
--Heb. 1:1-2
--Luke 16:27-31 (READ)

4-One HAS RISEN from the dead

5-God expects mankind to listen to Him

6-Let's "Listen" as we see.....

IV.-THE LOVE OF GOD REVEALED IN JESUS CHRIST:

A.-Anticipation:

1-Thru Divine promises
2-In human breasts
3-In desperate needs of mankind
4-In absolute inability of man to rectify his own condition

B.-Manifestation:

1-The Father's sending--Jn. 3:16
2-The Son's willingness--1 Jn. 3:16a--"Hereby perceive we the love of Jesus Christ, because He laid down His life for us:"
3-The Spirit's ministering--Jn. 3:34

C.-Culmination:

1-Not in prophecy
2-Not in birth
3-Not in life, deeds, teachings, miracles & Personal goodness!
4-But in the DEATH of Christ
5-1 Cor. 15:3-4--"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; & that He was buried, & that He

rose again the third day according to the Scriptures."
6-Rom. 5:6-9 (READ)
7-Love of God is DEMONSTRATED by Christ dying for us!

D.-Appropriation:
1-Jn. 1:11-13
2-Salvation is a PERSON
3-Being a Christian is to become a POSSESSOR OF CHRIST
4-ILLUS---Millionaire is a possessor of a million dollars
Christian is a possessor of Jesus Christ
5-Jn. 3:15-18
6-Choice is--clear
--absolute
--up to you
--Jn. 3:36--"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: andhe that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."
--WILL YOU BELIEVE ? ? ?
--Or will you REFUSE TO BELIEVE? ? ?
--You must make a choice
--You ARE making a choice!

CONCLUSION:

A.-God Revealed In Jesus Christ:
1-The FACT--Jn. 1:14

2-The MANNER--Pre-Incarnate
--Incarnate
--Never Post-Incarnate, but forever in heaven

3-The CHARACTER--God's Essence
--God's Power
--God's Wisdom
--God's Life
--God's Silence

4-The LOVE of God.....in that Christ DIED for our sins!

5-Christ is the fulfillment--to recognize man's need
--to provide for man's need
--to satisfy YOUR NEED ! !

B.-God Received In Jesus Christ:
1-ILLUS---A big lump of something--a stone supposedly--lay for centuries in a shallow, limpid brook in North Carolina. People passing that way saw only an UGLY LUMP, and passed on.
A poor man passing one day saw a HEAVY LUMP-- a good thing to hold his door ajar--and he took it home.
A geologist stopped at the poor man's door one day and saw a LUMP OF GOLD--the biggest ever found east of the Rockies
Many folks looked upon Jesus. Some saw a PROPHET and stopped to listen. Some saw only a GALILEAN PEASANT, and turned away. Some saw THE LAMB OF GOD, and looked to Him for cleansing from their sins

There are people today who see in Jesus simply a PERFECT MAN, and they get no more than the example of His life.

Others looking upon Him see THE LAMB OF GOD--the divinely provided sacrifice and Savior

2-When YOU look at Jesus Christ

...What do YOU see? ?!

- God's PERSON revealed
- God's LOVE made known
- God's PROVISION for your every need?

3-He is all of that, for

GOD IS REVEALED IN JESUS CHRIST!.

#4 in a series on GOD REVEALED
1. In Nature — Ps. 19:1-4
2. In Bible — 1 Cor. 2:1-16
3. (Features Of Rev) Jn. 16:1-16
4. In Christ — John 1:1-18

Blessed Be The Name 32

Hymns: Go To The Deeps Of God's Promise 330 Westbrae 3/28/76
The Solid Rock 329 272 106 12/23/73
Tell Me The Story Of Jesus 113 Calvary Columbus 10/12/75
Choir: Verily, Verily Daniels Mission Bapt. Ch. 10/9/77
Solo: Down From His Glory

THE WITNESS OF JOHN — John 1:19-37

INTRO.

A. Setting The Scene:

1 - Bethabara (1:28) — Beyond Jordan to the East
- Place to baptize people
  - Repentance of SIN
  - Readied for MESSIAH to come
  - SYMBOLISM of cleansing

2 - John - Hair + Beard UNCUT
- Haircloth garment
- Full of energy
- 12-18 months of preaching his message of REPENTANCE
- Son of a Levitical Priest
- WORSHIPPING + PREACHING

B. John's Relation to Jesus:

1 - Mother was a cousin of Mary — Lk. 1:36
- Knew Jesus, Mary + Joseph as relatives
- Knew Jesus as "That holy thing" "born to Mary"
- Knew Holy life = BLAMELESS

2 - BUT NOT by family relationship

3 - He saw Jesus + recognized Him, but NOT as SON OF GOD — SAW JESUS 6 weeks earlier as Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be TEMPTED

4 - John was looking for MESSIAH — Messianic expectation was "in the air"

C. Jesus' Entrance:

1 - Returned from temptation in the wilderness

2 - Came to God's Servant for public debut

3 - Jesus presented Himself for baptism. SYMBOL of cleansing

4 - John thought that he himself had more need to be baptized as a sinner than for him to baptize the Lord. JESUS was sinless + had no sin to repent of in God's sight

5 - Jesus resolved it by saying "Thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness."

6 - Probably the CUSTOM was for a repentant person would CONFESS HIS SINS before being immersed. — Jesus probably prayed over ISRAEL's SINS!

I. DAY ONE – Self-Effacement of John! (1:19-28) (2)

A. The Priestly Inquiry: (1:19-28)

1- Priests + Levites sent to have first hand information on John the B, his preaching + his baptizing many in Jordan River
"WHO art thou" – 1:19 He drew CROWDS!
Impossible for religious leaders to ignore JOHN the Baptizer

2- John's answer – 1:20 < Denied personal importance
CONFESSED "I am NOT the Christ."

3- WHAT THEN? – "Art thou Elias?" – Mal. 4:5 – "I AM NOT"
– "Art thou THAT PROPHET – Deut. 18:15
"NO"!
– "WHO ART THOU. ? = What sayest thou of thyself ?

4- ANSWER – 1:23
"Quotation of Isa. 40:3

5- WHY BAPTIZEST THOU THEN? "If thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet?"
1:25 → What do you claim your authority?

B. The Humble Response: (1:26-27)

1- He explains baptizing w/ water – REPENTANCE
2- "He it is" – 1:27
- Points out – NOT "that Light"
  – NOT "the Sun"
  – NOT "the bridegroom"
- Only "A VOICE" – 1:23
  Crying "Prepare a way for Messiah"
- HUMILITY – "I am not worthy"
  to undo Messiah's sandals, 1:27
- As rare as it is fascinating –
  LOWEST possible self-view
- UNFIT to loose Messiah's sandals – NOT WORTHY! 1:28

3- Messiah's way has been PREPARED
- John baptizes w/ water
- Messiah will baptize w Holy Spirit
- AND – "there standeth One among you, whom ye know not."
- Understood because of TRUTH REVEALED to John that day

C. The Blessed Condition of John the B. (3)

1 - Two things that led John to a blessed condition - (a) He knew he had nothing but that heaven's God had provided for him.
- (b) He had seen the Lord + he knew Messiah had come... NOW HERE!

2 - F.B. Meyer: "It is only to those thus humble as little children that God reveals the true character of His Son."

II. DAY TWO - Designation of the Christ: (1:29-34)

NEXT DAY 1:29

A. The Sequence of Events by Jesus:

1 - Jesus arrived at Jordan River & John identified Him.

2 - "BEHOLD" - The long expected One has arrived
- For 6 weary weeks the Baptist has watched + waited for Messiah to appear - NOW PRESENT! NOW PRESENT! NOW PRESENT!

3 - "THE (one + only) LAMB OF GOD" - He must be BEHELD!
- He bore the sins of the WORLD
- Jews' customs is to prove a lamb's purity before it is slain at PASSOVER
- Jesus came directly from 10 times that amount of testing + temptation in the wilderness

B. The Identifocation of Jesus by John:

1 - "This is he" - The Lamb of God - 1:30

2 - Previously "And I knew Him not" 1:31

3 - John has been preaching + baptizing
REASONS: (a) God told him to do this - 1:31 + 33
(b) To make Christ known 1:31
(c) To gather a REMNANT of Israel
(d) For moral preparation of people for their KING

4 - Divine IDENTIFICATION - 1:32-33 / DOVE seen / VOICE heard
John "bare record" 1:32

AND "the same is He which baptizeth with the Holy Spirit" - 1:33

ALSO - 1:34 - "I saw and bare record that this is THE SON OF GOD"

- All 3 of the Synoptic gospels testify to this

5- "And I knew Him not: but He that sent me to baptize with water and the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining upon Him, the same is He which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost." 1:33

6- WHY was Jesus baptized by John - Matt. 3:15

(a) To fulfill all righteousness

(b) To make sure Israel knew their Messiah had come

(c) To be united w/ a believing REMNANT

(d) Ultimately to prepare people for the coming of Messiah

7- "Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world" - 1:29

- The Lamb must be beheld!
  - He bore the sins of the world
  - So that He might be beheld by all the world
  - Rev. 5:12 - "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain"

- 1:35 "And I saw, and bare record that this the Son of God." - CLIMAX of John's testimony

III. - DAY THREE - Disciples and Desertion: (1:35-37)

A. - The Next Day: (1:35)

1- John introduced his disciples to Jesus "Behold the Lamb of God" (1:36) - A CLEAR TESTIMONY!

2- They were "learners" + John has taught them all - he knows

3- AND he introduces these to Jesus

B. The Desertion: (1:37)

1- They heard their mentor testify of Jesus

2- Having heard John, they followed Jesus as their NEXT STEP in honoring God in their lives

3- No selfishness or regret in John's heart

4- His perspective is later recorded - 3:27-30

"John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven. Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him. He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which stand and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled."

Conclusion

A.- F. B. Meyer - "... where the soul has learnt to live in Jesus for him, it's not so hard to die to all these things, because the Lord has become its light and its salvation, the strength of its life and its everlasting joy." (P. 42)

B.- Summary:

1:29 - Work of Christ is presented
1:34 - Person of Christ is testified of
Thereafter John begins to exit the scene
3:30 - "He must increase, but I must decrease."

"BRINGING PEOPLE TO CHRIST"

John 1:29-51
Psalms 126:5-6

INTRO:

A.-The Effect Of One:

1-ILLUS---One day visitors were touring a large manufacturing plant. As they passed thru a research building they noticed a strange sight. A huge steel beam was hanging on a single chain stretching down from the ceiling far above. And against the steel beem one tiny cork was being bounded again and again.

"What do you hope to prove by that?" one of the visitors asked the tour guide?"

"You are looking at an experiment in the superimposition of force," the guide replied. "We believe that the cork will be able to move the beam...IN TIME"

The questioner was amazed. He requested permission to look at the cork and beam during the afternoon.

All through the afternoon the observer watched the great motionless beam. Then, after several hours of waiting, he noticed that the beam was trembling ever so slightly.

An hour later he could see the beam slowly swinging back anf forth. And later still the observer saw the steel beam swinging through the windless air like a great pendulum---MOVED BY THE REPEATED PRESSURE OF A TINY CORK.

2-John the Baptist
Andrew
John
and Philip....did not stop to ask....
"WHAT CAN ONE PERSON DO?"

3-Instead, they did their part bringing individuals to the Father through faith in Jesus Christ--

4-When Andrew brought Peter to Jesus, he did not dream that one day Peter would be the rock-like preacher who would lead the first great evangelistic crusade in the history of Christianity

5-It was because of "LITTLE CORKS" like Philip and Andrew that the world was "turned upside down" for Christ in the first century.

Most of us are like Philip and Andrew------LITTLE CORKS.

But, think what can happen if each of us is as faithful in doing our part to win the world to Christ as those two were.

B.-The Methods Of Many:

1-Preaching
2-Personal Testimony
3-The Call of Christ Himself
4-Word of God
5-Today let's examine these 4 ways of BRINGING PEOPLE TO CHRIST
6-And let's relate ourselves to this task

7-DANIEL WEBSTER--"If we work upon marble, it will perish. If we work upon brass, time will efface it. If we rear temples, they will crumble to dust. But if we work upon immortal souls, and imbue them with just principles, the fear of God, and the love of their fellow men, we engrave on those tablets that which will brighten all eternity."

I.-FOUR WAYS FROM JOHN 1:26-51:

A.-Preaching (1:26-39):

1-Method of preaching
- --Ordained of God
- --1 Cor. 1:21--"For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."
- --Foolish to men
- --Yet EFFECTIVE.....eventually

2-Message preached--1:29
- --No recorded "results" then
- --1:35-36
- --Two responded--1:37
- --Little seed; Mighty fruits
- --Prepared to "FOLLOW JESUS"
- --Not very "Baptistic"--Sent his followers to Another
- --Showed Jesus to be the LAMB OF GOD
- --Sinbearer was pointed out
- --Our Substitute
- --ILLUS---Lamb on Church Spire in Switzerland
  - --HE died in MY place

3-Message followed up
- --Jesus' Question **"What seek ye?"
  - **What have you come for?
- --Their Answer ** "WHERE DWELLEST THOU?"
  - ** Outward question
  - ** Cover for an inward question
  - ** Desired a private interview
- --Jesus' Invitation ** KJV--"Come and see"
  - ** RV---"Come and ye shall see"
  - ** And they did!

4-Message preached by John
5-Message confirmed by contact with Jesus Himself
6-First "WAY" is thru preaching

B.-Personal Testimony (1:40-42):

1-Who were these two?--Andrew is named
- --Probably John also was the other

2-"He first"--Andrew goes to witness
- --Implication is that BOTH sought out their brothers
- --Andrew first got to Peter
- --John also got to James, his brother, with his testimony

3-This man Andrew--Not a man of worldly note
--All we know of him is found in John's gospel
--ALWAYS introducing someone to Jesus
** 6:8-9 A little lad
** 12:20-22 Several inquiring Greeks
--Not a "preacher"
--but a WITNESS
--Without a faithful Andrew, there might not have been a Peter in the Church

4-Man of "ONE MESSAGE"--Went to one "near" to him
--Went to one with whom he'd have a hearing
--Went because he cared
--What better place to begin?
--Told Peter of MESSIAH
--Probably they'd discussed O.T. Promises on various occasions before
--Share the fact that his need had been met
--Invited Peter to believe for himself
--ILLUS--As a passion for souls burned in ROWLAND HILL, the people of Wolten called him a madman. This was his defense: "While I passed along the road yonder, I saw a gravel pit cave in & bury 3 men alive. I hastened to the rescue, & shouted for help until they heard me in town nearly 1 mile away.
No one called me a madman then.
But when I see destruction about to fall on sinners and entomb them in an eternal mass of woe, & I cry aloud, if perchance they may behold their danger & escape, they say I am mad or beside myself. PERHAPS I AM, but, Oh that all God's children might be thus fired with desire to save their fellows."

5-The truth of the PERSONAL TESTIMONY of Andrew was confirmed to Peter by personal contact
--1:42
--Probably no one was more surprised at being called "A ROCK" or "A STONE" than weak, vascillating Peter
--But a personal TESTIMONY brought him to Jesus.

C.-Call Of The Lord Himself (1:43):

1-"Call" to salvation came to Philip
--In city of Bethsaida =="Fisher-town"; a section of Capernaum
--City of Andrew & Peter
--In Galilee
--As a part of the "everyday" activity of life

2-Authoritative "CALL"--from the lips of the Lord Jesus Christ
--To the heart of Philip
--Fully met his need of heart
--Found a new "MASTER"
** Not sin
** Not self
** But Christ
--Invited to "FOLLOW ME"

**Matthew--Called from tax-gathering tabl
--Mt. 9:9--"And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at receipt of custom: & He said unto him, 'FOLLOW ME'."

**Zacchaeus--Called from Sycamore tree perch
--Lk. 19:1-6
**Paul--Called on Damascus Rd
--Acts 9
** No man went after Philip, but Jesus did!
--This is always a CALL OF CHRIST to HIMSELF

D.-Through The Word Of God (1:44-51):
1-General methods--Preached Word
--Personal Testimony
--Not always results immediately, but via a HUMAN INSTRUMENTALITY
--Not solo, but symphony
--To overcome human pride
2-By reading God's Word
--Occasionally one hears stories of those saved thru reading of the Scriptures
--Man who testified once at Scofield Church said this
--Gideon Bibles placed in Hotels, Motels, Hospitals, etc.
--Placing of New Testaments at Petra
3-Case Of Nathaniel
--Witnessed to by Philip
--N.B.--Philip was new as a christian
--But already ACTIVE in testifying
--One of Whom the Scriptures speak
** Christ was Philip's subject
** Nathaniel was an active Bible student
** Moses & Prophets
** De. 18:15, 19--"The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto Him ye shall hearken....And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which He shall speak in my name, I will require it of him
** CHRIST ALONE fulfills Deut. 18, for in Matt.5-7 He shows Himself superior to Moses
** John 5:39--"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."
--"Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?"--Inter-city rivalry between Nazareth & Bethsaida
--"COME AND SEE"--Proper invitation
--Similar to 1:39
--Don't reprove unbelief, but rather invite others to PROVE faith for themselves
--Doubts vanish in Christ's presence
4-Meeting Of Jesus And Nathaniel
--Jesus' evaluation ** 1:47
** "No Jacob" acc. to G.C.Morgan
** An open & transparent-souled man
--PROBABLY reading the Genesis account of Jacob as seen from Christ's allusion to Jacob's ladder--1:51
--Question & Answer--1:48
--CONFESSION ** 1:49
** Immediate response of faith

**Based on knowledge of the teachings of the Word
** "Son of God"
** "King of Israel"

--Commendation **"Thou believest"
** Affirmation; not question in RV
** No question of it

--Promise of GREATER things to come
--1:51
--C.R.Erdman--"To the sincere seeker after truth there comes the promise of enlarged spiritual vision."

II.-YOUR WAY-----(Ps. 126:6): "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

A.-"Goeth Forth":

1-Nothing else will suffice
2-Nothing else will take its place
3-Keep you WARM and ALIVE
4-Guard against fruitless orthodoxy
5-Growth of church depends upon GOING BELIEVERS
--Book of Acts
--Peter
--Stephen
--Philip
--Eunuch
--Barnabas
--Acts 8:1, 4--"And Saul was consenting unto his (Stephen's) death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scatered abroad throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles....Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the Word."

6-Don't get robbed by Satan of your fulfillment of Christ's commission to GO--Mt. 28:19--"Go ye therefore, and disciple all nations..."
--Mk. 16:15--"And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, & preach the gospel to every creature."
--Isa. 6:8--"Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, HERE AM I; SEND ME."

--H. F. Dean tells the storry of one of the greatest soul-winners he has ever known who is a businessman in Philadelphia. He was saved in the great Billy Sunday campaign held in that city many years ago. At the time of his conversion he was a profane, hard-boiled electrical engineer. Today, after a quarter of a century of service for Christ, he is outstanding in his business field and unquestionably has led several thousand persons to the Savior. Dr. Dean says that after seeing this man under many varied circumstances, many times unobserved by this man, that the GREAT SECRET of his success in soul-winning is to be found in the fact that he

has put the business of Christ, and the winning of the lost as the foremost compelling work of his whole life.

--GO NOW
--Be instant in season & out
--Don't wait for the IDEAL situation

B.-"Weeping":

1-In compassion of heart toward the condition of the LOST
--Broken lives
--Broken homes
--Broken hearts
--See them with the eyes of Christ
--"Weep oe'r the erring one"
--Effective soul-winners are ones with compassion
--Lk. 19:41--"And when He was come near, hebeheld the city, and wept over it."
--Mt. 9:36--"But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd."

2-In Prayer--For the Lost
--For their salvation
--Become GOD'S ALLY in soul-work thru prayer
--Break up HARD GROUND of men's hearts thru prayer
--Lk. 8:6--"And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture."

C.-"Bearing Precious Seed"

1-Not all with the same method--Preaching
--Testifying
--Planting the Word

2-But all with "GOOD SEED"
--Lk. 8:11--"Now the parable is this: The seed is the Word of God."
--1 Pet. 1:23--"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth forever."
--Heb. 4:12--"For the Word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, & of the joints & marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."
--USE THE WORD OF GOD

3-You plant it; Let God prosper it

4-Definite correlation--Faithful in GOing
--Faithful in SOWing
--Bearing the precious seed
--Promise to be BRINGing
--2 Cor. 9:6--"He which sowth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth boutifully shall reap also bountifully."
--Life verse of D. L. Moody

D.-"Shall Doubtless Come Again With Rejoicing, Bringing His Sheaves With Him":

1-Wonderful promise

2-Farmer plants more grain than actually comes up, but he goes on sowing in faith

3-Then JOY will be yours--Joy in heaven
--Joy in new convert
--Joy in your heart
--Scarcely able to sleep afterward for the sheer exultation after a soul is saved

4-Get to glory together one day--Grand reunion
--With the Lord
--With loved ones
--With ones we've led to Christ

CONCLUSION:

A.-Resume Of Methods Of Bringing People To Christ:

1-Preaching
2-Personal Testimony
3-Call of the Lord
4-Word of God
5-NONE of these converts were outstanding as the world viewed them
6-1 Cor. 1:26-29-"For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: but God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and base things of the world, and things which are despised hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: THAT NO FLESH SHOULD GLORY IN HIS PRESENCE"
7-BUT with the gospel, these men turned the world upside down

B.-Your Way:

1-Method--May be by preaching
--May be by the Word of God given
--Surely can be by PERSONAL TESTIMONY
2-Ps. 126:6-"He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."
3-ILLUS--Mr. Vassar was waiting for a friend in the lobby of a Boston Hotel. A fashionably dressed lady was sitting across the room. Mr. Vassar went over and said, "EXCUSE ME, MADAM, BUT I FEEL THAT I MUST ASK YOU IF YOU ARE TRUSTING IN JESUS CHRIST." Then followed a conversation which deeply impressed that butterfly of fashion.

A little later when the woman's husband appeared she told him of the strange man and the personal question which he had asked of her.

He replied in anger, "Why did you not tell him it was none of his business?"

"Oh, my dear," she said, "if you had seen the expression on his face and heard the earnestness of voice with which he spoke, you would have thought IT WAS HIS BUSINESS."

And it was his business

AND, it is ours as well

Weathrae 10/17/65—

Hymns — Majestic Sweetness Sits Enthroned
— Bringing In The Sheaves
— Bring Them In

CHOIR — "Seeking The Lost"

"COME AND SEE" John 1:35-51 (1)

INTRO:

A. John The Baptist's Witness:

1- A man sent from God (1:6-8)
- For a WITNESS - 1:7
- "Not the Light" - 1:8

2- The public witness to The Lamb of God (1:15-34)
- Forerunner to "HIM"
- Not Messiah, Elijah or "that Prophet"
- VOICE calling in the wilderness, "MAKE STRAIGHT THE WAY OF THE LORD"

3- Day of display
- "Behold the LAMB OF GOD" which taketh away the sin of the world
- BAPTISM
- DOVE + VOICE -
- Testimony — 1:32-34 — "This is THE SON OF GOD"

B. John The Baptist's Departure

1- Next day John turned his disciples to Jesus — (1:35-36) - "Behold the Lamb of God"
- In light of 1:29 "which taketh away the sin of the world."

2- John + Andrew turned to Jesus
- "FOLLOWED" spontaneously
- Gk indicates a once for all decision!

3- Jesus responded "WHAT SEEK YE?"

4- Their address to Jesus:
- RABBI = Teacher — Address of high honor + respect

Q - "Where dwellest Thou?"
- An innocuous address to start a conversation

5- Jesus' reply • "COME AND SEE"
- Equal to Come along and draw your own opinion.

6- They followed + Continued with Jesus - IMPORTANT TO FOLLOW THROUGH COMMITMENT

I: The Son Of Man Attracting Men:

A: The Name "Son Of Man" (1:51)

1- Literally "The Man"
- Not obviously a reference to MESSIAH
- Jesus' favorite self designation -
- Used 80 times by Jesus
- Stephen the only other to call Him this (Acts 7:56)

2- Dan. 7:13 where a heavenly being is called Son of Man

3- Points to Jesus' heavenly origin

4- IMPLIES redemption of the people of God

B: The Context:

1- Victorious over Satan in Jesus' TEMPTATION
2- Righteousness fulfilled in BAPTISM
3- IDENTIFICATION — By Dove; Emblem of Holy Spirit
— By VOICE from Heaven
4- John B. introduced his followers to Jesus — JOHN + ANDREW
5- Those two heard + followed SPONTANEOUSLY
6- John B. retires from center stage + Jesus becomes the CENTER of attention
7- Question: "Where dwellest thou?"
8- Gracious invitation — "COME AND SEE"
9- John + Andrew came + saw — ONCE + FOR ALL!
Stayed w/ Jesus

C: The Men Who Followed:

1- Inquisitive + responsive
2- Men from lower ranks of society — FISHERMEN
— Common people heard Him gladly
— Publicans + sinners
3- Men of different temperaments
— "Boanerges" = Sons of Thunder" - JAMES + JOHN
— Reflective — Philip, Thomas + Nathanael (also called Bartholomew)
— Practical — Matthew
4- Men attracted — No elaborate process
— "COME AND SEE"
5- F. B. Meyer — "Not the Man through the doctrine, but the doctrine through the Man — JESUS."

D: The Manner Of Attractions:

1- By the PREACHING + DIRECTION of John B (Jn. 1:35-39)
— John + Andrew
— An EYEWITNESS who wrote this Gospel from the beginning was John, — He was THERE!

2- By personal testimony of Andrew (1:40-42) (3)
- Sought out his brother - PETER
- Identified Jesus as Messiah/Anointed/Christ
- Brought Simon son of Jona to meet the Savior
- Jesus addresses him as CEPHAS = A Stone, A Pebble, A detached rock

3- By the Call of the Lord (1:43-44) PHILIP
- "Follow Me"
- Become Jesus' disciple
- From Bethsaida, as were Andrew + Peter
- Listed in all Synoptics, but no more detail given to us except for 1:45-46

4- By the Word of God - 1:45-49 - NATHANAEL
- Shared by Philip to friend
- Opened SCRIPTURES to show the One Who fulfilled the prophecies.
- Asked: Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?"
- Answered: "COME AND SEE"

5- Jesus Christ is GOD's MAGNET put down amidst men to attract them to Himself

II: The Son Of Man Completing Men:

A- The Facts:

1- Whatever anyone needs most, can find it in Jesus.

2- He is all-sufficient for ALL HUMAN NEEDS
the supply of EVERY LACK
- Purity - Jesus is "That Holy Thing" (Lk. 1:35)
- LIFE - Jesus not only provides life, He is Life.
- STRENGTH - He is the strength of our life

3- Jesus is the complement of all who believe on Him.

B- Andrew:

1- Always ranked with Peter, James + John
Sons of THUNDER - Father of these + Andrew

2- Yet Andrew excluded from memorable occasions like the Transfiguration.

3- Andrew brought his brother, Peter, to Christ

4- Found the Messiah

ZEAL! (4)

* Easy to call Jesus this, but it is something else to understand what this meant to their LIVES + VOCATIONS

* Peculiar to 1:41 + 4:25 "The woman saith unto Him, I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: ..."

5- Every time in Scriptures that we see Andrew, he is always bringing someone to Christ

1:41; 6:8-9; 12:20-22 Greeks

6- Known to the Church Fathers as "FIRST CALLED" by Christ. A lad

C- Peter; A Very Important Man: (1:40-42)

1- "Rock Man"

* "Thou art Simon the Son of Jona: Thou shalt be called Peter,"
* Mt. 16:18- "And I say unto thee, that thou art Peter + upon this rock I will build my Church: and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."
* Interpretation is "STONE" or "PEBBLE" or "a detached rock"

2- Liking to gird himself; foremost to speak, to act, to deny; the born leader + spokesman of the rest; ardent in love, but sadly needing stability; attempting to walk on the waves + sinking

3- A strange mixture of strength + weakness, of order + inconstancy — SUCH WERE SOME OF US

4- This was THE CHANGE that would be wrought in Him — By the power of God!

5- Jesus completes Peter and impregnates these men with strength.

D- Philip- Called By The Savior: (1:43-44)

1- Name is Greek; Means "Lover Of Horses"

2- Sought out by Jesus
- Found in Galilee
- Home City of BETHSADA = "House of Fish"

3- NO DETAIL about Philip
- Only "Follow Me"
- Present tense = "Cleave steadfast to Me"

4- Nothing more - An ordinary man
- God has need of these!

5- He spoke of Jesus as the OBJECT OF PROPHECY to Nathanael + others — US!

E.- Nathanael - Won by the WORD (Written + Personal) (5)
- (1:45-49)

1- A man who was brought to Christ from a prejudiced perspective (1:46)

2- Philip's reference is to Deut. 18:15 - "The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee of thy brethren, like unto me; unto Him thou shalt hearken"

3- Philip's invitation - "COME AND SEE" - 1:39 + 1:46
- What worked w/ others captivated Nathanael
- NOTHING ELSE recorded of his background.

4- Jesus' evaluation - 1:47 - An Israelite w/ no guile

5- Nathanael's Question - "WHENCE KNOWEST THOU ME?

6- Remarkable reply + insight - 1:48

7- Immediate reply of Nathanael - "Rabbi, thou art the Son of God: Thou art the King of Israel" 1:49 + 1:38
- Confession of FAITH
- Acknowledgement of Jesus' OMNISCIENCE
  * Teacher
  * Deity
  * Messianic King
  * Cumulatively a confession of FAITH

8- Our Lord's response (1:50-51) shows knowledge of Nathanael's thoughts + intimates that MUCH MORE will follow for him

9- " CONVERSION
ADOPTION
HEIRSHIP
THRONE
GLORY

10- "SON OF MAN"
- Literally "THE MAN"
- Not an obvious reference to Messiah, but to His true HUMANITY
- Jesus' favorite self-designations
  * 80 times in the Gospels
  * Stephen in Acts 7:56 is the only other who used this term in N.T.
- IMPLIES redemption of the people

III.- The Son Of Man Reading + Revealing Men:

A.- Reading Men As We Read A Book:

1- The Holy Spirit is given to Jesus w/o limit - John 3:34

2- Jesus knew what was in every person.
- Heart yearning for LOVE who wrote this Gospel record - JOHN
- Timidity of Andrew
- Burly + impetuous Peter
- Guileless simplicity + purity of Nathanael

B.- He Reads Us Still:

1- He knows our downsitting + our uprising

2- He understands!

3- He is not a High Priest who cannot be touched w/ the feeling of our infirmities

4- The Lord who dwells on HIGH knows all, + loves better than we can imagine.

5- FELLOWSHIP with us by Jesus Christ
ASSOCIATION in God's Church - Brethren
COMMITMENT to obey and serve our Lord Jesus Christ + His Church

6- And YOUR RESPONSE is ...?

Let me urge you to "COME AND SEE" HIM!

Names of Jesus in John Chapter 1

HELP/FIRE/PLEASE/THANKS

1- The Word – 1:1, 14
2- God – 1:1
3- The Light – 1:4, 5, 7, 9
4- The True Light – 1:9
5- The only-begotten of the Father – 1:14.
6- Jesus Christ – 1:17
7- The only-begotten Son – 1:18
8- The Lord – 1:23
9- That Christ (= Messiah, The Anointed) – 1:25, 41
10- The Lamb of God – 1:29, 36
11- Jesus – 1:29, 36, 38, 42, 47, 48, 50
12- He that baptizeth with the Holy Spirit – 1:33
14- Rabbi / Master (= TEACHER) 1:38, 49
13- The Son of God – 1:34, 49
15- The King of Israel – 1:34, 49
16- Son of man – 1:51
17- The Him of whom Moses in the law and the prophets did write – 1:45

Deut. 18: 15-22

Isa. 53

Ex. 12

Lk. 1:31 2:21

Deut 17:14-20

John 20:31

Men's Class – Hilltop Bpt. Ch. – 9/5/10

"OPERATION ANDREW" John 1:35-51 Ps. 126:5-6

INTRO **A.-Why We're Here After Salvation:**

1-Have you ever wondered why we're not taken home immediately after salvation to glory?

2-Reason is 3-fold:

--left to tell others of salvation
--left to grow in grace & knowledge of Christ
--left to be conformed to the image of Christ

3-Deal with the first of these reasons today:

Left to TELL OTHERS

OR BRINGING THEM TO JESUS

To GLORIFY God

B.-Ambassadorship:

1-"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." 2 Cor. 5:20

2-Committed to us on the basis of reconciliation

--def., "thorough change" = turn around
--manward part of salvation
--propitiation is the Godward part of salv.
--redemption is the sinward part of salv.
--Rec. is already provided AT THE CROSS
--Rec. is to be appropriated. — PERSONALLY

3-Ambassador is a SALESMAN of that reconciliation

4-An Ambassador is not allowed to have a private life. His every act is viewed as the act of the One who sent him. He is expected to stand in the place of the One who sent him.

--Representative of a Sovereign
--Residing in a foreign land
--Reaching those to whom he is sent
--Revealing the truth about his "home" country
--Reasoning for a decision in favor of his sovereign

ACTS ON ORDERS

PROP:
- Explain How
- Example of Andrew
- Exhortation - Left to tell others

5-Message---5:21; Reconciliation is accomplished
---5:20; Be YE reconciled!

MAKE IT YOURS!

I.-FOUR WAYS OF BRINGING PEOPLE TO CHRIST:

A.-Preaching And Teaching (1:35-39):

1-Method ordained of God to reach men

2-1 Cor. 1:21--"It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

3-Method used by John the Baptist — John 1:29-34

4-Message shows that Christ was the LAMB OF GOD

--our substitute
--died in our place — Sacrifice

--ILLUS--Lamb on the church spire in Switzerland to remind that when a workman fell while roofing the building, he fell upon a passing flock of sheep. Though a sheep was killed, that broke his fall, and he lived on.....So do we through the sacrificial death of the Lamb of God, who took the punishment & death that was due to us

--2 Cor. 5:21--"For God hath made Him to be sin for us, Who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."

5-Message preached by John the Baptist was confirmed by the personal contact of John & Andrew with the Lord Himself.

B.-Personal Testimony (1:40-42):

1-"He first findeth his own brother Simon" — ANDREW CARED
--first thought is of his brother
--first to get to his brother
--brother is first one he tells, but not the last
--N.T. Method; "each one tell one"
--Begin with those FIRST who are nearest you & with whom you have a hearing
--Family, friends, school chums, working companions, dates, etc.

Andrew's Priority

2-Andrew's message
--told Peter of Messiah; the Holy One of Israel
--Promised Anointed One of the O.T. prophecies
--Centered in the One of whom they had discussed on many previous occasions
--Told Peter of the One who could meet every need
--Gave PERSONAL TESTIMONY of reality

3-The truth of Andrew's personal testimony was confirmed when Peter came to Jesus

4-ILLUS.--One night a skid-row bum was converted in the Pacific Garden Mission in Chicago. He went out and brought in his buddies for subsequent meetings. A few nights later one of these men came forward to be dealt with at the end of the invitation saying, "After what my pal has told me, I want to gang up with this Jesus guy."
.....not very theological language, but reality conveyed to a listening heart thru personal testimony.

5-"He first" indicates that Both men sought + won their brothers to Christ; John testifying to James his brother

C.-Call Of The Lord Himself (1:43):

1-Call of Philip came as a part of everyday activities of life — 1:43
2-This wasn't any extraordinary event or day.
3-Yet Christ met Philip's need
4-Those who are open to the voice of God, ALWAYS have their heart needs fully satisfied
5-Jesus spoke with a voice of authority
6-Philip could do no other than to follow such a Person
7-Philip met the MASTER, and was "captured"
8-Similar experiences--
--Matthew called from tax-gathering table; Mt. 9:9
--Zacchaeus called from Sycamore tree perch; Lk.19
--Paul called on the Road to Damascus; Acts 9
NB 9-The FIRST item is always a call of Christ to HIMSELF + to be SAVED!

D.-Word of God; The Scriptures (1:44-51):

1-Occasionally one hears of someone saved only thru the instrumentality of reading the written Word
--Principle of placing Gideon Bibles
--Met such a man in Dallas once at Scofield Mem. Ch
--Principle behind placing New Testaments in Peru.

Principle of giving out TRACTS

2-More generally it is the case that one person shows another what the Word says - Involvement

3-Christ is the One of whom the Scriptures speak:
--John 5:39--"Ye search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me."

--Lk. 24:27--"And beginning at Moses & all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself."
--Deut. 18:15, 18--"The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto Him ye shall hearken;...I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee; and will put My words in His mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command Him."
+ Heb 3-4
--Christ alone fulfills this
--In Mt. 5-7 He shows Himself superior to Moses
4-Philip found Nathanael & testified that he'd found the One who fulfilled prophecy
5-Nathanael doubts!!
Q → 6-"Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?"?
7-Likely lived in Capernaum, where there was an inter-city rivalry with Nazareth.
8-Doubt vanishes when Nathanael "COMES AND SEES" — It always does!

II. ANDREW — THE MAN WHO PUT FIRST THINGS FIRST!

A. Family Background:
1-Brother of Simon Peter
2-Lived in Bethsaida=="Fishertown" section of Capernaum
3-Fisherman by trade with his whole family
4-Andrew as a person--strong & rugged man PHYSICALLY
--leader, but not assertive
--Not a public speaker — A DO-ER
--But respected by those who knew him
--12 N. T. references to him.
--Not at all SPECTACULAR!

B. Life Of Andrew:
MUCH LIKE US
1-Salvation Experience
--only account is recorded in Jn. 1
--Enjoyed a face-to-face meeting with Jesus
--Saved along with John
--exchanged a teacher (Jn. the Bapt.) for a Savior
2-Sharing:
--First thought; "my brother Simon"
--Cared for his brother
--cared while there was yet time to help
--ILLUS--Bishop Thoburn was one of the [illegible] greatest missionaries, & served over 50 years in India & the Far East. But the world does not know so well that his brother stayed at home & worked & saved to send him thru school & to get him ready for his life work. That brother, like Peter's brother Andrew, did not become famous. He stayed back on the farm & made his brother famous, as Andrew helped Peter, who became the great leader.
(Church of England's)
--Peter became famous & was mightily used of God.
--But Andrew had a part in it
--3 times seen "bringing men to Christ" Always
--Peter — SAVED
--Little lad (Jn. 6:8) w/ a lunch
--Group of Greeks (Jn. 12:22)

3-Service
--Station among the Apostles as "Medium 4" (Mk.13:3)
--That is, he followed immediately after "the Big 3"
--Mt. 10:1-4--called as an Apostle
--Empowered as an apostle
--Acts. 1:13; a man of intercession & cooperation along w/ other Apostles

C.-Lessons From Andrew:
1-Salvation--prepared by one & reaped by another
"Salvation is never SOLO, but SYMPHONY"
--Andrew wasn't then, or ever, a man of note
--"What seek ye?"
**not "Whom"; that was obvious
**"What"--what do you want?
--why are you after Me?
--what is the center of your life
--Andrew's answer
**"Where dwellest thou?"
**let's talk privately!
**not afraid, just shy
**needed to have time to seek, talk out his questions & receive the Lord
--Christ's invitation; "COME & SEE"
--Andrew spent most of the day with Jesus
--came away with the true testimony, "He changed my life completely. He did what no other friend could do."

NB →

2-Sharing
--Could not contain, but HAD to share!
--first thought was of his brother Simon
--brought only 1 message----MESSIAH
--Result:::::"He brought Him to Jesus
:::Peter was saved!!!!!
--ILLUS--Rev. J. Hudson Taylor used to tell the story of a Chinese pastor meeting a young convert & asking him if it were true that he had known the Lord for three months. The reply was, "Yes, it is blessedly true." The Pastor then asked him, "How many have you won to Jesus?"
"Oh," said the convert, "I am only a learner & never possessed a whole N. T. until yesterday."...."Do you use candles in your home?" asked the Pastor....."Yes." ..."Do you expect the candle to begin to shine when it is burned half way down?"...."No, as soon as it is lighted," said the convert.
The young man saw the point and went to work immediately. Within 6 months he had led several to the light. The gospel messenger cannot save anyone, but he can prepare the way for Jesus to come into the heart and do the saving work.
--You may not be much
--But someone you win may be!
**ILLUS---The night the English preacher had a congregation of one little boy on a stormy night. Yet he went on & spoke to that lad.....Named Robert Livingston.

Andrew
--Philip was concerned over relatives
--So was the Rich man in Lk. 16, but here it was "in time"

--record of Andrew is a record of one who was constantly sharing his faith. and caring for people

3-Service

--few of us are of high station; 1 Cor. 1:26-29
--few of us become great or big persons
--Won't all be preachers, missionaries, elders, deacons
--BUT WE MAY ALL WIN THE LOST TO JESUS
--Many "Medium 4" workers & helpers are badly needed
--we're just as fully called as Andrew
apostled or sent as Andrew
empowered as Andrew
united (Acts 1:13) as Andrew

"Lord, lay some soul upon my heart
And love that soul through me
And may I nobly do my part
To win that soul to thee."

III.-OPERATION ANDREW:

A.-Geared To Reach The Lost:

1-Salvation message
2-Prepared counsellors
3-Informed parishoners

Gospel Outreach

B.-Has First Priority:

1-Can't grow into grace
2-Must be born into grace
3-Salvation must come first
4-Must reach this area NOW

Gospel Outreach

C.-Involves Bringing Them To Jesus:

1-From all walks of life
2-From all neighborhoods
3-Of all ages
4-With all needs
5-"Just as they are, without one plea, but that Christ's blood was shed for them."
6-Won't you put yourself out for others? THIS WEEK!
7-Won't you invite someone for each of the 4 special days?
8-Won't you pray for this effort?
9-Won't you invite someone to dinner...& bring them to Church too?

Gospel Outreach

D.-Requires Cooperation---Mark 2:

4 men who carried the sick man to X.

1-ILLUS--Dr. H. A. Ironside told the following story at a Bible Conference: A small Christian sect of an exclusive temperament was holding a convention. Outside the auditorium there was displayed the motto, "JESUS ONLY". A strong wind blew away the first 3 letters. "US ONLY" is too often the spirit shown by believers of too narrow a spirit.

2-Mr. Conviction--believed facts
--believed it was imperative to get him to Jesus
--believed he ought to have a part
--DO YOU?????

Read Mark 2:1-5

3-Mr. Compassion--Had a heart for Christ
--Had a heart for the world
--Had a heart for individuals
--Had a heart for specific individuals
--DO YOU????

4-Mr. Consistency--Knew words were necessary
--Knew words must be authenticated
--Knew a life was essential
--Had that life
--Contributed balance as they "carried"
--Began well and persevered
--DO YOU????

5-Mr. Cooperation--Knew he couldn't do it alone
--Too big a job for one person
--Knew others couldn't do it alone either
--Was willing to do his share
--Carried his load.
--WILL YOU????

6-ILLUS----A commercial traveler, named Rigby was compelled to spend a weekend every quarter in Edinburgh. He always worshipped in Dr. Alexander Whyte's church and always tried to persuade some other visitor to accompany him. On one occasion, having taken a Roman Catholic traveler there who thereby accepted Christ, he called on Dr. Whyte to tell him of the conversion. The Pastor asked his name, & on being told that it was RIGBY, he exclaimed: "Why you are the man I've been looking for for years!" He then went to his study and returned with a bundle of letters from which he read such extracts as these:

"I was spending a weekend in Edinburgh some weeks ago, & a fellow-commercial man named Rigby invited me to accompany him to St. George's Church. The message of that service changed my life."..... and...

"I am a young man, & the other day I came to hear you preach at the invitation of a man called Rigby, and in that service I decided to dedicate my life to Christ."

Dr. Whyte went on to say that 12 of the letters were from young men, of whom 4 had since entered the work of the ministry.

How GOD DOES USE those that reach out to share Christ!

Concl: A-Lessons Today:
1-Christ left us here to tell others of Himself !
2-Ambassadorship is ours
3-Four ways to bring men to Christ
--preaching
--testifying
--call of the Lord
--thru the word of God
4-Example of Andrew---3 mentions in N. T. with any fullness, & always BRINGING SOMEONE TO CHRIST.

= Bringing men to Christ!

B-Operation Andrew:
1-Requires cooperation, consistency, compassion & conviction
2-God will do His part
3-We of the church staff will do our part — So will our Evangelist
4-Will you do yours????

5-ILLUS--Dr. H. C. Mason tells of the man who in prayer meeting prayed earnestly that God would with His finger touch a certain man. Suddenly he stopped his prayer. A brother asked him, "Why did you stop your prayer?".....He replied, "Because God said to me, 'Go, You are my finger.'"....So now I must go and touch that man for God."

6-----Remember....

"Not to the strong is the battle
Not to the swift is the race
Yet, to the true and the faithful
Victory is promised through grace."

Prepared by one;
Reaped by another

7-Ps. 126:5-6:
"They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him"

PRAY

"Lord, lay some soul upon my heart
And love that soul through me
And may I nobly do my part
To win that soul to Thee."

Blessed Be The Name

No One Ever Cared For Me Like Jesus — Solo

Hymns: I Am Praying For You — #195
A Passion For Souls 342
Victory Thru Grace 185
Who Do On The Lord's Side. — #186

Westbrae 12/5/64 11/30/69

OKBC — 12/1/85

Jn. 2:1-11 The Wedding At Cana Radio / Nov. 8 - Colo City

Intro - A.- Time

① Baptism, ② Temptation, ③ John the B.'s witness in 1:36
④ 3 days later after trip from Jordon to Galilee.

B.- Place + Situation

1.- Cana - about 4 miles from Nazareth + Philip's home
2.- No mention of Joseph — likely dead in 17 years since "the Temple incident"
3.- Though guests, there must have been quite an intimacy for Mary to know the situation

I The Marriage Feast

A.- Guests

1.- Jesus + Mary + Disciples - 5 or 6

B.- Problem

1.- Shortage of wine
2.- Discourse between Jesus + Mother — no disrespect
3.- Rebuke - "What have I to do with thee" for "my time is not yet come." — miracles to begin in Jerusalem at passover in about 4 months

C.- Act of Faith + Hope

1.- Mary's blanket command - she did her part + left it at that
2.- Obedient servants filled pots containing 106-162 gallons
3.- Jesus speaks + a miracle of

change in the water takes place. (likely a speeding up process of the natural) — nonetheless a MIRACLE

4.- Miracle manifested - 2:11 "manifested His glory"

D.- Applications

1.- Jesus' blessing on Marriage + Home

2.- Jesus shows love + sympathy in a touchy situation

3.- Jesus rebukes the notion that religion robs life of its happiness + that loyalty to Christ is inconsistent with exhuberant spirits + innocent pleasure.

4.- Not sure of the kind of wine, but likely of a non-intoxicating type though other was sometimes used — Scripture is uniformly against the use of intoxicating drink.

E.- Wrong notions

1.- that the story is the important part

2.- shallow approach + shallow results

3.- Real Key is in 2:11 - READ IT

II THIS BEGINNING OF MIRACLES

A.- Discredits Stories of Childhood miracles

B Time + Situation of Miracle - gives the real significance

1.- not for self in temptation

2.- for others in need.

of Miracles

C.- Purpose — Manifest forth His Glory

1.- Ac. 2:22 — To authenticate God's messenger

"If this man were not of God, he could do nothing."

2.- Jn. 9:33 Seen to be God by fact of the miracle — Positive good accomplished

3.- Disciples have their faith strengthened

3 Stages

a.- faith on basis of testimony of others

b.- larger confidence due to personal contact

c.- more perfect faith resulting from personal experience & observation of the power & works of our Lord

Like the BUD, FLOWER & FULL BLOOM of a rose — faith opens out.

D.- Not as in Counterfeit 2 Th. 2:9

1.- power
2.- signs
3.- lying wonders
} Means

"... whose working is after the working of Satan with all power & signs & lying wonders."

4.- 2 Cor 4:4 Blinding) Result

Concl

Let us not be as one under Satan Jn. 12:40, but accept this Person, the Lord Jesus Christ, whom God has put His stamp of approval upon.

A Miracle At A Wedding Feast - ①

Water To Wine - John 2:1-12

INTRO Public Ministry Begins

A:- The Setting:

1- Place - Cana of Galilee; 4 miles from Nazareth
- Not well known.

2- Marriage endorsed by Jesus presence
- Instituted by God
- One man with one wife for lifetime
- Gen. 2:18 "And the LORD God said, It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him an helpmeet for him."
- Contrast w/ ascetic life of celebacy as R.C. Church for priests
- Approval of marriage

3- People - Mary was there before Jesus came
- No mention of Joseph — 17 years since Temple experience (Lk. 2:41-52)
- Joined by Jesus + disciples for the WEDDING FEAST after the wedding
  - Wedding at parents' home
  - Feast at bridegroom's home.
  - Could last a full week
- Celebration, Food + Fellowship

5- Disciples attended [redacted] - May have contributed to wine shortage

I:- The Situation: (2:3-6)

A:- Problem:

1- Mary sees a pressing need - OUT OF WINE
- This meant more than a disturbing of the feast
- Something of a slur on those who provided for it — NOT FULFILLING duties of hospitality

2- Mary turned to Christ to tell him of need
- IMPLYING a request for Him to act
- She knew WHO HE WAS
  - That the angels had spoken about Jesus before His birth

- She knew that she had conceived Him while yet a VIRGIN
- She knew that His whole manner of life stamped Him as different
- She knew Jesus, in short, was the MESSIAH!

– SAID "They have no wine"
- Implying a request for help
- Mary reposed trust in His resourcefulness
- Said it to Jesus & said no more

– Jesus replied: "WOMAN? WHAT HAVE I TO DO WITH THEE?"
- A divergence between the thoughts of two persons
- "... mine hour is not yet come" Here & at Calvary – RESPECT!
- In all likelyhood Jesus was indicating that it was not yet time for Him to act. He came for a loftier purpose – SALVATION! which is mankind's greatest need
- Mary was slow to recognize this
- Probably an indication that there is now a NEW RELATIONSHIP between them as He enters on public ministry
- The time of Mary's authority over Jesus is OVER – R.C. Ch. asserts the supreme intercession + intervention of Mary; but DENIED by Jesus her

B- Particulars:

1- Button- "The word WINE in the Bible may refer to both unfermented + fermented wine. The Bible, however, is clear in its CONDEMNATION of drunkenness + the use of intoxicants"
- Prov. 20:1
- Prov. 23:31
- Isa. 5:22
- Isa. 55:1
- Numb 18:12

2- "These verses do not praise fermentation of wine, which is the product of aging, but rather the fruit of the vine as it comes direct from the harvest + can be said to bless men, not to destroy him."

- "It is a mistake to assume that fermented wine is the best, or that people in Bible times uniformly drank fermented wine. They were able to preserve the juice unfermented so that a non-intoxicating drink could always be available."

Prov. 20:1 - Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

Prov. 23:31 - Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his color in the cup, when it moveth itself aright.

Isa. 5:22 - Woe to them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink.

Isa. 55:1 - Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Num. 18:12 - All the best of the oil, and all the best of the wine, and of the wheat, the firstfruits of them which they shall offer unto the Lord, them have I given thee.

Rom. 14:20-21

"For meat destroy not the work of God. All things indeed are pure: but it is evil for that man who eateth with offense. It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor anything whereby thy brother stumbleth, or offended, or is made weak."

- John Paton - "It is inconceivable that the Son of God would by a special miraculous act provide wine of a kind which the Old Testament condemned."

3- Mary's words to servants (2:5)
- "Whatsoever He saith unto you, DO IT!"
- Very good instruction for THEM and also for US

** John 3:3, 5, 7 — "YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN!"

4- Jesus reactions
- 2:6+7 - "Fill the 6 waterpots of stone" Storage jars for water of purification to wash hands + feet
- Water to the brim of 6 jars; 106-160 gallons of water to fill them. 20-30 Gallons each
- 2:8 "Draw out now + bear to the governor of the feast."
- MIRACLE of CREATION by the Creator
  - * NOT a speeding up of the natural process - No grapes involved. No sun, No time had to pass.
  - * Miracle of omnipotence — Water went in + Wine came out!
  - * 2:11 - "This beginning of miracles..."
  - * Done in a twinkling of an eye
  - * Over 400 years since Jews had beheld a miracle!
    - O.T. miracles related to judgement
    - N.T. miracles were for blessing + the glory of God

5- Reaction of the Master of Ceremonies 2:9-10
- He + others were impressed but not that they were DRUNK
- GOOD wine usually served at first, but this wine served was better that previously

• What God created was "VERY GOOD"!
• Ordinarily the better wine was served at the beginning of the marriage celebrations. Then, when all were satisfied, the cheaper wine was passed around. The governor did not say that any of the guests were drunk. The cause for his amazement was that such excellent wine was being served after the feast had progressed for some time.

6- Called attention of the bridegroom — 2:9-10
• Governor tasted + consulted — GOOD WINE
• Parallel in New England where CIDER covers both sweet cider + hard cider
• Oivos without qualification can, then in the N.T. easily mean unfermented wine.
• Dictionary of Religious Knowledge (P. 973)
" Fermented wine was the least common (in biblical times) and the percentage of alcohol was small. New wines were wholly without alcohol + were easily preserved in this condition for several months."

7- WCTU pamphlet (1944)
" Could the Creator when He came in the flesh have done differently? Would He have made a destructive drink? There are two instances of His creative activity in His human life — when He created wine at Cana and when He created bread in feeding the multitudes. Did He create moldy bread? Did He create rotten fish? Did He create fermented wine? It is unbelievable!

8- ONE WAY to avoid drunkenness is ABSTINENCE
• Rom. 14:20-21 — On extra sheet
" 1 Cor. 10:31 — "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God"

II:- The Sequal: (2:11-12)

A:- The Miracle:

1- Jesus did not use miraculous powers to meet needs during TEMPTATION in the wilderness, BUT for others in need.
2- Gracious provision to meet the needs of the married couple + family
3:- R.C. Ch. teaches that Jesus performed miracles in childhood years, BUT Scriptures are clear - 2:11 - "beginning of miracles"
4- AUTHENTICATION of WHO JESUS IS + able to do - CREATION
- Proof by miracles only God can do!
- John 9:33 - "If this man were not of God, he could do nothing."
- John's word for miracles was σημεῖα = SIGNS, which Pentecost said "this word implies that the miracle is an indication of some power or meaning behind it to which the miracle is secondary in importance"
- The miracles revealed conditions in the Kingdom over which Messiah will rule.
  * No sickness
  * No disease
  * No death
  * No want
- Jesus Christ will rule over ALL!

B:- The Two Results of The Miracle:

1- The essential glory that belongs to Jesus Christ as the Son of God was revealed at that wedding feast
- Glory to God
- See John 1:14 "And the Word was made flesh + dwelt among us, (+ we beheld His glory, the glory as of

the only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth"

- Jesus is the LOGOS (WORD) who was w/ GOD, and was GOD ! (6)
- Testimony to 5 new DISCIPLES

John 2:11

2- The Disciples put their faith in Jesus
+ Strong impression + effect on them
- Testimony of John the Baptist
- Call by a brother and a friend
- Beginning of a STEEP LEARNING CURVE as they develop + are being perfected

+ EYEWITNESSES to a Miracle
+ BELIEF; Transference of TRUST from SELF to ANOTHER; The Savior
+ Because Jesus was worthy to be believed

3- Next Stop — John 2:12 - Capernaum
- Jesus' headquarters in Galilee
- A city of some importance
- Near where He called several of His Disciples
- Northwest coast of Sea of Galilee
- Place he remained to spend time w/ His first 5 Disciples.

CONCLUSION:

A.- Applications:

1> Jesus' blessing on marriage — GOD's WAY — One MAN with One WOMAN 'til death parts them

2- Jesus showing love & sympathy in a touchy situation of NEED

3- NOT able to prove whether wine was alcoholic or not, BUT

✓ Scripture is universal + uniformly against use of intoxicating drink

✗ Lack of consonance of alcohol w/ Christ's character

B. A Miracle At A Wedding:

1- Ryle: "To attend a marriage feast, and cleanse the Temple (2:13-22) from being profaned were among the first acts of our Lord's ministry at His first coming. To purify the whole visible Church + hold a marriage supper will be among His acts, when He again comes to the earth." (Morris, 126)

3- Mary's words to servants — (2:5) (3)

• "Whatsoever He saith unto you, DO IT"

WHEN JESUS WENT PUBLIC: ①

John 2:13-25

INTRO:

A.- John's Record Till Here:

1- The Prologue - THE WORD - (1:1-18)
2- The Beginning of Jesus' Ministry (1:18-51)
   a- The witness of John the Baptist (1:19-34)
   b- The first disciples (1:35-51)
3- The Signs of Jesus Christ (2:1 - 12:50)
   a- Water to Wine (2:1-12)
   b- Today's study

B.- Cleansing The Temple: (2:13-25)

1- WHAT Jesus did (2:13-17)
2- HOW Jesus + Jews interacted (2:18-22)
3- WHY John recorded this (2:23-25)
4- Prop: Believers today need to learn from God's Word the WHAT, the HOW + the WHY of Jesus going public by cleansing the Jewish Temple.

I.- WHAT JESUS DID: (2:13-17)

A.- The Time: (2:13)

1- The Jewish Passover
   - Observance every year of Israel's deliverance from Egypt 1445 B.C.
   - All Jewish males to come for it
2- Jesus' observances of Passover
   - Recorded at age 12 in Luke 2:41-52 w/ parents
   - John records 3 Passovers w/ Jesus present (2:13+23) (6:4) + (11:55; 12:1; 13:1; 18:28,39; 19:14) plus 5:1 (?)
   - MESSIANIC significance in light of
     * EX. 12:3-5
     * John 1:29, 36
     * Isa. 53
3- The way John explains this is to inform a wider audience of GENTILES not knowledgeable of Jewish worship + history

B.-The Place: (2:14)

1- Up to Jerusalem – Dwelling of God for Jew's worship

2- Tabernacle + now Temple – Perverted by money changers

3- Sacrifices:
- Oxen - Thanksgiving
- Sheep - Passover sacrifice
- Doves - Poor people's offerings

Allowed by High Priest

4- Money changers
- Heathen money unacceptable; ONLY JEWISH CURRENCY - Changed + melted
- Convenience of worshippers to buy animals for sacrifice
- ENRICHMENT of priests - A monopoly
  - Exorbanant prices
- ANNUAL TAX of a half shekle of silver for every adult Jew

5- John's description is more graphic than Synoptics

C.-The Occasion: (2:15-17)

1- A startling act! "He drove them out"
- First great public act by Jesus – A fitting beginning of His ministry

2- Small cords - An improvised WHIP
- Herded animals out of sacred area
- Assailed money changers
- Probably did not put them out of business permanently

3- INDIGNATION of Jesus
- Evidance of Christ's authority
- " of IMMORALITY of this perversion
- Morris - "It was surely the blazing anger of the selfless Christ rather than His weapon that cleared the Temple court."
- Fairbairn - "The conflict of the ideal + the real could not have been more strongly + therefore more fitly expressed."

4- "STOP CORRUPTING My Father's House"
- A house of merchandise instead of Prayer + Worship (2:16)
- WHY ANGRY?
  * LK. 2:49 - "How is it that ye sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?"
  * The people had made God's House "their own" + ceased to think of it as HOLY GROUND!
- "MY FATHER" - Jesus uses this term 27x in John's Gospel
  - MOTIVE - Reverence for "My Father's House"
  - A clear claim to DEITY!
  - Jealousy for the honor of God's House

5- ZEAL
- Remembered LATER by disciples
- Ps. 69:9 - "For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up: and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me."
- Response to the evidence of righteousness that belongs to God
- Not merely the act of a reformer, but a SIGN of Messiah's presence, but they interpreted Christ's actions as a demonstration of MESSIANIC AUTHORITY
- "It was written" = It stands written, and.... IT IS TRUE!

II. HOW JESUS + JEWS INTERACTED: (2:18-22)

A. The Jews Questioned Jesus: (2:18

1- "What Sign?"
- None questioned that the Temple had been perverted
- None questioned that tradition was being followed instead of LAW

- None questioned the greed of money changers
- None questioned what Jesus did, but questioned HIS AUTHORITY to do what He did
- What authority do you have?
- What miraculous SIGN do you show us?

2- Jews were seekers after SIGNS - 1 Cor. 1:22
Jews expected Messiah to perform miracles when the messianic age would begin — TO AUTHENTICATE WHO HE IS!

3- Rulers recognized the startling challenge in what Jesus had done in cleansing God's Temple

B. - Jesus Answered: (2:19)

1- BUT His answer was not easily understood
- First sign of His public ministry
- LAST sign of His public ministry

Jesus spoke of "THIS TEMPLE"

2- Vincent - "DESTROY THIS TEMPLE - This points to the literal Temple, which was truly a Temple as it is the abode of God, but Jesus referred to His own person as the holy dwelling place of God Who was in Christ: 1 Cor. 3:16 & 17.
"Christ's death was therefore the pulling down of the temple, & His resurrection its rebuilding"

C. - The Jews Reacted: (2:20)

1- Incredulity by listeners - "Wilt THOU rear it up in 3 days
- 46 years in building it
- Not completed for 36 more years
- "THOU" was emphatic; A mocking question!

2- Jesus' words in Mt 12:6 - "But I say unto you, that in this place is one greater than the Temple." - WHY is Jesus greater than the Temple?

3- Answer: Because God's presence is more manifest in HIM than in the physical Temple.

D- Jesus' Enigmatic Response: (2:21)

1- "But He spake of the temple of His body."

2- NOT UNDERSTOOD at that time

3- ACTUALLY His reference is to Christ's body being resurrected, not a reference to the Church, the Body of Christ

III: WHY JOHN RECORDED THIS: (2:22-25)

A- Explanation: (2:22)

1- Not understood THEN by anyone
- Not by the Jews.
- Not by the disciples

2- After Jesus' death + resurrection they REMEMBERED that Jesus had said this AND "they believed the Scriptures and the word which Jesus had said."

* 3- John 14:26 - "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

4- Incidentally the pattern we see in these verses, a saying of Jesus, a complete misunderstanding and an explanation, recurs in this gospel (3:3ff; 4:10ff, 33ff; 6:41ff, 51ff; 11:11ff; 14:7ff.) (Morris)

B- Interpretation: (2:23)

1- Public presentation to the people of Jerusalem which a FEAST OF DELIVERANCE
- God's Passover Lamb was there!
- Feast of Unleavened Bread followed Passover for 7 days

2- They "saw the miracles" — PLURAL miracles
- CAUSE → — MIRACLES
- EFFECT - "many believed in His name."

C. - Clarification: (2:24-25) — Read these

1- Jesus did not commit Himself to them
- Knew what was in men
- OMNISCIENCE as also 1:48

2- And INDEPENDENCE —
- He did not trust His person to them BECAUSE of His knowing
- Peter said to the risen Christ, "Thou knowest all things" John 21:17

3- Jesus looked for genuine conversion, not enthusiasm for the spectacular
He did not need that any should testify of Him — GOD KNOWS ALL, and what is in man

4- John 2:23-25 is the after-the-time commentary by John the Apostle when he wrote this Gospel

CONCLUSION:

A. Summary:

1- Jesus' first public activity was performing a cleansing of the Temple which condemned the existing Jewish worship,

2- The act of cleansing the Temple was a SIGN of the destruction of the old order of worship by Jews under the Law of Moses.

3- Between the OLD order of the Temple and the NEW order of the Church is "the work" — the ministry of Christ, His death + resurrection which made possible the inauguration and life of the NEW TEMPLE, the Church ensured by the SIGN of RESURRECTION of Messiah, Jesus

THE NEW BIRTH
John 3:1-15

INTRO:

A.- The Connection With John 2:

1- 2:24-25 — "Man" known by Jesus
— "Man" an open book to Jesus

2- John 3 begins "There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus..."

3- Connection reminds the reader that Jesus is prepared to meet and interact with ANY MAN!

B.- The Coming To Jesus: (3:1-2)

1- WHO came?
- Nicodemus means "Conqueror of people"
- "Rabbi" = Teacher or Master
(An honorable role in Israel)
- A professional student
- "Ruler of the Jews" = Sanhedrin member
  - High Priest plus 70 Jewish men
  - 24 Priests + Elders + Scribes
  - Legislative and judicial leaders to make and enforce laws covering Jews worldwide
  - Both PHARISEES + SADDUCEES are members — A MIXED GROUP

2- HOW He came?
- Alone + at night
- With questions because of John's baptism + Jesus' miracles/SIGNS

3- WHY he came
- Not stated
- "We know" - An official inquiry by Nic. for Sanhedrin — OFFICIAL INQUIRY
- Work of miracles by Jesus
  - * Water to wine at Wedding Banquet
  - * Cleansing of the Temple at PASSOVER
  - * Jn. 2:23 speaks of PLURAL miracles

- "We know thou art a teacher come from GOD" — Emphasis on GOD!
- NO RECOGNITION that Jesus is the promised Messiah
- He knew this one had to exhibit RIGHEOUSNESS — Ps. 24:3-4

I. THE MEETING — Nicodemus with Jesus: 3:1-9

A. Nicodemus' Compliments: (3:2-3)

1. Courteous address
2. "No man can do these miracles that thou doest except God be with him."
3. Nothing of hostility in his words
4. Reference to miracles Jesus has done would "fit" if He is the Messiah

B. Jesus' Communication: (3:3)

1. "Verily, Verily" = "Truly, Truly"
   - Literally "Amen and Amen"
   - 1st of 3 times — 3:3+5+11
   - "I say unto you" "AUTHORITY"

Jesus said:

2. "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God" — Also in 3:5
3. "Again" — ἄνωθεν — "From above"
   - IMPERITIVE — ONLY WAY!
   - John 1:13

"Which were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God"

4. TRUTH of a basic issue

C. Nicodemus' Confusion: (3:4)

1. "HOW"? — Confusion in his understanding
   - OUTSIDE his comprehension — FOREIGN concept!
2. Relates Jesus' words to the physical human birth out of a mother's womb
3. Nic. does not comprehend the spiritual dimension by the analogy of spiritual birth to the physical which we do know about.
4. A Spiritual parallel is a reality.

D:- Jesus' Clarification: (3:5-8)

1- A second "Verily, Verily" by Jesus - 3:5

2- "Except a man be born of water + the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God"
- This is addressed to "a man" WHOEVER he may be
- A UNIVERSAL necessity
- "Born of the Spirit" clearly deals with a birth into God's family by an act of the Holy Spirit
- "Born of water" is less obvious in meaning

(a) • Water of the mother's womb relates to physical birth, not the spiritual birth

(b) • Many relate "born of water" to the issue of cleansing, especially spiritually by the water of the Word
Hard to think Nic. would understand this truth revealed through Paul decades later.

(c) • Most likely a reference to John the Baptist's preaching of REPENTANCE of sins and BAPTISM in water in readiness for the coming of MESSIAH + preparation for the Millennial Kingdom on earth

VINCENT - "Water naturally suggested to Nicodemus the baptism of John which was then awakening such profound and general interest." (413)

• PROMISE - Ezek. 36:25-27

- The act of regeneration is taught in John 3:5 + Titus 3:5 - "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost."

3- Distinction in 3:6
- Born of flesh = Natural birth; HUMAN + PHYSICAL
- Born of the Spirit = Supernatural birth; By God working in people; SPIRITUAL
- TWO DISTINCT BIRTHS

4-Repeated imperative - 3:7 "Marvel not that I said unto thee, YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN." (4)

5-Conversion comparison - 3:8
"WIND" in 3:8 is same Greek word in 3:5 as "SPIRIT". - EFFECTS give evidence of CAUSES
- God moves + works as He wills in work of the Spirit and in the winds that blow

E: Nicodemus' Confusion Repeated: (3:9)

1- "HOW can these things be?" - Lack of understanding
2- Confusion of the unsaved person
3- 1 Cor. 2:14 - "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."
4- The ONLY solution to man's need is JESUS!

II: THE MESSAGE - Jesus to Nicodemus: (3:10-15)

A: Jesus' Question To Nicodemus: (3:10-12)

1- Jesus repeated His QUESTION (3:10)
"Art thou a master in Israel, and knowest not these things?" SURPRISED at question!

2- Reply to Nicodemus: (3:11)
- A third "Verily, Verily" - 3:3, 5 + 11
- "We" in this verse relates to the TRINITY, Father, Son + Holy Spirit
- Expresses certainty of what
"We know"
"We speak"
"We have seen"
AGREEMENT

3- Contrast (3:12) Earthly / Heavenly things

4- Pentacost - "Nicodemus had already recogized Christ as a Teacher. Now Christ in verse 12 stated that He was not teaching something speculative or theoretical. Rather, He was teaching what He knew, and He asked Nicodemus to accept His authority as a qualified Teacher (126)

5- BELIEF of what Jesus says is IMPERATIVE !!

B- Jesus' Explanation: (3:13)

1- Jesus is UNIQUE - Ascended + descended
- To Heaven + from Heaven

2- "Son of Man" - Jesus term for Himself - 1:51

• Dan. 7:13-14 - "I saw in the night visions, and behold one like the Son of Man came with the clouds of heaven and came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought him near before Him. And there was given to Him dominion and glory, and a kingdom, and all people, nations, and languages, should serve Him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His ~~dominion~~ kingdom that which shall not be destroyed."

• WHO is this Son of Man? - MESSIAH
Omnipresence

C- Jesus' Comparison: (3:14-15)

1- Refers to a historic event - Num. 21:1-9
- Example from O.T. of deliverance
- Fiery Serpent of brass
LIFTED UP !!

2- Purpose - "Whosoever" - Open to ALL
- LOOK and LIVE !
- Avoid perishing
- Gaining Eternal Life } How?
- By BELIEVING !
- Matt. 19:16 - "And, behold one came & said unto Him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?"
- Not "DO" but "DONE" by Jesus Christ!

3- Whoever LOOKED - was HEALED

4- All who looked to the held up serpent were healed.

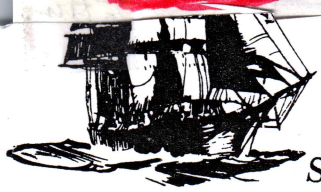
5- People were commanded to LOOK while BELIEVING

CONCLUSION:

A.- Summary:

1- The nature of this life is ETERNAL Life
2- The source of this life is GOD
3- The Person of this life is Jesus Christ
4- The communication of this is born of water and of the Spirit

B.- Closing Story:



The LOG OF THE GOOD SHIP GRACE

Selections From Recent Haven of Rest Broadcasts

THE MOST INTERESTING STORY I EVER HEARD

"FirstMateBob"

The late Dr. Bob Jones, Sr. says: The most interesting story I ever heard was told me by a man over eighty years of age. We were sitting together on a projecting rock of a mountainside in Arkansas. Here is the story:

"I was born in this country during the Civil War. Yonder there were hundreds of tents where our soldiers were encamped. Measles broke out and many of the brave lads died. I was wardmaster in charge of the tents where the measles patients were located.

"One night I passed a bunk where there was a very sick soldier lad not more than seventeen. The boy looked at me with a pathetic expression and said:

"I believe I am going to die. I am not a Christian. I never had any Christian training. I did go with a boy friend to Sunday school just once. A woman taught the Sunday school class. She read us something out of the Bible about a man—I think his name was Nicodemus. Anyway, it was about a man who went to see Jesus one night. Jesus told this man he must be born again. The teacher said all people must be born again in order to go to heaven when they die. I have never been born again, and I don't want to die like this. Won't you please get the chaplain so he can tell me how to be born again?"

"The old man hesitated for a little. In those days I was an agnostic—at least that is what I called myself. As a matter of fact, I wasn't anything but an old sinner. So I told the boy, 'You don't need a chaplain. Just

be quiet now. Don't worry, you'll be all right.' I went around the ward and in about an hour I came back to the boy's bed. He looked at me out of such sad, staring eyes as he said, 'Wardmaster, if you won't get me the chaplain, please get me the doctor. I am choking to death.' 'All right, my son, I'll get the doctor,' I said. I found the doctor. He came and mopped out the throat of the lad so he could breathe a little easier. I knew the boy was going to die. The boy was so sweet he literally climbed into my heart. He thanked me for my kindness. He thanked the doctor for being so good to him.

"In about an hour I came back expecting to find the boy dead. As the light began to fade from his eyes he looked up and said, 'There is no use, Wardmaster. I have got to die, and I haven't been born again. Whether you believe in it or not, won't you find the chaplain and let him tell me how to be born again?' I looked at him for a moment and thought about how helpless he was in the grip of death. So I said, 'All right, my son, I will get the chaplain.'

"I walked away a few paces, turned and went back to the boy's bedside. I said, 'My boy, I am not going to get you the chaplain. I am going to tell you what to do myself. Now, understand, I am an agnostic. I don't know whether there is any God. I don't know whether there is any heaven. I don't know whether there is any hell. I don't know anything. Yes, I do. I know one thing. I know my mother was a good woman. I know if there is a God my mother knew Him. If there is a heaven I know she is there. So I will tell you what my mother told me. You can try it and see if it works. Now, I am going to teach you a verse of Scripture. The verse is John 3:16.

"'For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.' My mother said that I cannot save myself, but if I will believe in Jesus He will save me.

"I asked the boy to say the verse with me. He followed with a weak and trembling voice, 'For God so loved the world.' 'For God so loved the world'" 'He gave His only begotten Son,' 'He gave His only begotten Son': 'that whosoever believeth in Him,' 'that whosoever believeth in Him': 'should not perish,' 'should not perish': 'but have everlasting life,' 'but have everlasting life.' 'Now, my boy, my mother said if a person will trust Jesus he will not perish but have everlasting life.'

He closed his eyes, stretched his hands across his breast and in a whisper he quoted slowly, repeating some of the words several times: 'For God so loved the world . . . He gave His only begotten Son . . . that whosoever, whosoever . . . whosoever believeth, believeth in Him, believeth in Him.'

OVER

"Then he stopped and said in a clear voice, 'Praise God. It works. I believe in Him! I shall not perish! I have everlasting life! I have been born again. Wardmaster, your mother was right. Why don't you try it? I want to ask you to do something for me. Take a kiss to my mother and tell her what you told me, and tell her that her dying son said, 'It works.' I leaned over and kissed him and then as he drew his last breath he said, 'It works.'"

The old man, wiping tears out of his eyes and tears out of the wrinkles of his face, said, "The lad was right. It does work. Whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but has NOW everlasting life. It works! I know it works!"

INTRODUCTION:

A.-The Composite Picture:

1-Imagine with me a group of men--**artists** who lived at different times over a span of many **hundreds of years**. They are cooperating in painting a **PORTRAIT** on a huge canvas. They see **no model** or master blueprint. **Each man** in his generation approaches the canvas and **adds a few brush strokes** to the image.

Amazingly enough they **produce** a **fine painting**. Then their painting is **stored away** for **400 years**. After this length of time the painting is **unveiled** and shown to be **THE LIKENESS** OF **A MAN THEN LIVING**.

IMPOSSIBLE ?? In the human realm, **yes**, But that is exactly what God has done in the Bible. This Book-written under God's direction--provides for us a **COMPOSITE PICTURE** of the Son of God. The word picture was prepared by prophets living over a span of **1100 years**, the last of whom wrote some **400 years before** Jesus was **born** upon the earth

2-**Pre-written History** of Jesus Christ
- --The **story of the gospel** is a wonderful record of **promise fulfilled.**
- --All that happened to Jesus happened according to **divine plan.**
- --From **Moses** & the **prophets** we have the COMPOSITE PICTURE, written in fullness, **before He came!**

3-**Seed of Woman** **LINEAGE**
- --Eve
- --Abraham
- --Isaac
- --Jacob
- --Judah
- --David
- --Solomon
- --Jechoniah
- --Disallowed line of Joseph
- --Line thru Nathan, Mary & Jesus of Nazareth

4-**Biblical Witnesses**
- --Isaiah
- --Jeremiah
- --Micah
- --Mary
- --Elizabeth
- --Zacharias
- --Joseph
- --Angels
- --Shepherds
- --Simeon
- --Anna
- --Magi
- --Herod
- --Jesus Himself
- --John the Baptist
- --James, Jesus' brother
- --Jude, also His brother
- --Matthew
- --Luke
- --John
- --Spirit of God
- --Paul.....**22** in all

B.-The Consummating Purpose:

1-TO PROVE that Jesus Christ, the second Person of the Trinity **came down** from heaven and dwelt within the Virgin Mary, of whom Jesus was born as the **GOD-MAN**; **Seed of the Woman**

2-**Why the objections?**
- --Now we come to **a QUESTION** which has troubled me a great deal. As I restudied the Bible record of the Virgin Birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, with all of its evidence so

clearly stated, I kept asking myself over & over again:
* "WHY SHOULD ANYONE WANT TO REJECT THIS TRUTH??"
"Why should anyone want to reject this simple record that is so clear, so direct to those of us who believe?"
"WHY IS IT THAT EVERYONE WILL NOT SIMPLY BELIEVE & RECEIVE IT ?""

3-Reasons for rejection
(a) Satan hates the truth of the V.B., because he recognizes its importance to the plan of salvation. A sinless Savior is essential, so He does all within his power to cast doubt upon it.

2 Cor. 4:3-4 If our gospel is hidden, it is hidden to them that are LOST
(b) Unbelief results in blindness to the truth. That will explain why the simplest, uneducated saint will comprehend these truths clearly, while the unregenerate man, educated & wise, yea...even a genius...does not see these things until he is born again

John 3:3 "Verily, Verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

4-Rationale:
--The natural man by his physical birth can understand only natural & physical things
--Only the SPIRITUAL MAN, born again by the Spirit of God, can see and understand spiritual thints.
--The natural man REFUSES to accept spiritual truths from the Scriptures, including the doctrine of the Virgin Birth.
--Because the V.B. is supernatural, the natural man rejects it. He balks at the miraculous.
--He wants to understand instead of BELIEVE.
--But God's order is BELIEVE first, then you will understand more & more.
--BELIEVE IT because God has revealed it!
--Believe it in spite of its apparent unreasonableness, for faith is believing the naturally unbelievable, the humanly unreasonable.
--B U T...to reject God's Word because it seems unreasonable is still the most reasonable thing in the world for unsaved people to do

5-REAL QUESTION:--Boils down to this
A choice between MAN'S REASON or GOD'S REVELATION as our final authority.

6-PROP: The Virgin Birth of the Savior is the necessary provision of God to make possible the New Birth of the sinner.

I.-THE VIRGIN BIRTH AND THE SECOND, or NEW BIRTH:

A.-Christ Is IN The Believer:

1-Jesus' coming & abiding within the womb of the Virgin Mary is a historic fact at which we marvel

2-BUT have you realized there is a truth that Jesus Christ actually comes & abides within every true Christian??? (3)
3-This actually does occur!
4-Scripture clearly teaches that Jesus Christ "LIVES" within every person who has experienced the "second birth"

B.-Contrast Made Clear:

1-Christ dwelled in Mary in a different manner & for a different purpose than He dwells in Christians
--In Mary----PHYSICAL realm of human body
--In Christians------SPIRITUAL realm of living reality
2-Jesus was formed by the Holy Spirit in Mary to become qualified as GOD-MAN Redeemer to accomplish man's redemption
* 3-Another Virgin Birth will never be necessary
--Work of redemption is "finished"
--Jesus will never again abide in anyone in a physical realm
--Not to be repeated !
3-Christ in the Believer --Our guarantee of eternal salvation
--Our power for a new & holy life by the H.S.

C.-Confirmation That Christ Actually Lives Within Believers!

1-Verses --Col.1:27--"Christ in you, the hope of glory"
--Gal. 2:20--"Christ liveth in me"
--Rom. 8:10--"If Christ be in you..."
--Col. 3:4--"Christ, Who is our life"
2-Verdict--When we say that CHRIST comes into a believer, we mean that the CHRIST-LIFE comes into the believer, for Jesus Christ is LIFE !!
3-Verses --Jn. 11:25--"Jesus saith unto her, I am the resurrection and the life:
--Jn. 14:6--"I am the way, the truth and the Life"
--I John 5:11--"He that hath the Son hath life; & he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."
--1 Jn. 5:20--And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know Him that is true, and we are in Him that is true, even in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life."
--In 1 Jn. 1:1, He is called the "WORD OF LIFE" and "ETERNAL LIFE" which was with the Father in heaven and came to earth and was manifested (made known) to men.
4-Verdict--Therefore, when we say that Jesus comes to dwell & abide in the Christian, we mean that the believer receives the CHRIST-LIFE==Spiritual life==ETERNAL LIFE !!
--We cannot separate Jesus Christ from Eternal Life, for they are SYNONYMOUS !!
--1 Jn. 5:11-12--"And this is the record that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."

D-Clarification Concerning Man's Need:

1-Condition of man
- -By nature, man is "DEAD" spiritually (Eph. 2:1)
- -Man is "ALIENATED from the life of God" (Ep.4:18)
- --Man does not by nature possess SPIRITUAL LIFE, but is in the condition or state of SPIRITUAL DEATH !!
- -Rom. 5:12--"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into t into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."

2-Conundrum-The fact that a person has physical life does not mean that he has spiritual life. Scripture bears out the strange truth that individuals may be ALIVE physically & yet be DEAD spiritually

NB

** 1 Tim. 5:6--"dead while she liveth"
** Col. 2:13--"dead in your sins"
** Eph. 2:1--"dead in trespasses & sins"
** Eph. 2:5--"dead in sins"

- -THUS, the need of the spiritual CHRIST-LIFE is very apparent
- --Man by nature does not possess this life, but is DEAD spiritually, and in order to become QUICKENED (as it is translated in KJV) or ALIVE, he must "pass from death unto life" (Jn. 5:24) by receiving this spiritual CHRIST-LIFE by faith.

3-Clarification :::::
By nature, we-
- "all have sinned & come short of the glory of God."
- are "guilty before God" (Rom. 3:19)
- are "condemned already" (Jn. 3:18)
- are "unjust" in God's sight (1 Pet.3:18)
- have hearts that are "not right in the sight of God" (Acts 8:21)
- have sins that "have separated us" from God (Isa. 59:2)
- are "without Christ" & "without God" in this world (Eph. 2:12

4-SEE IT ??
- -By nature we are helpless & hopeless
- --SPIRITUALLY DEAD !!
- -In view of man's spiritual state of DEATH, we see the great NEED of eternal life, or New Birth life in Jesus Christ

5-"It is impossible to get regeneration from reformation" (ANON), which is what so many seek to do,

SADLY!

II.-HOW DO WE GET THIS SPIRITUAL LIFE; THIS NEWBIRTH LIFE?

A.-Single Condition Of The New Birth:

1-BELIEVING--We must believe in or on the Lord Jesus Christ as our own personal Savior
--The moment we believe in Him; believe in the work which He accomplished on Calvary's Cross as being FOR ME ; that moment we receive Eternal Life

FREE GIFT

** Jn. 3:36--"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."
** Jn. 5:24--"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life."

2-Believing N O W !
--Notice the present tense in these verses (above)
--When one believes, immediately he has eternal life !!

3-Believing effectually
--This is not merely intellectual assent
--This is trustful believing...
-A N D it is EFFECTIVE !!
** It is trusting His work on the cross as FOR ME !
** It is believing that thru His shed blood redemption was provided FOR ME
** It is believing His forgiveness is FOR ME
** It is believing His justification is FOR ME
** It is believing that those He makes "nigh" to God includes ME.

WORK OF REDEMPTION

--Thus, eternal life is received by "BELIEVING" in or on the Lord Jesus Christ as your own personal Savior

4-Synonymns
-Also called "Born Again"
-Spoken of as "receiving eternal life"
-Termed a "second birth" or NEW BIRTH or Birth from above !!

5-Antonymns
-First birth is to receive physical birth; FROM THE WOMB
-New birth is to receive eternal life: FROM ABOVE

B.-Supreme Importance Of The New Birth:

1-Story of Nicodemus & Jesus discussing New Birth in Jn. 3
2-Key concepts--Jn. 3:3--Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."
--Jn. 3:7--"Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."
--Not--"you OUGHT to be born again
--But--"you MUST be born again"
--DIVINE IMPERATIVE !!!

NB!

3. ILLUS.-Bishop John Taylor Smith, former Chaplain General of the British Army, was preaching on the text "EXCEPT A MAN BE BORN AGAIN, HE CANNOT SEE THE KINGDOM OF GOD." In order to drive it home, he said, "My dear people, do not substitute anything for the new birth. You may be a member of a church, but church membership is not the new birth, and "except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

On the left sat the archdeacon in his stall. Pointing directly at him, Smith said, "You might even be an archdeacon like my friend in his stall and not be born again, & "except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." You might even be a bishop like myself, and not be born again, & "except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

A day or so later he received a letter from the archdeacon, in which he wrote:

"My dear Bishop: You have found me out. I have found me out. I have been a clergyman for over 30 years, but I had never known anything of the joy that Christians speak of. I never could understand it. Mine has been hard, legal service. I did not know what was the matter with me, but when you pointed directly to me and said, 'You might even be an archdeacon and not be born again,' I realized in a moment the trouble I was in. I had never known anything of the new birth."

The archdeacon went on to say that he was wretched and miserable, had been unable to sleep all night, & begged for a conference, if the bishop could spare the time to talk with him. "Of course, I could spare the time," said Bishop Smith, "and the next day we went over the Word of God. After some hours we were both on our knees, the archdeacon taking his place before God as a poor, lost sinner, & telling the Lord Jesus that he would trust Him as his Savior. From that time on, everything has been DIFFERENT !!

4. Sad to see lack of understanding today:
- Some church attenders don't know "YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN."
- Even church members don't realize, "EXCEPT A MAN BE BORN AGAIN, HE CANNOT SEE THE KINGDOM OF GOD."
- Many people thinking they can "make it to heaven" some way other than by Christ's sacrificial blood
  - ** Doing the best they can
  - ** Keeping the Golden Rule
  - ** Doing their good deed for the day
  - ** Reforming themselves time after time
  - ** Trying to do better next time
  - ** Busily engaged in religious activities
  - ** Immersed in secret society rituals
  - ** Thinking a morally clean life will fit them for God's heaven
  - ** Trusting in the ordinances of man or God to "get them through"

5. ONLY ONE STANDARD-Eternal life comes by it
- Entrance into heaven is assured
- Are you "BORN AGAIN" by faith in Jesus??

6-Any other way than "faith" in Jesus Christ as your SAVIOR will not obtain eternal life.

All the works & righteous deeds that a man might present to a holy God in hope of obtaining salvation & eternal life are "as filthy rags in His sight" (Isa. 64:4)

7-If you are born once, you are born in the devil's family; if you are born twice, you are born in God's family."

C.-Securing Eternal Life Of The New Birth:

1-God's Word:

--Tit. 3:5--"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Ghost."

--Eph. 2:8-9-"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God; Not of works, lest any man should boast."

--2 Tim. 1:9--"Who hath saved us, & called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose & grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus."

--Rom. 6:23

2-Earned salvation--If we could EARN our salvation for ourself, it would NOT have been necessary for Jesus Christ to have died.

3-God's salvation

--If we want to be saved, we MUST COME to God in GOD'S WAY.....or not at all !

--Our own plan will never do.

--A way which a person devises for himself, even though there is much good about it, will never secure salvation and eternal life.

4-Man's way--Salvation "by WORKS"

--This is not God's way unto Himself

** Prov. 14:12--"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

** Isa. 55:8-9--"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my way, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, & my thoughts than your thoughts."

5-ILLUS--A woman who was a very busy church worker waited for D. L. Moody after he had told a group of church worker some very plain truths from God's Word.

"Mr. Moody," said the angry woman, "do you mean to tell me that I, an educated woman, taught from childhood in good ways, & all my life interested in the church & doing good, must enter Heaven the same way as the worst criminals of our day?"

"No, madam," said Mr. Moody. "I don't tell you at all; GOD TELLS YOU. He says everyone who would enter Heaven, no matter how good they think they are, how well educated, how zealous in good works, must all be BORN AGAIN !!" (S.S.Times)

D—Simply Believing And Receiving:

1-Any Sinner "dead in trespasses & sins" may freely receive this GIFT of ethernal life; may freely be BORN AGAIN, merely by believing in & receiving Jesus Christ as HIS OWN PERSONAL SAVIOR

2-"Whosoever will may come"
**Jn. 3:16-18 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

3-Christ, Who is the "LIFE" is willing to come in & abide forever within anyone who will receive Him
--He knocks & seeks entrance
--Rev. 3:20

4-Will you ---------- RECEIVE Him as Savior
or
Will you TURN HIM AWAY?

III.—VITAL COMPARISONS—Christ's Virgin Birth and —Believer's New Birth:

A—Separate Realms:

1-Christ's Virgin Birth
--Had to do with the PHYSICAL
--God's Son, the eternal One, was implanted in the Virgin's womb
--There He assumed a real human form & nature
--All so He could be born the GOD-MAN to become our REDEEMER

2-Believer's New Birth
--Has to do with the SPIRITUAL
--Christ comes to live in us, who are believers
--Purpose of bringing us to possess eternal life

B—Single Agent:

1-Virgin Birth was the WORK OF THE SPIRIT
--God was implanted in Mary's womb by the "overshadowing" power of the Holy Spirit
--Lk. 1:35; Mt. 1:18, 20

2-New Birth is the WORK OF THE SPIRIT
--Christ is implanted in the Christian by the power of the Holy Spirit
--We are thus "born of the Spirit" into God's family
--John 3:6, 8

3-As the Spirit overshadowed Mary, so in a similar way He overshadows us and implants the eternal life of Jesus Christ in the believer by His regenerating power.

C.-Simply Miraculous: — YES!

1-Jesus' **V.B.** is **a MIRACLE** of the highest degree.
- -Cannot be adequately **explained** or perfectly **understood**
- -Yet, we know it to be **TRUE !!**
- -**Mary** was "troubled", and could not comprehend it
- -Neither can **we** !!

2-There is nothing to indicate that **Christ's abiding** in a believer is not **also a MIRACLE** of the highest degree.
- -When a **sinner** is born again, it cannot be **understood** or **explained**
- -But, we are positive **it is true** !!

3-When Nicodemus was approached about being "born again", he couldn't understand it, thus he replied:
"**How** can a man be born when he is old?" (Jn. 3:4)

4-The **miraculous New Birth** whereby a sinner inherits eternal life **cannot be explained** any more than Jesus **Christ's V.B.** can be explained.
- **BOTH** are "of God"
- Both are SUPERNATURAL !!

5-Just as Mary was "**troubled**" because she could not understand, so **many sinners today are perplexed** by being told that they can be "**BORN AGAIN**" apart from any works by the grace of God

D.-Special Blessing Received:

1-**Mary received** that Babe, the Son of God, and because He was born of her, she was considered "HIGHLY FAVORED" or "BLESSED" of God (Luke 1:28)

2-A poor, guilty, vile, condemned and undeserving sinner--who thru faith **receives eternal life**, who is born again because of God's mercy & grace--can consider himself "HIGHLY FAVORED" and "BLESSED" of God
--Eph. 1:6--"To the praise of the glory of His grace, where in He hath made us **ACCEPTED** in the Beloved."

E.-Stated Willing Cooperation:

1-The V.B. was made possible because of **Mary's WILLINGNESS** !!
--Lk. 1:38--"Be it unto me according to thy word."

2-When a sinner hears the news regarding the receiving of Jesus Christ as Savior & being born again...
- -If he says "**I BELIEVE**", he is saying: "Be it unto me according to Thy Word." also
- -A **work of regeneration** is accomplished by God in response to **his willingness**
- -John 1:12

3-Christ is eager----------but He will **not force** a decision

4-**We** must **give our consent**...**BE WILLING**..to be born again
--Not a passive acceptance
but
--An active involvement of receiving

CONCLUSION:

A.-The Virgin Birth And Man's Calendar:

1-Events are all DATED from Jesus' birth
- --Historic events
- --Legal documents
- --Legislative actions
- --Business transactions
- --Personal letters
- --All give a reference and acknowledgement of an event which took place over 1900 years ago
- --The Virgin Birth of Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ of God

2-DIVIDING POINT of history; the fulcrum of the ages

HISTORY
- --All dates and events
- --Either they are ""B.C."==Before Christ
- --Or they are A.D.==Anno Domini=="In the year of our Lord"

PERSONAL
- --All divided & dated by the Birth of Jesus Christ, the Virgin born Son of God Who came forth from Mary's womb in Bethlehem

B.-The New Birth And Your Calender:

1-New Birth as a child of God is a time of "NEW BEGINNIN
- --A second birthday
- --2 Cor. 5:17

2-Only one birth is enough for an existence in time upon this earth

3-But..... ....A second birth is essential for existence in God's heaven and to possess eternal life and the consciousness of sins forgiven

4-POEM:

"Though Christ a thousand times
In Bethlehem be born,
If He's not born in thee,
Thy soul is still forlorn" (Anonymous)

5-ILLUS.-In 1752 George Whitefield wrote to Benjamin Franklin:
"As I find you growing more and more famous in the world of letters I recommend to your unprejudiced study the mystery of the New Birth. It is a most important study and if mastered will abundantly repay you. I bid you, dear friend, remember that He before whose bar (of justice) we must both soon appear has solemnly declared that without it we shall in no wise see His Kingdom."

6-How good to heed such advice !! YES!

7-R.Q.----Do you have a Second Birthday to start anew your Calendar??
--Why not TODAY ?!! ?!

Personal!

1/12/64--Westbrae
1/8/84--Lookout Baptist Church
1/4/87--Old Kanawha Baptist Church, WV.
1/15/95 - Hilltop Baptist Church
1/16/05 - Harper Rd. Bapt. Ch, Beckley

EPITAPH - A TESTIMONY & a MEMOIR:

Here lie the earthly remains of John Berridge, late vicar of Everton, and an itinerant servant of Jesus Christ, who loved his Master and His service, and after running His errands many years was called up to wait on Him above.

"Reader, art thou born again?
" No salvation without the new birth.
"I was born in sin, February 1716.
"Remained ignorant of my fallen state til 1730.
"Lived proudly on faith & works for salvation til 1751.
"Admitted to Everton vicarage, 1755.
* "Fled to Jesus alone for refuge, 1756
" Fell asleep in Jesus Christ - " (1793)

Brown + Butterworth, The Story of the Hymns and Tunes, W.P. Blessing Company, Chicago, IL, 1906 (P.123)

#70 "Its Just Like His Great Love"
#263-"Ye Must Be Born Again"
#420-"Have You Any Room For Jesus?"

SERIES

#1 - What The O.T. Teaches About The V.B. - Isa. 7:1-16
#2 - Born Of A Virgin - Luke 1:26-47
#3 - Whose Son Is This? - Isa. 9:1-7
#4 - N.T. Witnesses To The V.B. - Lk. 1:1-4; 2:1-20
#5 - Eyewitnesses To The V.B - Lk. 2:20-38
#6 - The V.B. & The New Birth - John 3:1-18

"WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT THE NEW BIRTH" John 3:1-21
Eph. 2:11-13

(1)

INTRO: **A.-The New Birth:**

1-~~A KING~~ has the right & authority to set limits & standards for ENTRANCE into his kingdom

2-USA had this at ELLIS ISLAND in New York in the days of limited immigration from Europe

3-GOD has set a requirement for entrance into heaven also--"YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN"

4-JAMES M. GRAY-"As to its nature or source, it (Regeneration or the New Birth) is a supernatural, creative act of the Spirit, not reforming our old nature, but giving us a new one alongside of the old."

5-COMPARISONS: —7 of them:

Generation==impartation of life	Regeneration--impartat'n of NEW life
--Born the 1st time	--Born the 2nd time
--Ordinary, human life	--Life more abundant
--Entering the human family	--Entering the divine fam.
--Race of Adam	--Family of faith/Christ
--Shares Adam's curse	--Shares Christ's salvat'n
--ACT of parents	--ACT of God

6-CHAFER-"The fact of the new birth, whether comprehended or not, is the basic & distinguishing feature of the christian." (VI, P. 107)

B.-The New Birth (Regeneration) Message:

1-OUTLINE--I.-The REALITY of the New Birth
II.-The REQUIREMENT of the New Birth
III.-The REALIZATION of the New Birth
IV.-The RESULTS of the New Birth

2-PROP:--See the vital importance of the New Birth as an imperative every soul must face
--Realize our riches available ONLY thru the New Birth

I.-THE REALITY OF THE NEW BIRTH:

A.-What The New Birth Is NOT:

1-John 1:13

2-"Not of blood" (HEREDITY)
--No inborn "divine spark"
--Physical talents transmitted
--But not divine grace or life

3-"Not of the will of the flesh (NATURAL INSTINCTS)
--Not dependent upon human influence or agency
--One human cannot give spiritual life to another
--Spiritual life-giving is the perrogative of the Creator/Redeemer

4-"Not by the will of man" (HUMAN VOLITION)
--Self-determination has no part in it
--Not born physically by our own will, but by our PARENTS
--Neither are we born spiritually by our will; but by the will of GOD.

BOORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®
"NOTEAR" ®

5-WALVOORD--"The nature of the work of regeneration **FORBIDS** ANY POSSIBLE **HUMAN ASSISTANCE**. As a child in natural birth is conceived & born without any volition on his part, so the child of God receives the new birth apart from any volition on his part." (The Holy Spirit, P. 146)

6-Note this clearly--The New Birth is **ALL OF GOD**, **NONE** of it is of man!!

B.-What The New Birth IS:

1-**John 1:13**

2-"Born of God"; **HE** is **the source** of this life

3-"**Born again**" (Jn. 3:3,7)

--2 words in the Greek N.T. for "again"

--One means "a repetition" of something previous (πάλιν)

--Other means "**FROM ABOVE**" (ἄνωθεν) used here

--Significance ** **HEAVENLY origin** of New Birth

** New beginning of one's life, spiritually speaking

4-Analogies--LIFE GIVING in a new birth (John 3)

--NEW CREATION (Eph. 2:10)

--SPIRITUAL RESURRECTION (Eph. 2:5)

5-"Reformation is turning over a new **leaf**, but regeneration is receiving a new **life**" (Anon)

6-ILLUS--Out in INDIA there is the Great North Road that runs up thru the Punjab & the United Provinces. One side of the road was soft earth for camels & the other was black-top for autos. In the rainy season the camel path was a miry bog.

If a man was walking to Calcutta on the muddy side of the road, another might approach him & say that he had an experience to share with him: **WALKING WAS EASIER** on the paved side of the road.

The man in the mud **moves over** to the paved road, & cries out that his **life has been changed**. But I come along with my biblical desire for the truth & ask 2 questions: 1) **WHERE** were you **going** when you were walking in the mud? The answer is: CALCUTTA. 2) And **WHERE** are you **going NOW**? The answer is still, CALCUTTA.

What mankind needs is not his life "**changed**", but **exchanged**! Men need an absolutely new life, and this comes **only from** the **NEW BIRTH**. We need more than just better footing on the same old path.

YOU AND I need to be on a NEW ROAD traveling in a NEW DIRECTION with a NEW NATURE, and that is available thru the New Birth. !!!

II.-THE **REQUIREMENT** OF THE NEW BIRTH:

A-Because Of The Nature Of The Human Heart:

1-**Gen. 3** & **John 3** go together

--**Sin entering** into man & the world brings a curse

--Life entering into the person who is born again

--**Sin brought death**

--**LIFE** comes thru a transaction with God

2-**Eph. 2:3**--"Among whom also we all had our conversa-

tion in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh, & of the mind; & were by nature the children of wrath, even as others."

3-1 Cor. 2:14--"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness to him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

4-WHY is this?

5-Jer. 17:9--"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

6-HEART OF MAN demands a new birth, for man is a SINNER

3-ILLUS- It is impossible to turn a pebble into a diamond no matter how it is cut, polished or coddled. What is needed is not improvement of what you have, but something NEW. So it is with regeneration. Not reformation of the old, but NEW LIFE.

4-Regeneration is new life--it comes TOTALLY as a gift from God.

2-God cannot tolerate violators of His holiness in His presence

3-Sinners in their sins will not be allowed entrance
--1 Cor. 6:9-11
--Gal. 5:19-21
--Rev. 21:27

4-HEAVEN demands a new birth, for man in his sin is not acceptable into God's "home" & presence

C. Because Of Disabilities Without The New Birth:

1-John 3:1-5
--Addressed to a RELIGIOUS MAN; Nicodemus
--Jesus' personal word to the "flower" of Judaism
--Can't get to heaven by BIRTH as a Jew
--Can't get to heaven by GOOD WORKS
--Can't get to heaven by RELIGION

2-Total disabilities apart from the New Birth
--Can't SEE the kingdom of God (Jn. 3:3)
--Can't ENTER the kingdom of God (Jn. 3:5)
--If that was true of Nicodemus, what chance would any of US have apart from the new birth ??

3-Absolutely ESSENTIAL--Note the IMPERATIVE words
--"Except", "Cannot", "MUST"
--"Ye must be born again"
--NO OTHER WAY
--Jesus' direct & personal word to Nicodemus & to all sinners
--ILLUS--Ruth Paxson tells the story: "A few years ago I was invited to a city for a series of meetings which were held in the rooms belonging to the WOMEN'S CLUB. A leader in the religious education work of the city was present at one meeting when I presented Christ as the world's only Savior.

Commenting upon the message that woman said: "DIDN'T MISS PAXSON KNOW THAT SUCH A MESSAGE WAS SUITABLE ONLY FOR A RESCUE MISSION?"

At that same meeting a woman of the street was present. She had sunk so low in sin that she did not even know who had been the father of her 16 year old daughter. But that

"The fact of the new birth, whether comprehended or not is the basic & distinguishing feature of the Christian." (107)

LIFT UP

L.S.C.-"The doctrine of regeneration by the Spirit came as a surprise & a bewilderment to Nicodemus." I, 407

Christ chose to speak these words to a ruler & teacher in Israel who was w/o a doubt the very flower of Israel," LSC, 104

4-Thus, **the realization** of the New Birth is **dependent:**
--Upon the **DIVINE** SIDE ** Born of the Spirit
** Born of the Word
--Upon the **HUMAN** SIDE ** Acceptance of all that God has done "BY FAITH"

6

NB 5-**Never** in the Scriptures do we find anyone **regenerated a second time.** (Heb. 6:4-12)

6-Phs. 1:6--"Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."

5-ILLUS. The need for new life in the unsaved man is clearly illustrated by a story Spurgeon used to tell. He told of one day staying in an inn in one of the valleys of Northern Italy, where the floor was dreadfully dirty. He had a mind to talk to the landlady about scrubbing it when he noticed that it was made of mud. He reflected that the more it would be scrubbed, the worse would be the mess. What was needed was a NEW FLOOR and not trying to scrub up the old one. Just so with man. No uses to try to scrub up the old life for it is dead. What is needed is new life. LIFT UP

5-Eph. 1:1--"...to the **SAINTS**..."

Lift up for IV A

B. A New Life:

1-**Unregenerated** the sinner is spiritu
--Eph. 2:1
--Eph. 2:5

2-He is **alive** socially, mentally & ph
before God

3-HE IS **DEAD** while he lives

4-**Acceptance** of Christ brings **NEW** and **ETERNAL life**
--1 John 5:11-12
--John 10:28--"And I give unto them eternal life; & they shall never perish, neither shall any pluck them out of my hand." "The fact of the New Birth, whether comprehended or not, is the basic + distinguishing feature of the Creation. -107

5-This new life is a GIFT------Rom. 6:23

C. A New Relationship:

1-Physical birth brings EARTHLY FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

2-So, Spiritual birth brings heavenly family relationships
--God----------Our Father----Children, Sons & heirs
--Jesus Christ--Our Savior----Joint Heirs
--Holy Sp.------Our Comforter--Empowered
--Christians----Our Brethren

3-**Rom. 8:16-17**--"The Spirit Himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, & joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together."

D. A New Creation:

1-Here is the **OUTWARD evidence** of the New Birth

2-All "in Christ" are a **NEW CREATION**
--2 Cor. 5:17
--Gal. 6:15--"For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation."
--Eph. 2:10

3-We are **God's masterpiece** in His role as Creator
4-Angels, starry heavens & a wonderful beauty of earth cannot compare with the fashioning of a saint out of a sinner
5-This is a blessed **"NEW CREATION"** of God !

E.-A New Nature:

1-In regeneration (N. B.), God does **not take away** the old nature with which we were born
2-This "old man" **remains within us** until our death or our Rapture
3-The **NEW NATURE** is something **entirely new** & different
=DISPOSITION, CAPACITY --Added at the time of our New Birth
--New nature is **divine in nature**
--Communication of this divine nature to the christian as his **PERMANENT POSSESSION**
--**2 Pet. 1:4**--"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great & precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature..."
--So the christian is a **TWO NATURED person**, now possessed of a new nature as a result of his New Birth

F.-A New Victory:

1-In the old life there is nothing but **defeat**
2-**Sin** was **our master** & we **obeyed as slaves**
3-When a person is saved, nothing happens to the old nature & the flesh. God instead places within the believer a new nature. It is placed **alongside** the **old nature**, OVER WHICH WE MUST GAIN THE VICTORY, but the flesh remains. After Paul had been saved for 35 years, he could still say, "I know that in me, that is, in my flesh, there dwelleth no good thing." **Rom. 7:18**
4-With the incoming & empowering of the Spirit, there is **VICTORY IN THE SPIRIT**--Over the world system
--Over the flesh
--Over the devil
5-We are able to say: "But thanks be to God, which giveth us **the victory** through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor15:57
6-Changed **PRACTICE**--1 John 3:9--"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit (PRACTICE) sin; for His seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.
7-Therefore--**Gal. 2:20**

G.-A New Mind:

1-The New Testament uses the term **"mind"** for thoughts, affections, purposes & desires + attitudes
2-This **MIND** is to be renewed
--Rom. 12:1-2
--This leads to a **transformed life**
3-The **carnal mind**--the expression of the old nature--has little sympathy with holy things (Rom. 8:7)
4-Therefore, we are **exhorted**--**Phs. 2:5**

H.-A New Standing Or Position:

1-In our **lost estate** we had no "standing" before God
2-**Eph. 2:11-12**

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BOORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®

3-If we speak of "**social** standing" or "**financial** standing" we're talking about **ACCEPTABILITY** in the light of standards, requirements & demands

4-"**IN CHRIST**" the believer receives "by grace" **all** that is needed to meet the righteous demands of God

5-**HOW ??**--Eph. 1:6
--Col. 2:8-9

I.-A New Hope:

1-As sinners we faced--Death & banishment
--Separation & punishment
--And we were "without hope"

2-"**BUT NOW**" (Eph. 2:13) we have a **new hope** thru Christ
--Rapture as a "blessed hope" (Tit. 2:13)
--Immediately in God's presence at death (2 Cor. 5:6-8)

3-What glorious assurances **WITH CHRIST FOR ETERNITY**

4-We can, therefore, face the future **with CONFIDENCE**

CONCLUSION:

A-Applicat

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The visitor ga
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W. G. T. Shedd - "Regeneration, accordingly, is an act; conversion is an activity, or a process. Regeneration is the origination of life; conversion is the evolution and manifestation of life. Regeneration is wholly the act of God; conversion is wholly an activity of man. Regeneration is a cause; conversion is an effect. Regeneration is instantaneous; conversion is continuous." (Dogmatic Theology, II, 494)

his questioner
me to part wit
was a drunkard, a gambler--one who had sold his soul to the devil. One day I was persuaded to attend a revival meeting. I did so, & on going home I passed a rubbish heap. I saw there a piece of clay. Evidently someone had thrown it away as being useless. I picked it up, took it home, kneaded it & molded it. Then I went to the wheel, & out of it I made those **2 vases**."

NB "I thought to myself that if I could do such a thing as that, then God COULD DO SO WITH ME ALSO. At that point I turned to God by placing myself in His hands by faith in Christ-----and **HE MADE ME A NEW MAN**"

2-**HOW ??**--By the **New Birth**
--John 1:12-13
--John 3:14-16

3-Agencies--By the Spirit (1)
--By the Word (2)
--"By faith" to accept **God's GIFT** (3)

B.-Invitation:

1-YOU can be "**made new**" in God's sight

2-YOU can have the "**new possessions**" we've spoken of

3-Nicodemus believed Jesus & was saved (Jn. 19:39)

4-Have you been "born again"?

5-Will you **TODAY ??**

FOLKS AROUND HERE ALL

Grace Gospel Church 10/10+24/99
Bible Center Ch. 9/26/01
Hilltop Bapt-5/28/07 4/11/07

Westbrae--6/14/70--#154--"My Savior"
#263--"Ye Must Be Born Again"
#264--"I Know Whom I Have Believed"

3:1-21 Nicodemus – The Religious Sinner

(Wine at Cana)

Intro

A.- 4 months after 1st Miracle
B.- After unrecorded ministry in Jerusalem at time of the Passover – deep impression left because of X's Teaching
C.- First of Christ's Discourses – Recorded

I. Nicodemus Comes to THE TEACHER

A.- Person of Nicodemus
1.- Pharisee – Strict, earnest, pious, orthodox — Believer in Traditions + Resurrection
2.- Ruler of Jews – member of Sanhedrin
3.- Teacher of Israel – (v. 10) – Religious leader + Teacher

B.- Coming To Jesus
1.- He did come
2.- By night – duty, fear, Questioning, desirous of answers. 12:42
3.- Rabbi – addresses Christ as a teacher, but not as prophet, messiah, or king
4.- We Know – Spoke for more than Self.
5.- Sparring over miracles + works

II. Nicodemus Stripped By THE TEACHER

A.- Positive Declaration
1.- No sparring, but right to the point
2.- Verily, Verily – sign of importance,
3.- I say – acknowledgement of miracles gives authority to the person of X.
4.- Except – there is no other way
5.- born again (anew) – condition of beholding ~~the~~ Kingdom of God

like Waco Tornado

6.- Here X gets down inside the facade
  a.- Nicodemus — Religious —
  b.- "Nick" — Ruler among rulers
  c.- "Nickie" — At home with the "front" off
  (a.- Mr. Brown — at office
  b.- [redacted] William — at luncheon club
  c.- "Willie" — at home)

B- Nicodemus tries to sidestep the true implications of 3:3 by making Christ's statement appear foolish

1.- Not successful - Condemned by own name "Victorious"
2.- Thus disarmed from the religiosity of position he is able to hear the Lord

III Nicodemus Taught By THE TEACHER

A.- Kingdom of God
  1.- Method of Entrance (continuation of 3:3)
    a.- new birth by water as a picture ~~of testimony~~ of "Word" sinking in
    b.- new birth by Spirit of God is the reality Tit. 3:4-6
  2.- Not Political but Personal + Spiritual.
  3.- Different from Man's ways. — 3:6
    - Requires an act of God — Not natural birth, but Supernatural. - Rules out General Jewish inheritance of Kingdom

B.- Illustration — Not a thing to be marveled at.
  1.- Ye must — the Divine imperative
  2.- Means not seen — only results.

3.- Nicodemus now sincerely + personally sees the problem + desires an answer
4.- Rebuke comes because all this should have been seen from O.T.

C. Veracity of the Witness
1.- on basis of what is known + seen, not speculation. 1:11
2.- earthly = ground work = self-evident
3.- heavenly = Secret Counsels of God
4.- Only Christ can declare these 3:13
De. 29:29

D.- Lifted Up
1.- Not to throne but Cross as serpent on pole as cure for the Sin-Bite of the Old Serpent.
2.- Likeness of Serpent + Likeness of Sinful Man
3.- Cure in each case is looking up in faith: believing in the Person of X.
4.- God's love is for the World - Universal
5.- Measure of love is in the freely giving the ONLY-BEGOTTEN SON
6.- Purpose of X's coming was not condemnation as the Jews expected, but to save the world

The Shame is - What think Ye of X? - God's Son

E.- Condemnation — On basis of what we do with the light, the Son of God.

1.- When there was only darkness there was no standard of judgment
2.- Christ is the standard
3.- evil ones flee lest they be reproved
4.- truth comes forth to be made manifest

what and how much rej
will furnish the chief divisio
porated under the proper divisio
Do not degrade the sermon into a
graphical details. Use the facts as the ba
tical for the people. Remember you are pr
mon. Have a practical purpose in mind and a
entire discourse with reference to its persuasive pow

IV Result in Nicodemus' life

A.- Not seen here

B.- 7:50-52 - Witness before those who were his religious associates, yet he had not stepped out publicly for fear of 12:42.

2 yrs later

C.- 19:39-40 - Openly stepped out for the Lord.

3 yrs later

D.- He acted upon 3:3; 3:5; + then looked up to X on the cross, even as his ancestors had upon the brazen serpent, + HE WAS SAVED.

Concl - How about you?

A.- You may escape the words of Christ by putting them out of your mind, but ——→

B.- One Day you will have to face Him in Judgment if you do not now face Him in faith.

Jn 12:32

C.- Read Isa. 53:1-11 + then ask that they

1.- believe the report

2.- accept as savior Him who has borne their iniquities

Theme: The Biography of Nicodemus

Three times the Gospels refer to this man. Each instance shows him in a different light and reveals how he finally became a follower of Christ.

I. The secret inquirer (John 3:1-21).
II. The timid advocate (John 7:50-52).
III. The open confessor (John 19:39-42).

(The above outline was composed by another.)

THE ANSWER TO "HOW"?

John 3:16-21

INTRO:

A. The Change of Speakers:

1 - 3:1-15 - Jesus + Nic interacted
- Present tense verbs allow us to follow their back + forth conversation

2 - 3:16-21 - PAST Tense indicates John's reflections + explanation of explanations

B. The Reason Jesus Came: - NEW BIRTH!

1 - 3:16-17

Three N.T. writers

2 - 1 Tim. 1:15 - "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief."

- Luke 19:10 - "For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which is lost."

- 1 John 3:5,8 - "For ye know that He was manifested to take away our sins: and in Him is no sin.... He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil."

- 1 John 4:9,10,14 - "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because God sent His only-begotten Son ~~to be the propitiation for our sins~~ into the world that we might live through Him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to

be the propitiation for our sins.... And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world."

3- What do these verses tell us of the Reason Jesus came?

- He came for sinners' sake
- He came to seek + save sinners
- He, Himself, was not a sinner
- The devil is the source of sin
- Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil
- God's love for all mankind is made clear by His sending His Son to earth.
- Christ's sacrificial death satisfies all of God's righteous demands that sin must be judged.
- This truth is testified to be true by The Father's action in behalf of the world's inhabitants.

I.- THE GOOD NEWS — NEW BIRTH: (3:14-17)

A.- God's Part — The Cross:

1- The Comparison - 3:14-15

O.T.
- Moses + the Serpent - Nu. 21:1-9
- Ezek. 18:4 - "... the soul that sinneth, it shall die."

N.T.
- Rom. 3:23
- 2 Cor. 5:21 - "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, Who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."
- 1 Pet. 2:24 - "Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."

2- The Motive - "God so loved"
- First use by John of AGAPE
- The WORLD is the sum total of all creation
- Demonstrated extremity of GOD's LOVE in sacrifice of His Son for us

3- The Price - His only-begotten SON
- Emphasis on the idea of sacrifice "Offering Him up" as our SUBSTITUTE "the Just for the unjust"!
  - (a) In sending Jesus Christ into the world
  - (b) In sending Him to the CROSS — INFINITE LOVE and INFINITE price paid!

The ATONEMENT for man's sins proceeds from the Heart of God

4- The Candidates — "WHOSOEVER"
- Open to all mankind
- Effect on every living thing.

B: Man's Part — Believing:

1- The Requirement —
- "Believe in Him" — 3:15
- "Believeth in Him" — 3:16
- "Believeth on Him - 3:18
- "Believeth not" — 3:19 - Condemned
- "Not believeth in the Name of the Only-begotten Son of God"
- ONE WAY — ONLY ONE WAY!

2- The Receiving:
- HOW? — Gal. 3:26 - "For ye all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."
  * CLEAR, SIMPLE, FOCUSED on the ONE Person able to save.
- Acts 4:12 - "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." John 14:6
- Acts 19:30-31 - "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" "And they said BELIEVE on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved."

3- The Results from 3:16
- Negative — "NOT PERISH"
- Positive — "But have EVERLASTING LIFE"

C: Understanding God's Purpose:

1- Not that Jesus came to condemn men — 3:17
2- But that the world might be saved — THROUGH HIM"

3- Actually already under CONDEMNATION - ALREADY LOST!!!
- Because of Adam's original sin
- Gen. 2:17 - "But of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."
- People do not "become lost" because they were BORN LOST in a STATE OF LOSTNESS or CONDEMNATION
- No one is born "NEUTRAL"
- One's condemnation before God can only be lifted as one believes the Gospel; A "GOOD NEWS" MESSAGE

4- SALVATION
- Not by works of righteousness
- But by faith in God's provided "LAMB OF GOD" as the sacrificial sacrifice God provided as Jesus went to the CROSS to be our substitute "the just for the unjust."
- John 3:12-18 Read
  - NOT to condemn or judge the world stated 3 times in 3:17-18
  - BUT that the world might be SAVED is God's LOVING PURPOSE
  - The NEED is clear: No one is made right with God unless he believes God's Word
- Jesus Christ came specifically to SAVE the World

5- Christ's teaching on judgment is another way that John, in his gospel, brings out the MESSIAHSHIP of Jesus. John's CENTRAL AIM is to show Jesus as man's only hope for forgiveness of sin

6- What a person does now determines what will happen when they stand before on Judgment Day
→ • Read John 5:22-27

II:- THE BAD NEWS — JUDGMENT: (3:18-21)

A:- The Charge Against MAN:

1- "Condemned already" - 3:18
2- UNBELIEF leaves unbelievers condemned before a Holy God
→ 3- Judgment is certain for Christ rejectors
Jude 5-7
4- Morris - "The very fact of salvation for all who believe implies judgment for all who do not believe."

B:- The Evidence Against Man: (3:19)

1- The LIGHT is come into the world in the person of Christ - 5X in 3:19-21
2- Mankind prefers darkness because its deeds are EVIL.
3- Thus, mankind condemns themselves because of UNBELIEF. They LOVE DARKNESS!
4- When the LIGHT shines, people HIDE and REJECT the Light. They cut themselves off from the LIGHT. They REFUSE to be shaken out of their comfortable sinfulness
5- Godet - "There is justification by FAITH, and condemnation by UNBELIEF."
6- Morris - "The supreme condemnation of man of this day, John says, was that when Christ, the LIGHT of the WORLD, came to them, they rejected Him, for they loved the darkness."
7- Strong reaction - 3:20 "hateth the light"
8- Pentecost - "Christ wanted Nicodemus to respond to the TRUTH and to come to the LIGHT. - Thus, Nic. could ENTER the kingdom - Entrance was ONLY thru the Truth that Jesus brought as a REVEALER from God.

C.- The Division of Mankind:

1- The LIGHT attracts
- Light has been made visible in Christ
- Those who "doeth truth cometh to the light"
- Their deeds are made manifest — Consistent practice
- Their deeds are "wrought in God

2- The LIGHT also repels ~ COCKROACHES
- Some love darkness
- They hate the light - STRONG REACTION
- Because their deeds are evil - HABITUAL
- Those deeds will be "reproved" = convicted / rebuked /
- To reject God's good gift is to be JUDGED

3- LIGHT stands for good + DARKNESS stands for evil

4- 3:21 - Morris - "It is only the man whom God has laid His hand upon who can truly say that his works are "WROUGHT IN GOD". And he will not avoid the light."

5- Let me repeat: There is justification by FAITH, and condemnation by UNBELIEF.

CONCL:

A.- Three Basic Facts:

1- God loved the WORLD
2- God demonstrated His love by sending His Son to purchase our salvation by His BLOOD SACRIFICE
3- The World is under DIVINE JUDGMENT because it has Hated the LIGHT by rejecting and crucifying Jesus Christ, the World's only SAVIOR

B.- Two Personal Reactions:

1- Personal gratitude + dedication to God for salvation in Christ as PERSONAL SAVIOR
2- Concern for OTHERS who need to trust Jesus as their PERSONAL SAVIOR

JOHN THE BAPTIST'S LAST TESTIMONY

John 3:22-36

INTRO:

A.- John's Previous TESTIMONY:

1- It's a time - Over a year before baptizing of Jesus
- Concurrent ministries in various locations
- All over Israel

2- Message - Repent + Believe
- Baptism as a PUBLIC TESTIMONY

3- Meaning - Preparation for the coming MESSIAH + His Kingdom

B.- John's Previous Words About Jesus:

1- The Light - John 1:6-9

2- Witness of Messiah - John 1:15-16

3- Lamb of God - John 1:29-34

4- PROP: John the Baptist was the forerunner + preparer of the way for people to believe in Jesus as LAMB OF GOD in readiness for God's coming earthly Kingdom.

I: A QUESTION ABOUT PURITY (3:22-26)

A.- Both John + Jesus Continued Ministry in Israel:

1- No record of John's itinerary of ministry

2- Jesus - Selecting disciples
- Marriage feast at Cana of Galilee
- Passover in Jerusalem; Cleansing of the Temple
- Jesus' interaction w/ Nicodemus

3- Each of these men was going his own way

B: Both John + Jesus Came To A Place In Judea West Of Jordan: (2)

1- No record of any known agreement between John + Jesus to come to the same place to minister

2- 3:22 - Jesus + disciples
- Came there
- Tarried to preach + baptize

3- 3:23 - John also came there
- "MUCH WATER"; A number of pools or springs
* John's ministry declined, but did not cease w/ the inception of Jesus' itinerant ministry

4- SAME MESSAGE by both men
- Mt. 3:2 + 4:17
- Same call for REPENTANCE
- Same hope of divine FORGIVENESS
- Same expectation of MESSIAH's Coming.

5- John baptized + so did Jesus' disciples - Jn. 4:1-2
- Abundant water for ritual cleansing there
- Accessible to people of 4 provinces
- John + Jesus worked side by side

6- Nothing recorded here about John's IMPRISONMENT - Jn. 3:24
- Faithful to the last of his life
- Mt. 24:46 - "Blessed is that servant, whom his Lord when he cometh shall find so doing."

C.- A Question Arose: (3:25-26)

1- 3:25 - "about purifying"
- Discussion between John's disciples + the Jews
- The issue was over O.T. ritual of cleansing
- COMPLAINERS were active
- Question of their importance + continuance / value

- Could these "washings" be dispensed with or not
- WHAT was their significance?
- WHAT was their importance?

2- No evidence of any differing between
- John + Jesus
- OR John's disciples + Jesus' disciples

3- Disciples of both men explained to those who offered themselves of the NEW BIRTH which this preparatory baptism typified - READINESS FOR MESSIAH'S KINGDOM!

4- 3:26 - Some were leaving John + turning to follow Jesus
- This was what John intended
- Fomenters tried to arouse competiveness between John + Jesus
- SOME of John's disciples were jealous for their master's ministry
- This shows how little these of John's followers understood that Jesus really was MESSIAH!

II: AN ANSWER ABOUT IMPORTANCE: (3:27-30)

A: John's Evaluation: (3:27)

1- John's reply showed his allegiance to Christ + relationship to Him
- Called to be a servant
- Claimed to be a friend
- Application by John to HIMSELF
- Evidence of spirituality + humility

2- Success, promotion + growth of influence are gifts which God keeps entirely in His own hands

3- An immediate justification of Jesus' success
- He had what God had given Him
- He was the FORERUNNER + nothing more

4- Every contrast of 1 teacher with the other is harmonized by the truth that each has only that which God has given him

B:- John's Repeated Clarification: (3:28)

1- Clear-cut on his message + status
2- A splendid pattern of true + godly humility
- 1 Pet. 5:5 "clothed with humility"
- REMINDER by John that he had repeatedly told them thus
- A DISCLAIMER of his being Messiah

3- John calls his disciples to REMEMBER
- His PURPOSE was to draw attention to Jesus' greater calling than his own
- Purpose from 3:27 is directly applied by John to HIMSELF

C:- John's Illustration of Importance: (3:29)

1- An ANALOGY to explain his relationship
*The bride is the Church
*The bridegroom is Christ
- The friend (= BEST MAN) is John the Baptist

2- GROOMSMAN
- Before marriage he acted as intermediary between the couple making arrangements.
- At the wedding he offered the couple the gifts brought to them
- He waited on the bride + the bridegroom, attending them to the bridal chamber.
- It was the duty of the friend to present the bridegroom to his bride + after the marriage to maintain their proper terms between the partners - Especially to defend the bridegroom's good reputation

3- When the wedding went well, the bridegroom "REJOICED GREATLY". John rejoiced with JOY!
An emphatic expression

4- John tells his disciples that his sole work was to set forward + promote a good understanding between Jesus Christ and men. (5)

5- Certainly John implies his own inferiority for he did not center stage for himself

6- Phil. 1:18- "If Christ be preached, I rejoice: yea, and will rejoice"

D.- John's Sublime Utterance: (3:30)

1- THE POINT: Jesus must become GREATER; John must become LESSER!

2- John tells his complaining disciples that it is right + proper + necessary that Jesus Christ should grow in dignity + that he, himself should be less thought of

3- This is one of the greatest utterances that ever fell from human lips.

4- "Must" in 3:7, 14+30
- Divine imperatives
- The necessity in God's Plan

5- Morris: "It is God's plan that Messiah must continually increase. The servant, however, must of necessity decrease"
- Imprisonment, suspense and martyrdom.

III.- AN AFFIRMATION OF PREEMINENCE: (3:31-36)

A.- John's Reflection Concerning Jesus: (3:31-32)

1- John writes concerning Jesus' SUPERIORITY
- He who comes from ABOVE came by a supernatural birth, as John learned from his father Zacharias (Lk. 1:13+) + his mother Elizabeth (Lk. 1:39-45)
- Reinforced by God the Father at Jesus' baptism (Mt. 3:13-17)
- Repeated + enlarged at the Mount of Transfiguration - "This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased: hear ye Him." (Matt. 17:1-5)

- Jesus Christ is "ABOVE ALL" 2x
- Jesus was different
  - The GOD-MAN who came from ABOVE
  - Superior to ALL - Unique

2- Eph. 1:21-22 - "HEAD over all things to the Ch."

3- CONTRAST between Jesus, the heavenly Teacher and John the Baptist, an earthly Teacher
   * They differ in origin
   * They differ in their being
   * They differ in rank

4- Jesus was a COMER, John was a DIMINISHER

5- John was a mouthpiece for God in proclaiming heavenly things, but Jesus was GOD MANIFEST IN THE FLESH!
   - Pentecost - "Christ was superior to any earthly revealer because He came from heaven"
   - Direct revelation - Jesus testified of what He had seen + heard in heaven
   - John the Baptist testified and Jesus Christ reconfirmed. THEY THUGHT THE SAME MESSAGE
   - John's Gospel shows Jesus' DEITY which enforces His DIVINE AUTHORITY!
   - John the Baptist sorrowfully makes it plain that men do not receive Christ's witness

6- Rather, "He testifieth; and no man receiveth His testimony"

ANTICIPATION of Jesus' rejection by Israel
John 1:11 - "He came unto His own and His own received Him not."

B. God's Seal Of Attestation: (3:33-35)

1- 3:33 - Some did believe Jesus' words to be from God and thus TRUSTWORTHY

2- The SEAL is there to attest a document -
Many people could not read in ancient times, so a SEAL gave them an assurance of TRUTH

3- He who receives Christ as Savior declares his belief that God is TRUE to His WORD, + has kept the promises made to His people through the centuries - Adam, Abraham, Moses, David, etc.

- Rom. 3:4 - "Let God be true, but every man a liar"
- 1 John 5:10 - "He that believeth not God hath made Him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of His Son."

4 - 3:34 - Unlimited enablement from the H.S. while Jesus limited the independent exercise of this attributes of Deity

* - Phil. 2:5-8 Read
  - Jesus came so that people could know the FATHER, and have eternal life
  - "The words of God" = The COMPLETE MESSAGE of God

5 - 3:35 - Mutual + reciprocal LOVE of the Father for the Son
  - UNLIMITED LOVE is the reason for the H.S. given to Christ.
  - Because of that love, Jesus purchased by His shed blood our redemption on the CROSS
  - Jesus is God's SON + Spokesperson + His dispensing power is because of the Father's love for Him

* - See John 16:14-15

C - John's Summary Testimony: (3:36)

1 - Everlasting life is a PRESENT POSSESSION upon believing - Pardon, Peace + complete title to heaven for all who trust Christ as Savior

2 - Some would reject Jesus in unbelief:
  a - That Jesus came from heaven
  b - That Christ knew the Father
  c - That Christ had been sent by the Father
  d - That Christ had the words of the Father
  e - That Christ was empowered by the Spirit

3 - Such REJECTION's RESULTS:
- Never to enter into Eternal Life
- Continues under the wrath of God
- Rom. 1:18 - "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness + unrighteousness of men who hold the truth in unrighteousness" - Alienated from God

• Disbelief of God is disobedience to God.

4- As the believer HATH life, so the unbeliever HATH wrath abiding on him

CONCL:

A.- Many Lessons To Learn:

1- The sad reality that petty jealousies & party spirit can exist among professing believers

2- John the Baptist gives us a wonderful pattern of true godly humility in serving God

3- An instructive declaration of Jesus Christ's DEITY!

4- A broad assertion of the nearness and presentness of the salvation of true Christians

LIFE DETECTOR — Jn. 3:31-36; 5:33-47

Intro:

A.-Lie Detector: (Polygraph Machine)

1-Electronic machine

2-Designed to differentiate by intensity of electrical reactions the answers which are true and the answers which are false to questions which are asked

3-Always **accurate**

4-**Acceptable** as **evidence** in courts of law

5-Can **usually** determine a **LIE** and a **TRUTH**, and can tell when a person is telling the truth or lying

B.-Life Detector:

1-Not a machine, but **a standard**

2-Clear in its conditions

3-Clear in its conclusions

4-**Never failing** in its accuracy

5-John 3:36

6-**Entrance** into Eternal Life is **not by death**, but by regeneration thru faith in Christ

7-Not REFORMATION, but REGENERATION

I.-THE TRUTH REVEALED ABOUT JESUS (3:31-36):

A.-The Truth About Himself:

PROP Life is detected by the reality of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

1-**Origin** in heaven — Jn. 3:11-13

2-**Position** "above all"--in person
--in authority
--in ability to teach
--in content of teaching

3-Testimony--what He saw in His pre-existence
--what He heard in His pre-existence
--what He passed on in His earthly ministry
--NOT RECEIVED GENERALLY
--but received by a few who believe God's witness

4-**Authority**---**sent** by God
--**Speaks** the words of God
--John 7:46 "Never man spake like this man"
--Mt. 7:29 He taught them as one having authority
--**To believe** Christ **is** to believe God
--John 5:23 that all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honoreth not the Son honoreth not the Father that sent Him
--John 14:1

B.-The Truth About His Relationships:

1-To the Spirit--3:34b
--empowered by The Spirit
--without limit to the power
--Col. 2:9-10 In Him dwelleth all the Fullness
--**HE** is the classic example of the SPIRIT-FILLED BELIEVER

2-To the Father--3:35
--**Loved** by the Father
--Responsibility derived from Him---10:18

3-To the **Believer**--**gives** everlasting life---NOW
--**saves** from the wrath of God — COMING

4-To the **Unbeliever**--will confirm him in his **blindness**
--will confirm him in the **sin** he has chosen & continued in

--will pour out **condemnation** & **wrath** on him
--will judge him
--BECAUSE they have neglected their ONLY HOPE
*--shall never see life
--ILLUS---Professor Drummond once described a man going into 1 of the counselling meetings & saying that he wanted to become aChristian. "Well, my friend, what is the trouble?" He didn't like to tell. He was greatly agitated, but finally he says, "The fact is, **I'm overdrawn** in my account"-----A POLITE WAY OF SAYING HE HAD **BEEN STEALING**. "Did you take your employers money?"---"Yes"---"How much?"---"I don't know. I never kept account of it."----Well, you have an idea you stole $1,500.00 last year?"---"I'm afraid it was that much,"he answered.--"Now, look here, sir, I don't believe in sudden work; don't steal more than $1,000.00 this year, and not more than $500.00 next year, and in the course of the next few years you will get so you don't steal any. If your employer catches you, tell him you are being **converted gradually**, and that you will get so you don't steal at all by & by."------MY FRIENDS, THAT SORT OF **FOOLISHNESS** IS A **PERFECT FARCE!** "Let him that stole, steal no more," is what the Bible says. God demands ~~him~~* an ABOUT FACE!.....Christian **growth** is **gradual**, just as physical growth is; but a **man passes** from death unto life everlasting as an **act of the will**---"HE THAT BELIEVETH ON THE SON HATH EVER* LASTING LIFE." in an instant

II.-THE TRUTH WITNESSED ABOUT JESUS (5:33-47):

A.-Witness Of John(5:33-35):

1-John was **sent by God** — John 1:6-7
2-Men **sent for John** to testify
3-John's testimony was unto the **Truth**
4-**They accepted** the **validity** of John's ministry
5-Reminds them they had accepted his witness & THEN turned away from it
6-Yet, Jesus would **not depend** on **HUMAN ACCREDITATION ALONE**
7-Purpose was to show salvation alone in Christ---Jn. 1:29
8-ILLUS.---Modern Parallel to John. Sevefal years ago while in Italy, Dr. Wang (a chinese evangelist) was at a dinner. There he met certain officials who invited to speak in the **University of Propaganda of Faith** in the Vatican. There he told this story. "There was an **artist**," he said, "who painted nothing but **lions**. He was asked to paint a trademark. He suggested a lion, but was told to **paint an angel**."-----"All right,"he said, "I will paint an angel, but it will have a face like a **lion**."------"So I, a **Protestant evangelist**," he continued,"will **speak to R. C. seminary students**, but my speech will be **the Gospel** as always." Everyone listened to him carefully. Afterwards when asked to write in the seminary guest book, he wrote the familiar text, "They saw no man, but Jesus only."

B.-Witness Of Jesus' Works (5:36):

1-**More impressive** witness than John
2-Doesn't allow the element of **personality conflict**
3-Works go beyond natural power--Jn. 3:2; 10:37-38
4-Evidence of His supernatural power
5-**Man in 5:1-27** is case in point — Man at Pool of Bethesda
6-Works prove He was sent from God since they were ordained by the Father
7-Both miraculous & saving works in view

C.-Witness Of The Father (5:37-38):
"This is My Beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased," Mt. 3:17
"This is My Beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased, HEAR YE HIM" Mt. 17:5
1-Given by Father--At baptism
--At transfiguration
2-But not recognized by LOST & BLIND leaders
--Voice of God not heard
--Character of God not discerned
--Word of God not in them
--Son of God not accepted by them
"He that rejecteth Me, + receiveth not My words, hath one that judgeth him: the Word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

D.-Witness Of The Scriptures: (5:39)
1-They search the Scriptures
2-They think they have Eternal life
3-Scriptures testify of Christ
4-Since they won't come to Christ--they must be searching in vain
--they really don't have life
--they really reject the Scr.
--they'll die in their sins !
5-Yet--Christ won't accuse them
--But the Scriptures of the O. T. will
--Because they reject the true meaning of the Scriptures which testify of Him
--Since they reject the meaning & authority of Scripture
--Then they do not accept Him of whom the Scr. speaks
Jn. 12:48
6-WILFUL REJECTION, even in the face of the HIGHEST CREDENTIALS
7-Those who are most slow to believe the truth of God are often most ready to believe impostures of every kind

III.-THE TRUTH RECEIVED ABOUT JESUS:

A.-Facts:
1-Plenty available
2-All point to Truth being in Christ--Jn. 14:6
--Past background
--Relationships
--Proofs of Deity
3-BUT, the FACTS CAN'T SAVE!!!
4-God requires a decision
a decision of the WILL
PERSONALLY RENDERED !

B.-Jesus' Offer(Rev. 3:20):
1-Jesus is OUTSIDE your heart
2-Jesus is willing to come INSIDE your heart
3-He stands knocking
4-ILLUS ---An old woman was living here in Houston in a garret because of deep poverty. She was dreadfully afraid the landlord & the sherrif would come & depose her, and perhaps sell her few possessions from under her for her debts. Ithappened that her Pastor heard of her need & by interesting some other Christians in her need, raised sufficient money to go to her creditor & pay everything. Then with the receipt in his hand, he went to see her. Her neighbors knew her only by the name, "OLD BETTY". When the pastor called at the house, he said, can you show me the room where OLD BETTY lives?"----They told him to go up thestairs to a certain room. He went up & knocked at the door & waited, but there was no answer. He knocked again & stil there was no answer. He called out, but still no one came to the door. As he started down the stairs, one of the neighbors asked, "Did you find her?"---"No, she is evidently not in."----"Oh, she's in all right but she wouldn't open the door,"they said. "She is afraid to open

4:1-26 Woman at the Well — Immoral Sinner

Intro

A.- Judean Ministry over until Passion except for Visits
B.- Abandoned Judea because of unbelief
C.- Must needs go — to declare self Savior of the World.

I Setting

A - Sychar - 30 mi. N. of Jerusalem
B.- Jacob's Well
C.- 6 p.m. after dusty + tiring days walk
D.- Samaritan Woman - Lk 17:18 - called "strangers" since days of Nehemiah

II Jesus Asks That He Might Be Able To Give

A.- Common interest
1.- Both after water
4:9 2.- Brings Question to her mind because of long established prejudice
4:8 3.- not iron-clad for disciples do buy food from Samaritans.

B.- Leads into His Real Point
4:10 1.- "if thou knewest" - unsaved are ignorant of God's, His plan + way.
2.- Begins to tell 'WHO' the gift is in anticipation of 4:26.
3. "thou" is emphatic She should have been the one to ask, but it is God who seeks the lost Ro. 3:10-12
4:11 4.- Woman confuses physical + spiritual — natural reaction of natural mind. thinks of cistern vss. spring water

4:12 5.- "thou" is emphatic - "Surely thou art not greater"

C. Jesus Corrects Misunderstanding

4:13 1.- Jesus reminds her of this well's incapacity to satisfy

4:14 2.- Direct statement

a.- whosoever — universality

b.- water — spiritual reality

c.- I give — from + thru + in Christ alone

Satisfaction PROMISED TO ONE IN NEED

d.- never thirst — eternally satisfying + not as this world's riches in Lk. 16:24

e.- well of water springing up into eternal life 7:37-39

4:15 3.- Again she misunderstands + thinks only of SELFISH INTEREST

(Had she been a Jew she could scarcely have misunderstood the metaphor of "water" + "living water" which is so frequent in the prophets as depicting spiritual life, but the Samaritans rejected all but the Pentateuch.)

D.- Sin is In the Way

4:16 1.- Go call — lays bare the truth + causes conviction of sin.

2.- Until conviction, she we was not able to repent + be "given this water"

4:17 3.- attempt to dodge truth by general statement

4:18 4.- The truth comes out

— illus. of shrapnel — the cause must be removed

4:19 5.- humor - as with Nathaniel (1:48-49) this Omnipotent declaration brings forth a recognition.

4:20 6.- "lets discuss religion" Place, not PERSON

III Jesus Declares Himself

4:21 A.- Place - not decided because not the true issue Mal. 1:11

4:22 B.- What - they worship the true God + then repudiate Him by refusing ALL His Revelation — Ro. 9:4-5

1.- "salvation is of the Jews" — "proceeds thru" + not "confined to"

4:23 2.- true - as opposed to her false worship

4:24 3.- Spirit - as led by the Pt + not as embodied in idols

4.- truth - not in falseness + half-truths

C.- Messias - the Gk form of the name

4:25 1.- Tell - De. 18:15 - She looked for Him

4:26 2.- JESUS STATES PLAINLY + FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT HE IS THE MESSIAH

Action is more eloquent than speech

a.- result — 4:28-29

b.- why to her + not in Jerusalem is this revelation?

c.- salvation upon belief to many

To Xns Salt of Earth — make the World thirsty for this Living Water

d.- declared to be the SAVIOR OF THE WORLD

"THE WATER OF LIFE CONSIDERED" (1)

John 4:1-26

Read 4:1-9

INTRO:

Jesus was tired and thirsty. It had been a long journey over the hills of Judea and it was about noon. He sat down to rest at Jacob's well in Samaria near the town of Sychar. His disciples had gone to buy food. And to a Samaritan woman who had come to draw water, He said, "Give me a drink."

It was a dramatic scene. Rembrandt painted it three times (the paintings now divided among New York, Berlin and Leningrad) and also devoted drawings and etchings to it. Nor was the drama of the moment lost on the Samaritan woman herself. She responded: "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" For as the apostle immediately explains, "Jews have no dealings with Samaritans" (John 4:9, RSV).

And the drama was apparent to the disciples who upon their return "were astonished to find him talking with a woman" (v. 27, NEB). For the strict Rabbis forbade a Rabbi to greet a woman in public, even if she were his own wife, daughter or sister. There was even a type of Pharisee known as the "bleeding Pharisee" because he shut his eyes when he saw a woman on the street and would tend then to bump his head on foreign objects like walls and houses!

It was no wonder that the disciples were astonished. And not only was this a woman, but a woman of notorious character. She probably used this well to avoid the scorn of the women who used the well closer to home at Sychar. So to this sinful woman of a hated race, Jesus made the great declaration that He was Christ, the Messiah (vv. 25f.). And here was a beginning of the universality of the gospel.

A.- Necessity of Going Thru Samaria: (4:4)

1-"Must needs" — WHY?

- Conflict w/ Pharisees being stirred up between John's disciples & Jesus' disciples
- Herod's imprisonment of the Baptizer in a rejection of John's call for righteousness
- Led by the Spirit to go — Shortest path to Galilee

B.- Circumstances Then. — Evidence of Jesus genuine HUMANITY

1- Jesus is tired + sits at Jacob's well (4:5-6)

2- " sent disciples into the city for food (4:8)

3- A woman comes to draw water (4:7)

- 6th hour is 12:00 NOON - Customary in EVENING
- Woman of ill repute comes then to avoid women
- Carrying water NOT DONE by upper caste
- SAMARITAN by race + religion
  - x Colonists from Assyria intermarried w/ local women — MONGREL people
  - x Had 5 books of Moses + no more
  - x Worshipped at Mt. Gerazim in their Temple

4- Marvelous condescension to engage w/ her

* asked for a drink
  - x Not usual for a MAN toward a WOMAN in public

x Loving heart for a poor, lost soul
x Engaged in conversation + asked a favor of water
x A "thirst" in His being for her needs to be addressed and cured.

5-TODAY we have a H.P. at the right hand of God who can be touched w/ the feeling of our infirmities because He has suffered Himself being tempted—HE UNDERSTANDS!

C. FOURFOLD REVELATION HERE: (4:1-26)

1-Revelation about Living Water
2-Revelation about the Woman
3-Revelation about the Father
4-Revelation about the Son

Second Discourse after first w/ Nicodemus

I. REVELATION ABOUT LIVING WATER: (4:9-14)

A. Arousing Her Interest: (4:9)

1-Drink of water requested
2-She is AMAZED at his request
3-Usually CONTEMPT from Jews toward Samaritans
- Historically Samaritans SOLD Jews into slavery
- Reported to have waylaid + killed Jews going through on the road to Jerusalem

B. The Water Of Life: (4:10-14) READ!

1-Offered her the GIFT of God—"Living Water"
- He could offer her a greater benefit than the well could offer her
- LIVING WATER
  * Different in kind + quality
  * CONTRAST from well water
  * Benefit to present thirst VS Permanently quenching her greater thirst
- Creating A THIRST for MORE; GIFT of Eternal life—Bountiful, free, honorable GIFT
- Jesus was speaking of the new life that will be given by Him, a life connected w/ the activity of the SPIRIT

2- PERMANENTLY SATISFYING

"Abundant life" John 10:10 - "the thief cometh not, but to steal + to kill + to destroy: I am come that they might have life, + that they might have it more abundantly."

3- Her response - 4:11-12
- He had no equipment to draw water
- Are you GREATER than ancestor Jacob?

4- Jesus replied - 4:13-14
- "WHOSOEVER" = Available to ALL - 4:13
- This well water only temporarily can quench one's thirst - THIRST AGAIN!
- He has another "GIFT WATER" to give; "LIVING WATER"
- Contrasting "WHOSOEVER" in 4:13+ deals w/ a single act drinking done once
- NEVER THIRST - "the water that I give him shall be a well of water springing up into everlasting life."
- Result of the Spirit's convicting
  * A reception of the divine provision by a believer does away with all further desire.
  * Reception of this GIFT finds its satisfaction in Christ + Christ only
  CHRIST in a believer is LIFE!

5- "The words of our Lord tells us that He who knows the gift of God, His free gift, eternal life in Him whom God has sent, receives from Christ the living water, the Holy Spirit, who indwells the believer, abiding with Him forever + supplying all his needs, so that all soul thirst is satisfied!"

Read → 6- See John 7:37-39

7- Also John 16:14 - "He shall glorify Me, for He shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you."

8- Springing up into everlasting life - PERMANENT SATISFACTION!

II.- REVELATION OF THE WOMAN:

A.- The Woman's Response: (4:15)

1- "Give me" = Expressed her awareness of NEED or WANT

2- She is concerned with her personal convenience — EAGER TO RECEIVE!

B.- The Woman's Conscience: (4:16)

1- Omniscience of Christ - HE KNOWS ALL!

2- Jesus proceeds to show such knowledge of her + of her affairs that she is STARTLED into realization that He is MORE than he seems

3- Jesus tells this woman to call the person with whom she would naturally share.

4- He lays bare her past life, a life of ADULTERY!

5- Till men + women are brought to feel their SINFULNESS + NEED, no good will ever be done to their souls

6- Meyer: "The wound must be probed to the bottom + cleansed, before it could be healed, & there must be confession before FORGIVENESS.

C.- The Woman's Shame: (4:17-18)

Read LIMITED!

1- Honesty as far as she goes, but

2- What she replied was TRUE, but there was a FURTHER TRUTH — There must be complete CONFESSION of her illicit relationship!

3- Jesus STRIPPED BARE her real situation by a lazer like evaluation of her condition. HE CONFRONTED HER with the reality of her situation — NOT a real MARRIAGE!

4- MORE than human knowledge!

* Similar to Jn. 11:14 where Jesus knew that Lazarus was dead

* Also to Jn. 13:38 in predicting that Peter would deny Him thrice

5- Likely Jesus said: "Thy sins, which were many, are ALL FORGIVEN THEE."

D; The Woman's Sidestep:

1- She tried to CHANGE THE SUBJECT to remove the shame of her sinful life

2- 4:19-20

3- She thinks of Him as a PROPHET, as one who delivers a message from GOD

4- While she was learning about Jesus, she did not know who He really was.

5- She did NOT immediately perceive, but she is observing and learning as she interacts with Jesus

6- Morris: It is possible that the woman was already groping toward the recognition that Jesus was the Christ. The Samaritans acknowledged no prophet after Moses other than the one spoken of in Deut. 18:18, & Him they regarded as the MESSIAH. For her to speak of Jesus as a prophet was thus to move into the area of messianic speculation."

7- Her first thought was to DO SOMETHING! Her mind leaps to the worship of God to change the subject from her sinful lifestyle.

- There was an unresolved conflict between Jews & Samaritans. She is opening the issue of WORSHIP to Jesus. HOW do people properly approach God?
- Ancestors in Nehemiah's day built a Temple on Mt. GERAZIM. Destroyed in 129 B.C. by John Hyrcannus, but the place remained holy to the Samaritans. Jacob's well is at the base of that mountain

8- Worship depends not on the PLACE of the worship, but on the worshipper's heart → Worship in spirit & in truth.

1 Sam. 16:7 - "The Lord looketh on the heart."

III:- REVELATION OF THE FATHER: (4:21-24) (6)

A:- True Worship: (4:21)

1- "Woman, believe me" = LISTEN, LEARN + BELIEVE

2- Jesus turns her to "The Father" — The ONE FATHER
- Characteristic of John's Gospel
- 120 times in 21 chapters

3- PLACE of worship is not the issue in Worship
- Not Mt. Gerazim
- Not Jerusalem
- God can be worshipped ANYWHERE
- Spiritual worship means coming to THE FATHER

B:- Dealing With Her Distorted Ideas: (4:22)

1- "Ye know not what" = You worship in IGNORANCE
- Reminds of Acts 17:23

2- "Salvation is of the Jews"
- Israel had a Covenant relationship with God through promises made to Abraham
- The Jews had a full revelation of God in Genesis through Malachi
- Gen. 12:1-3, 7-9 (Read)
- Samaritans recognized only the Pentateuch, as Divine Revelation — LACK of the whole Counsel of God

3- The SALVATION promised:
- "Of the Jews" = "THRU the Jews" who descend from Abraham, Isaac + Jacob
- The Hebrew word for "salvation" is Jehoshua + in the Greek translation of "salvation" is Jesus
- Promise of salvation is revealed to be fulfilled in the Lord Jesus Christ

C:- Revelation Of The Father:

1- True worship is centered on THE FATHER

2- Two Essentials: (4:23)
- True worship includes a spiritual sense of the object of worship — GOD THE FATHER

- A spiritual communion which manifests itself in a MORAL CONSCIOUSNESS: a worship that corresponds to the NATURE of its object — The God of the Bible.

3 - Worship in spirit — Small S here
- Body is world consciousness
- Soul is self-consciousness
- Spirit is God-consciousness = Complete sincerity + reality in approaching God

4 - Worship in TRUTH which in an absolute sense is known in Divine revelation. John 14:6

Read →

5 - WHY? Because "the Father seeketh such to worship Him."
- The relationship of a believing sinner to God as Father is unknown in O.T. for Israel or anyone individually.
- This reasoning of God's desire is revealed here and only here in the N.T.

6 - (4:24)
"Must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth"
- Absolutely necessary
- Description of God's essential nature is spirit + Truth

Read → • God is LIGHT - His Character - 1 John 1:5
Read → • God is RIGHTEOUS - His Acts - 1 John 2:29
Read → • God is LOVE - His Nature - 1 John 4:8,16
→ • God is JUDGMENT - Heb. 12:29 His Judgment

"For our God is a consuming fire"

THE IMPORTANT THING is not where man worships, but how they worship.
Actively
Heartily
Committedly
Sincerely
Yieldedly

Service flows from a full heart of worship + praise

8 - God is not seeking WORKERS, but WORSHIPPERS

IV. - REVELATION OF THE SON: (4:25-26)

A. - The Messiah Coming: (4:25)

1 - The woman knew of Messiah of His coming
- She KNEW of Him + WHO He was to be:
  * The Christ = The ANOINTED One
  * To "tell us all things"
    - To proclaim or announce
    - ALL THINGS - Recognition of authority
- She spoke of Him by His JEWISH NAME, "MESSIAH" or "The ANOINTED ONE"
- The Samaritans looked for Him to restore the Kingdom to Israel + to establish His Kingdom on Mt. Gerazim where they believed that the Tabernacle was hidden

2 - She discerned that Jesus was fulfilling a Messianic role — Jesus had done what Messiah would do by making the Father known to this woman.

3 - She DID HAVE FAITH in the Coming Messiah!

4 - Like a Great Physician, He will undertake to cure those who were apparently incurable, + that none are too bad for Him to love + to heal.

5 - Let us ONLY ASK + He will give us Living Water!

B. - The Messiah Revealed: (4:26)

1 - Open declaration: BOLD STATEMENT at last!!

2 - Jesus responded to her messianic expectation w/ 4 Revelations:
① New life would be EVERLASTING LIFE
② Her spiritual need in light of an immoral relationship
③ The nature of the FATHER - God is SPIRIT so He can be worshipped anywhere!!
④ Jesus revealed Himself as MESSIAH!

3- This is the ONE OCCASION prior to His trial before Pilate in which Jesus clearly discloses this TRUTH!

4- Ryle: "These words are the fullest declaration which our Lord ever made known His own Messiahship, which the Gospel writers have recorded"

5- A fuller look at the Greek "I AM" (εγω ειμι) in which Jesus presents His messiahship
- 4:26 - "I am He" (Messiah, Christ)
- 6:35, 41, 51 - "I am the Bread of Life"
- 8:12 - "I am the Light of the world"
- 8:58 - "Before Abraham was, I am"
- 10:9 - "I am the Door"
- 10:10 - "I am the Good Shepherd"
- 11:25 - "I am the Resurrection & the Life"
- 13:13 - "Ye call Me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am"
- 14:6 - "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life"
- 15:1, 5 - "I am the True Vine"

6- NOTE: Jesus treated her sin frankly, but not harshly.

7- E. Stauffer - "There is no doubt that the evangelist wishes this to imply that Jesus pronounced the first significant, but as yet half-veiled words concerning the secret of His person not in Judea or Galilee, but on that occasion in Samaria."

8- REACTION:
"This woman saw a thirsty man, then a Jew, then a Rabbi, afterward as a Prophet, last of all as MESSIAH, then FORGIVER!

CONCL:

A. The Independence of Christ:

1- He is independent of RACE - Of no consequence to Him, - Neither Jew nor Gentile

2- He is independent of RELIGIOUS BIGOTRY — Neither a Temple on Mt. Gerazim or Mt. Zion in Jerusalem.

3- He is independent of CHARACTER - Heritage, Pedigree, Privileges, Capacities or Morality.

4- He is independent of PAYMENT - He offered a GIFT. All that is required is a THIRST and a DECISION.

5- He is independent of APPARATUS - No need for something with which to draw the water. He SPEAKS and it is DONE!

B- Responses:

1- The woman became an instant witness, leaving her water jar at the well and returning to Sychar. Despite her ragged reputation, she confronted people with the GOOD NEWS of Christ

Read → John 4:26-29

2- Have (YOU) received this blessed GIFT of Living Water through faith in Jesus Christ?

3- Have (YOU) shared this blessed GIFT of Living Water through faith in Jesus Christ?

4- What possible excuse can you think will stand up in God's Light?

- related to personal need of salvation of your soul?
- related to the need of siblings, parents, partner, children, co-workers, friends or neighbors?

5- 2 Cor. 6:2 "... behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."

Acts 17:23 "For as I passed by, & beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, Him declare I unto you."

John 14:6 "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me."

1 John 1:5 "This then is the message which we have heard of Him, & declare unto you, that God is light, & in Him is no darkness."

1 John 2:29 - "If ye know that He is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of Him."

1 John 4:8, 16 - "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins, ... And we have known & believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, & God in him."

Don Carson

"John may intend a contrast between the woman of this narrative and Nicodemus of chapter 3. He was learned, powerful, respected, orthodox, theologically trained; she was unschooled, without influence, despised, capable only of folk religion. He was a man, a Jew, a ruler; she was a woman, a Samaritan, a moral outcast. And both needed Jesus.

THE DIVINE IMPERATIVE — Jn. 4:4
—— For Jesus Christ

Intro

A- "Must" in Jn. 4:4
1- Divine imperative for X
2- Contrary to "normal"
3- yet, RIGHT!
4- One of Many "Musts"

B.- "Must" For Mankind
1- Jn. 3:7 — Must be born again
2- Acts 4:12
3- Acts 16:30
4- Contrary to "normal" view of mankind
5- Yet, ESSENTIAL

I.- DIVINE IMPERATIVE IN MINISTRY
A.- As A Youth
1- Luke 2:49 - "Must be about my Father's business"

B.- As A Public Figure
1- Luke 4:43 - "I must preach the Kingdom of God to other cities also, for therefore am I sent"
2- Jn. 9:4 - "I must work the work of Him that sent me"
3- Jn. 4:4 - "I must needs go thru Samaria"
4- Jn. 10:16 - "Them also I must bring"
5- LK. 19:5 - "For today I must abide at thy (Zacchaeus) house"

II.- DIVINE IMPERATIVE IN PASSION:
A.- As Predicted
1- LK. 13:33 - "Nevertheless I must walk to day, and to morrow, and the day following: for it cannot be that a prophet perish out of Jerusalem
2- MK. 8:31 - "And he began to teach them, that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected
(LK. 9:22; 17:25; 24:7)

of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes and be killed, and after 3 days rise again"

3- Mt. 26:53-54 - "Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, & he shall presently give me more than 12 legions of angels? But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?

4- John 3:14 - "And as Moses lifted up the Serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up"

John 12:34 - "The people answered him, We have heard out of the law that Christ abideth forever: and how sayest thou, The Son of Man must be lifted up? who is this Son of man?

5- Luke 22:7 - "Then came the day of unleavened bread, when the passover must be killed."

1 Cor. 5:7 - "For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us."

6- Heb. 9:16 - "For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the Testator."

7- Heb. 9:25-26 -

8- Luke 22:37 - "For I say unto you that this that is written must yet be accomplished in me, And he was reckoned among the transgressors..."

B.- As Promised:

1- Jn. 20:9 - "For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead"

2- Mt. 16:21 - "... and be raised again the 3rd day"

C.- As Yet Promised — JUST AS SURE AS THE PAST

1- Acts 3:21 - "Whom the heavens must receive until the times of restitution (restoration) of all things"

2- 1 Cor. 15:25 - "He must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet"

3- Luke 24:44 - "All things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses, & in the prophets, & in the Psalms Concerning me."

4- Jn. 3:30 — "He must increase, but I must decrease"

THE DIVINE IMPERATIVE—
FOR BELIEVERS
FOR MANKIND

Jn. 4:4

Use this as a series of 3. (w the other one under this neg.)
THE DIVINE IMPERATIVE:
(1) For Christ
(2) For Believers
(3) For Mankind

INTRO

A.- Divine Imperative

1- In Ministry — Jn

2- In Passion — Mt

3- In Promise (Fulfilled)

4- In Promise

— 1Cor. 15:25 — He must ... all enemies under his feet."

I- DIVINE IMPERATIVE FOR ~~BELIEVERS~~ ALL MANKIND:

A.- In Realm Of Belief

1- Heb. 11:6 — "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

2- Jn. 3:7 — "Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."

3- Acts 4:12 — "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

4- Acts 16:30 — "... Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

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THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL

John 4:27-42

INTRO:

A.- Review Of 4:1-26:

1- Jesus "must go through Samaria"
- Divine imperative
- The Water of Life has been shared w/ a Samaritan Woman

2- A Four-Fold REVELATION has been given
(1) Revelation about Living Water
(2) Revelation about the Samaritan woman
(3) Revelation about the Father
(4) Revelation about the Son
HE IS THE PROMISED MESSIAH 4:25-26

B- Interruption- Return Of Disciples:

1- 4:8- Disciples went to buy lunch materials
2- 4:27- Disciples return w/ food + are ASTONISHED!
- Jesus is talking w/ a Samaritan WOMAN
- Rabbis taught that it was below the dignity of a man to converse in public w/ a WOMAN!
"Let no one converse w/ a woman in the street, not even his wife." They were considered unclean + inferior in every way!
- No wonder the Disciples "MARVELLED", yet they did not interrupt their discoursing

3- REACTIONS:
(a) Disciples marveled
(b) Woman thought of OTHERS + went to TELL
(c) Men of Samaria came to SEE FOR THEMSELVES

I. THE WOMAN'S MISSION (4:28)
Sharing what she now believed

A- What She Forgot - WATER:

1- She left waterpot she had come to fill + hurried to share GOOD NEWS

2- Went to share + invited the MEN because such a deep impression was made on her by Jesus.

3- FORGOT her reason for being at the well + went TO TELL! - INVITED MEN whom she knew to "COME AND SEE"

4- Parallel: "I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ." Phs. 3:7-8

5- ZEALOUS to do good to others! Do WE have this determined zeal to help OTHERS?

B.- What She Did - Witness: (4:29) — Read it

1- WHY did she come to believe in Jesus as the Christ?

① Revelation that Jesus had given about the FATHER

② The way of access to the Father was thru HIMSELF

③ Enlightened about HOW to WORSHIP God the Father

④ The promise Jesus offered for ETERNAL LIFE

2- QUESTION she posed to men: "Is not this the Christ?"

- Vincent: "Jesus' insight in the one case convinced her that He knew everything; + to her awakened conscience it seemed as though He had told EVERYTHING"
- ALL THINGS - Supernatural Knowledge; OMNISCIENCE!
- She made no attempt to inflict her conclusion on the men. She said "COME AND SEE"

This invitation - By Jesus - John 1:39
- By Philip to Nathanael 1:46
- By Samaritan Woman - 4:29

- She abandoned the bringing of WATER for the bringing of MEN!

3-Calvin: "...it is the nature of faith that we want to bring others to share ETERNAL LIFE with us when we have become partakers of it."

C:-What Her Witness Caused: (4:29-30

1-Result of her testimony + invitation
Attracted by what — GRACE appears to have done for the woman
2-Men based their on her testimony
- Jesus is OMNISCIENT!
- He has SUPERNATURAL knowledge
3-A whole cityful of people are stirred with the throb of revival and hasten to the feet of Him Who is PRIEST + PROPHET both — Prophet to tell us of all things we ever did, + Priest to absolve of sin.
4-The disciples went into the city + brought back LOAVES: The woman went into the city and brought back MEN!

II: THE SAVIOR's MISSION: (4:31-42)

A:-Interacting With Disciples: (4:31-33)

1-Disciples offer food to Jesus — They are operating on a PHYSICAL level
2-Jesus replied on the SPIRITUAL level; He has sustenance of which disciples had no knowledge — To do the Father's will! NOT a human work
3-Disciples offered food purchased in Samaria — How little they knew of what their Lord was occupied in doing

B.-Instructing His Disciples: (4:34-37)

1-His emphasis was to do the WILL of GOD
- Not a human work, but salvation of souls
- He had a responsibility "to finish His work"

2-He was sustained in His body through HIS OBEDIENCE to the will of God
- Heb. 5:8-"Though He was a Son, yet learned He

obedience by the things which He suffered"
Heb. 10:5-7 — Read

3- 4:35 — Correction of their perspective
- 4 months elapsed between agricultural sowing + reaping
- There is no necessary interval between sowing the Gospel and reaping the NEW BIRTH
- SPIRITUAL HARVEST — men from Samaria are the trigger to Jesus' teaching His disciples
- SOULS are ready NOW!!
- Jesus had an urgent sense of MISSION
- RIPE for HARVEST; Ready to REAP!
  - x Woman is the harvest at that point
  - x Long-Term: A Woman → A Village → An Area → The WORLD — LOOK on the WORLD as your field for reaping
- The day is short; The task is great; The laborers are few; The wage is abundant and The Master of the house is urgent.

4- 4:36 Our service relates NOT to the present, but for ETERNAL LIFE!
We need to EARN our wages by faithful service

5- 4:37 — Another farming area saying

C.- Involving ALL Disciples: (4:38)

1- What Jesus told His disciples
- "I sent you" is EMPHATIC!
- REAPING SOULS is our task
- "Others" who labored — O.T. Prophets — John the Baptizer
- Jesus SENT HIS DISCIPLES to reap!
  ETERNAL LIFE CAN BE SHARED BY ALL — His Disciples, and By US!
- Reap a crop even if you are not the one who first sowed the seed of the GOSPEL

2- What does Jesus tell us?
- John 4:35 - LOOK on the fields"

- Matt. 9:38 "Pray ye therefore the Lord of harvest, that He will send forth laborers into His harvest."
- Matt. 28:19 - "Go ye therefore and disciple all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost"

D. Intersecting With Samaritan Men: (4:39-42)

1 - What happened in the city? (4:39)
- Men were believing on Jesus as MESSIAH on the testimony of the woman
- Her testimony aroused both their attention and their faith decision.
- SALVATION as the result of her caring concern to come + witness to them.
- RESULT was clear-cut - "Samaritans of that city believed on Him for the saying of the woman."
- She became not only a WITNESS, but also a SOUL-WINNER!

2 - What happened in the man? (4:40)
- They came to the well and pressed Him to remain in their midst for 2 days
A SERIOUS REQUEST!
- He had what they needed! Living Water for those who trusted Jesus as SAVIOR
- Jesus was here on Gentile ground + His grace reached many hearts
- Notable that Jesus performed no miracles while he ministered in Samaria
- Foreshadowing the CHURCH AGE wherein the gospel is to be widely dissemination NOT LIMITED TO JEW'S
- (4:41) "many more believed because of HIS OWN WORDS
  - The woman witnessed to them 4:28-30
  - The Savior witnessed - 4:39-42 (Personal contact with the man)
  - A widening circle of Samaritan believers
  - They BELIEVED HIM about the salvation He came to provide.

3-What was the men's Testimony?
- (4:42)
- Result of His two days of ministry in their city + availability
- The MEN TESTIFIED
- Response to His presence + His words
- MAGNIFICANT CLIMAX - "... we have heard Him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the SAVIOR OF THE WORLD."
- A widening circle of believers, including non-Jew Samaritans

CONCL.

A.- What Happened In Samaria?

1- The woman at the well saved thru a conversation with Jesus personally
2- The Samaritan men because of the woman's testimony and extended time of interacting with Jesus and coming to faith in Him as SAVIOR
3- Foretelling what would happen to Gentiles in the Church Age.

B.- What Happened In The Disciples?

1- Their vision was corrected
2- Their vision was EXPANDED
3- Their number was extended
4- They learned by seeing Jesus in the act of ministry — OSMOSIS - They grew by seeing the SAVIOR at work

C.- Question - What Have We Learned From This?

1- The gospel is for everyone
2- Witness is expected by ALL!
3- We learn by being instructed
4.- We learn by observing others
5- THE POINT — Become actively involved!

"WHY A MISSIONARY CONFERENCE HERE?" John 4:31-38

INTRO:

A.-Missionary History Here:

B.-Missionary Concern Of Pastor:
1-Not from training days
2-But from study of the WORD in 1st Pastorate
3-Service in Deptutation
4-Personal exposure--Mexico to Panama
--North Africa, Near East, Europe
--Various mission boards
--Trinidad/Tobago/Haiti
5-Returned to PASTORATE so as to lead others
--Easy to become sidetracked & busy
--Good to be "shaken out of our tree" and EXPOSED
to the need of the "gospel have-nots"

I.-THE TEXT TO THINK ON:--------INSPIRATION:

A.-What Jesus Said----John 4:31-38
1-Background of 4:1-30 of Jesus with the Samaritan Woman
at the well of Jacob
2-Question of PRIORITIES---4:31-34
3-World Missions Survey----4:35
** LATER----"yet four months"
** "LIFT"
** "LOOK"
** LOST-----"white already"
4-Application-------------4:36-38

B.-What Jesus Meant:

II.-THE TREASURES TO GAIN:-------INSTRUCTION:

A.-Expectation:
1-Prior announcements of Missions Conference
2-Schedule last week
3-Bulletin insert today with details
4-Posters
5-Flags
6-Get your JUICES OF EXPECTATION flowing!!
7-Set aside time in your calendar
--To pray for yourself
--To pray for the conference
--To ATTEND EVERY MEETING
8-Look forward to Miss. Conf. as a YEARLY HIGHLIGHT

B.-Enlargement:
1-World-view; Perspective: Over-view
2-Strategy for progress
3-STRETCH us to "think"
4-Provided by a missions leader
5-Lead us by his instruction away beyond our personal limitations

C.-Enlightenment:
1-Displays / Flags / Literature
2-Specifics thru testimonies--How saved ??
--How called ??
--How schooled ??
--How led to fields ??
3-Problems of certain fields
--Thru words of missionaries
--Thru pictures
4-ANSWERS to your questions
5-Answers where you may not even know enough to ask the question
6-ILLUS--Heijermans' message on Saturday night:
"THE MISSIONS MACHINE"
7-Fundamental, Separated missionary Societies with which to go out, and under which we can safely support work and workers

D.-Experience:
1-Some have "never known a LIVE missionary"
2-Only acquainted--Thru denominational programs
--Thru biographies
3-They're J U S T P E O P L E !!--Same hopes
--Same fears
--Same problems
--Same needs (spiritually, physically & materially)
3-EXPOSE YOURSELF TO THEM--Before services
--After services
--At dinner on Saturday night
4-Hospitality in your home--Bed & board
--A meal and fellowship
5-Join in PRAYER TIME with us--5 PM Sunday afternoon
--10 AM Monday, Tues. & Wed.

E.-Enthusiasm:
1-World-view by mission leader
2-Narrow & local view by furloughing missionaries
3-ENTHUSIASM from appointees--No stories of results
--No broad experience to share
--But EAGER TO GO !!
--Desirous of being OBEDIENT to their "vision"
--ILLUS--Paul in Acts 26:16-19
4-Contageousness of their enthusiasm
5-I hope for an E P I D E M I C to break out !!
6-Uplift of our spirits as well as an education of our heads.

F.-Encouragement:

1-That what we're doing is a part of
GOD'S GREAT ENTERPRISE OF THIS AGE:
** Taking out of Jew & Gentiles a "people for His Name"
** "I will build My Church"

2-Revitalize our own determination

3-"S E E" that God is working !!

4-Want to KEEP ON to victory

5-Realize the handicaps others labor under as a spur to our own determination

6-Set a pattern of encouragement before our YOUTH and CHILDREN--To know the will of God
--And then to do it!!

G.-Expansion:

1-Fuel for prayer--Privately
--Publicly
--BOTH are Scriptural & expected

2-Financial commitment
--FAITH PROMISE OFFERING between you and the Lord for gospel outreach in addition to local church giving
--Let's ask God to help us E X P A N D !!
--More money needed right now
--Missionaries "coming up" right here among our own youth----PRAISE GOD !!!

3-Broaden your vision AT HOME
--Your neighbors
--Your relatives
--Your co-workers
--Your fellow-students
--Your friends & other acquaintances

4-Seeking to I N V O L V E yourself in this local church's membership & ministry
--G E T for yourself all you can
--G I V E to others ehat you've received
--Full attendance for full learning
--Children For Christ class
--S.S. or Youth teacher
--Use your CAR to bring others
--Visitation
--Bus outreach
--Home and table open ** Collegians
** Others in attendance
--LOCAL CHURCH is the growing and testing ground for any usefulness elsewhere

5-Asking God if He doesn't have some place of service for you to which you ought to be moving and preparing!!

6-Remind ourselves that this matter of reaching a L O S T W O R L D is--The Church's responsibility
--To be done in OUR GENERATION

7-May God give us a renewed dedication to fulfill His will for ourselves and this needy world in our generation and in our lives.

III.-THE DECISIONS TO CONSIDER:------INDIVIDUALIZATION:

A.-Am I sure of my own salvation??--------INCLUSION

B.-Lord, What Should I look to SEE??------VISION

C.-Lord, What Should I look to PRAY about??---BURDEN

D.-Lord, What Should I look to GIVE??-------SACRIFICE

E.-Lord, What Should I look to DO??--------PARTICIPATION

Conel - Let's be more than WISHONARIES

Calvary Columbus 11/23/75 — #470
#480
#475

A LESSON IN FAITH

John 4:43-54 (1)

INTRO.

A. Jesus' Return To Galilee: (4:43-44)

1- 2 months ministry in Judea behind Him.
2- Rising antagonism from Sanhedrin
3- Returning to area of 38 years living
4- Jesus' enigmatic testimony (4:44)
- Which is meant? — Judea or Galilee?
- UNCLEAR

B. Jesus' Reception In Galilee: (4:45-46a)

1- Received warmly in Galilee
2- Galileans knew of Jesus' activities
- MIRACLE at Cana
- More miracles in Jerusalem area
- Positive attitude toward "one of their own"
3- WELCOME by the remnant of believing ones

I. THE PERIL AMENT OF A NOBLEMAN FATHER:

A. Who The Nobleman Was: (4:46b)

1- Not named, but described
- Official in a Noble office
- Probably an officer of Herod's Court
- Almost certainly a JEW
2- A man in desperate need of HELP!

B. What The Nobleman Said: (4:47)

1- He heard of Jesus' presence, so he came
2- He besought Jesus " PLEADING for HEALING
3- His young son is "at the point of death"
- In need of treatment
- Before it is TOO LATE
- For his small son
- PERSISTENT BESEECHING
4- Doubtless he knew of the water to wine miracle
5- Dealing a time of a Father's inadequacy + knowing of Jesus' SUFFICIENCY!
6- Inference that the Nobleman did not have a faith relationship with God — VERY NEEDY!

C:- How Jesus Responded: (4:48)

1- He spoke of the typical response of Galileans
- Desire for showy activities
- "SIGNS" - 17 times in John's gospel

Jn. 3:2 - "Rabbi we know that thou art a Teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him."

Jn. 20:30-31 - "And many other signs truely did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written that ye might believe, that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His Name"

2- Barrett: "The miracles of Jesus, then, were not merely, as in the Synoptic gospels, signs that the Kingdom of God is at hand, but also clear indicators that the by whom the signs are wrought is the SON OF GOD, + equal to God Himself."

3- INFERENCE - "Cannot you believe unless you actually see with your own eyes a miracle worked? No doubt our Lord knew the heart of the man before Him. He wished to test the man's faith, + to draw out from him more earnest desires after the mercy he wanted"

4- Jesus did not reject the faith that rested on the signs, but He wanted it to go DEEPER as the sign should stimulate faith

5- Surely, we have the answer to petitions of Him on the basis of our confidence being on our certainty that Jesus will keep His Word!

6- THE POINT! "If men will only view the miracles as they should, they will be led into an ever-deeper faith. From this point of view the σημεια presents a challenge, A CALL TO FAITH"

II:- THE PETITION OF A NOBLEMAN FATHER:

A:- Nobleman's Urgent Request: (4:49)

1- "Sir, come down ere my child die"

2- He did not arguing, not defending himself, He simply urges Jesus to do something before his child dies!

B: Jesus' Miraculous Response: (4:50a) (3)

1- "Jesus saith unto him, 'Go thy way; thy son liveth.'"

2- This verse shows the earnestness of the nobleman is answered by the Lord. He demonstrated HIS POWER — the power of GOD!

3- The apparent rebuff of the Lord in 4:48 has not left the Nobleman without a gracious + powerful answer. Rather, he took Jesus at His Word — He believed

C: How The Nobleman Responded: (4:50b)

1- "And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him"

- No SIGN, no renewed ASSURANCE, no appeal to emotion or senses; just SOVEREIGN assurance from Jesus + it is ENOUGH!!
- he was SURE of what Jesus said.

2- Without hesitation "he went his way" believing without having any outward evidence of its truth

3- Healed by LONG DISTANCE! is the answer to his heavy heart.

4- Three things to note:

(a) We should observe our Lord's marvelous kindness + compassion

(b) We should observe our Lord's mighty power. He speaks the word + it was done.

(c) We should observe not the least the unhesitating confidence which the nobleman reposed in our Lord's power.

5- APPLICATIONS:

- For Forgiveness - When confession is complete + sincere, you can count on His forgiveness,
- For Victory over our sins - Many fail to experience victory in praying over + over for deliverance - FAITH CLAIMS the promised victory + gives Thanks to God
- For all the precious gifts of God - We thirst + sit. We need to claim all of God's promises in His Word. EXAMPLE - John 14:27-31

6- Let us note, God does not always give us what we ask for. Often, He gives what is FAR BETTER!

III.- PROOFS OF THE GALILEAN MIRACLE:

A.- The Servant's Report: (4:51)

1- Met on the way by a servant's GOOD NEWS; "Thy son liveth.." = "He is doing nicely"
2- PROOF of Jesus' power + Word!
3- Conditions for faith that can claim all that God is ready to give:
   @ It must be accompanied by a good conscience — 1 Tim. 1:5-19
   ⓑ It must feed on the promises of God
   - Abraham believed God + it was counted unto him for righteousness - Gen. 15:6
   - Man cannot live by bread alone, but by every Word of God!
   ⓒ It must dare to act in absence of emotion. STEP OUT as bidden + walk on water as solid as rock under our feet.

B.- The Conversation For Clarification: (4:52)

1- The QUESTION- "the hour where he began to amend"
2- The ANSWER- "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him" — The very time when Jesus said, "Go thy way: Thy son liveth"
3- The servant's words were enough, sufficient to cause both the Nobleman and all his household TO BELIEVE!
4- The miraculous sign of his son's instantaneous healing transformed his faith into a greater faith.

C.- The Conversion Aftermath: (4:53-54)

1- Son was saved PHYSICALLY
   Whole household believed SPIRITUALLY
2- Three degrees of Faith → The beginning tentative
   → The increase daily
   → The perfection when we are taken to Heaven
3- Bishop Hall:
"Great men cannot lack clients. Their example sways some: their authority more. They cannot go to either of the other worlds ALONE

4-This was Jesus' second miracle in Galilee
It was an AUTHENTICATION of Christ's person through the signs

5-TROPHIES OF GOD'S GRACE
John 1-Fishermen converted + called
3-A self-righteous Pharisee was saved
4-A fallen Samaritan was saved + that her witness many men were also converted
4-A nobleman out of a king's court was brought to faith and his whole household also.

6-The healing of the nobleman's son points to Jesus as the LIFE, and the life come to the nobleman and his house.

7-Second of many miracles Jesus performed in Galilee

CONCLUSION:

A. Four Great Things To Learn From "A LESSON IN FAITH"

1-That the rich have afflictions as well as the poor
- Silks + satin often cover very heavy hearts.
- Pray for the rich; don't envy them.
- Be content with such things as you have.

2-Sickness + death come to the young as well as to the old.
- Natural order is often reversed. Elders are often required to minister to or bury their young + not the offspring to care for their elders.
- It is a hard lesson to learn that some of our young die in youth
- The first grave was for Abel, a younger son. First to die was the son, not the Father
- David lived long enough to bury 3 sons.
- Job was deprived in one day of 7 sons + 3 daughters
- The strongest + fairest are often cut down young, while the old + feeble linger for years
- LEARN to live as men ready to depart at any minute - Joined to the Lord Jesus, we are

3- Learn what benefits affliction can confer on a soul.

- The nobleman father's anxiety over his son's sickness led the nobleman to faith in Christ
- He learned a lesson of priceless value. It all hinged on his son's affliction.
- Affliction is one of the medicines God uses. By it, He often draws souls away from sin + the world — TO CHRIST!
- Ps. 119:17 — "It is good for me that I have been afflicted"
- Beware of grumbling + murmuring

4- Christ's WORD is as good as Christ's PRESENCE!

- Jesus spoke the words "Thy son liveth". He spoke + the cure was done.
- He that by faith has laid on some word of Christ, has Christ got his feet on a rock — "Him that cometh unto Me, I will in nowise cast out" + our hearts can testify, "I HAVE COME", + we have no need to doubt that we are saved!

B. Personal Application:

Now let us remember that afflictions, like that of the nobleman, are very common. They probably come to our door one day. Have we known anything of bearing afflictions?

Would we know where to turn for help + memories betimes with Christ's words. They are not the words of man only, but of God. The word that He speaks are spirit and life. (John 6:63)

THE THIRD SIGN MIRACLE
John 5:1-18 The Healing at the Sheep Pool

INTRO:

A. The Miracle's Setting: (5:1-4)

1- Jesus returned to Jerusalem for observation of Israel's feast (not clear as to which of 3 annual observances)

2- Location of this event was at a pool near the Sheep Gate where animals for Temple sacrifice. Called BETHESDA = House of Mercy

3- Pool there had 5 pools + 5 porticos to accomodate a great multitude of needy people - BLIND, HALT, WITHERED ones waiting for the moving of the waters:

- These were waiting for the moving of the waters by an angel in hope of being HEALED — Divine intervention
- SIN was the original root + cause + foundation of every disease in the world. No greater proof can be shown of man's sinful unbelief, than his carelessness about SIN! What misery sin has brought into the world

4- 5:4 is explanatory of Jews' views about bubbling water that occured — viewed as MIRACLE of healing in these medicinal waters

B. The Man Singled Out: (5:5-6a)

1- One man is selected from among many who waited + hoped for healing.

2- This man had endured his infirmity for 38 long years
- He was unable to move quickly to enter the pool for healing - HE HAD NO MAN to aid him
- This man had GIVEN UP HOPE
  - In himself
  - In others to aid him

• Friendless, Helpless, Hopeless
- SPECIAL to Jesus who intervened in his behalf — a continuation of Jesus dealing with individuals
  • Calling disciples one by one
  • Aiding a couple at their wedding feast
  • The Nobleman's Son
  • Nicodemus
  • Samaritan women + men

3- Though this passage has unanswered elements, it is the wisest course to believe, though we cannot explain its miraculous elements.

4- This healing of the man's paralysis brings Jesus into conflict with the Jews.

5- 5:6a Superhuman knowledge is exhibited, but there is no explanation as to WHY Jesus singled out this particular man. — He SAW, He KNEW, He SPOKE, He HEALED — Jesus took the initiative. He did not wait for the man to solicit aid.

I: THE RECORD OF HEALING: (5:6b-9)

A- Jesus' Question Asked: (5:6b)

1- "Wilt thou be made whole?" = What is your DEEPEST DESIRE? NOT merely "Do you wish," but "ARE YOU IN EARNEST?"

2- NONE had any claim on Jesus' favor + healing

3- It is a comforting truth that Jesus knows every sickness + disease + all its weary history. NOTHING was hidden from Him.

4- Inquiry as to the man's willingness to be CURED

B- Crippled Man's Answer: (5:7)

1- "Sir, I have no man..."
- No human aid is available to him
- All are serving SELF, not OTHERS

2- He thought all his hope lay in the curative properties of the pool but did not think beyond what the water could do for him.

3- He thought all the other infirm people had an advantage over him.

4- The FRIEND of SINNERS did not touch the man, nor

make him a promise. From His lips came the word of COMMAND, the word of OMNIPOTENT power.

C: Jesus' Command: (5:8)

1- "Jesus saith unto him, Rise, Take up thy bed, and walk."

2- Christ's command was His enablement to the man

3- DODS: "He was commanded to take up his bed that he might realize that the cure was permanent."

4- MORRIS "This healing differs from many others in that, not only is there no mention of FAITH on the part of the man, but there seems no room for it."

5- NOTE: Jesus did not help the man into the pool. Jesus is not in the helping business, but the SAVING BUSINESS, NOT LAW, but PURE GRACE! He healed the man OUTSIDE the POOL!

- Rom. 4:5 - "But to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness."
- Tit. 3:5 - "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according of His mercy He saved us by the washing of regeneration, & the renewing of the Holy Ghost."
- Grace has spoken & power is there also.

D: Crippled Man's Healing - A MIRACLE: (5:9)

1- "Immediately the man was made whole"

2- NOTHING but divine power could enable one who had been a cripple for so many years to move his limbs & carry a burden at all.

- Salvation is of Christ ALONE! More than the water or an angel
- It is enough that Jesus commanded him - CURED by the Divine Word!

3- He took up his bed and walked! The cure was INSTANTANEOUS & COMPLETE

E: Explanation About Sabbath: (5:9c)

1- Sabbath in Scripture
- Gen. 2:1-3 - GOD RESTED
- Exod. 16:23-32 - Given to Israel in the wilderness
- Exod. 20:8-11 - Longest of the TEN COMMANDMENTS
- Exod. 31:12-18 - Made a SIGN of the Covenant between God + His people Israel. This marked Israel as a set apart people. Divinely ordained + beneficient part of the Mosaic economy designed for the rest of man + for worship + service to God. RABBIS had a system of 39 works which render the offender subject to DEATH BY STONING - A grievous burden!
- Exod 31:14 calls for a DEATH SENTENCE for violation of the Sabbath.

2- Pharisaic tradition forbid to carry any burden on the Sabbath -

Montefiore: "... in spite of the many restrictions + regulations, the Sabbath was upon the whole a joy + a blessing to the immense majority of Jews throughout the Rabbinic period. Jesus' attitude recalled men to the real meaning of Sabbath."

II: THE REACT

A: Jews Op

1- Jews see had their many who witnessed the HEALING - A miracle!

2- Sabbath was not just another day of business. It is GOD'S DAY for ISRAEL. It was to be kept free from worldly pursuits or work

3- The Sabbath was everything to them; the Lord of the Sabbath they did not want. They were hard hearted men. - STRENUOUS OPPOSITION!

4- Jews said "it is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed"

5- McCLYMONT: "The very form of the Question showed how entirely their thoughts were occupied with the infringement of their rule to the exclusion of the miracle of healing. They put the Question for the purpose of dealing with the offender."

B: Healed Man's Answer: (5:11)

1- He told the Jews that he simply OBEYED the One who had made him whole

2- "Whole" means healthy or healed - FIVE TIMES

3- PRINCIPLE: - "He that has done so great a thing to me is to be obeyed when he told me to take up my bed" - DIVINE AUTHORIZATION

C. Jews' Question: (5:12-13)

1- "What man"? - The Jews sought the author of the man's benefaction so as to inflict judgment for violation of the Sabbath.

NOT to rejoice in the miracle of the man's relief from paralysis!

2- 5:13 - The healed man was so excited w/ the cure that he lost sight of everything else for the moment!

3- The Jews did not say "WHO IS HE THAT HEALED YOU", but "Who bade you to take up thy bed?"

4- The healed man did not know the answer to the Jews' Question

5- WHY did Jesus go out of his way to do this healing miracle on a Sabbath day?

(a) To antagonize the Jewish leaders: Sabbath was a day of REST. What better time to give this paralytic man a REST from the curse of sin?

(b) Sabbath day was a SIGN of national connection between Israel + Jehovah, the God of the Covenant. NO NEED TO CONTINUE with the "Sign" because of John 1:11 - "He (Jesus) came unto His own (Israel), and His own received Him not"

MESSIAH was REJECTED by His people!

D. Interaction In The Temple: (5:14-15) Read

1- Jesus sought the healed man; He took the initiative

2- The man went into the Temple
- For a sin offering
- To worship

SOLEMN WORDS!

3- Jesus' words: "SIN NO MORE" = STOP SINNING indicates that his infirmity was a result of sin + divine discipline because of SIN!
- Lack of REPENTANCE prevented him from finding a cure at the pool
- He had continued in his sin all these yrs.
- Jesus enjoins him to break w/ his sin + be RECONCILED to God

- The "worse thing" is likely a reference to the ETERNAL CONSEQUENCES of sin, which is WORSE than the man's physical handicap

4- We may gather that it was a special sin which had been responsible for his long affliction. 38 YEARS of helplessness is an awful harvest from sin.

- Nothing in the world happens "BY CHANCE"
- A bed is a sorrowful place, but HELL is much worse! — A heavier visitation of divine judgment.

5- Be sure of this — Indulgence in sin often brings a long continued disease — which takes away strength + produces premature decay or death

6- 5:15 — "departed + told"!
- He became a witness about Jesus' healing
- He spoke GRATEFULLY of his healer

III: THE RESULT OF THE HEALING MIRACLE! 5:16-18

A: Jew's Response: (5:16)

1- Response to man's testimony:
- Jews took action against Jesus
- PERSECUTION — Sought to kill Jesus

2- BECAUSE of Jesus helpfulness to the man, which shows His Divine nature

3- It is true that God rested on the 7th day of creation, but that rest was soon broken by man's sin. But when sin entered in + produced the horrible results of suffering, misery + death, God could NO LONGER REST — The work of REDEMPTION began at once when sin + its ruin had come

4- These Jews cared neither for the poor paralytic who was healed nor for the MESSIAH who had proved Himself Divine.

B: Jesus' Reply: (5:17)

1- Strong + clear declaration — GOD is His FATHER

2- None of His words of explanation are recorded, but Jesus defended His actions by saying MK 2:28 "The Son of man is Lord even of the Sabbath"

His answer's defense rests on His intimate relationship w/ the Father — The Sabbath cannot interfere w/ the work of such an One!

3- Jesus was claiming that God was His Father in a special sense, because He partook of the SAME NATURE as His Father — EQUALITY

4- The Jews did not miss the significance of Jesus' words. He had called God "HIS OWN FATHER" + this meant He was making Himself equal w/ God!

5- Dean Alford: "The Jews understood His words to mean nothing short of peculiar, personal SONSHIP, + thus equality of nature w/ God."

6- Jesus' words give us insight into the TRINITY:
- The greatness + dignity of our Lord Jesus
- He asserts His unity w/ the Father
- TWO Persons; ONE God

7- Stauffer: "Jesus does not displace God, He represents Him."

C: Jew's Wrath: (5:18)

1- No lack of clarity that they UNDERSTOOD what Jesus claimed

2- Wrath toward Jesus in reaction

3- Re-read 5:18 + then quote Jn. 10:33

"The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because thou, being a man, makest thyself God!"

4- Two accusations toward Jesus Christ
- (a) Blasphemy
- (b) Equality w/ God

CONCL.

A: REVIEW:

1- Miracle of healing of a man paralysed 38 yrs

2- Jewish reaction because they saw a violation of Sabbath, not a healing of a needy man

3- TRUTH to hold on to — 5:17-18 Read

4- Try to grasp the truth, but don't try to UNSCREW THE INSCRUITABLE

WHO IS THIS JESUS?

John 5:17-24

INTRO:

A- Context Of This Study: (John 5:1-16)

1- Immediate — Miracle of healing at the Sheep Gate of a paralytic man
— Negative response of "the Jews" because this GOOD WORK occurred on a SABBATH DAY
— Jews sought to persecute Jesus + sought to SLAY HIM
— Jesus' response — 5:17
— John's explanation of what occurred — 5:18

2- THE POINT
READ → — Sabbath Day required NO WORK for Jews according to Moses' Law: Ex. 20:9-11
— Jesus being a Jew, they thought Jesus worthy of DEATH because He healed the man + told him to pick up his pallet + walk on a Sabbath day
— Jesus indicated an EQUALITY w/ God.
— GOD never "takes a day off", but WORKS 24/7/365
— EQUALITY w/ God would mean Jesus was doing the natural thing for One EQUAL w/ God

3- Further context about "WHO is this Jesus?"
— John 1:14 — John's revelation
— John 1:18 — John the Baptist's declaration
— John 3:16 — After explanation following the interview w/ NICODEMUS
— John 3:17-18 — Elaboration by the Gospel writer

B- Content Of This Study:

1- Prior Statement to Woman at the Well in Samaria — 4:25-26

2- Now a statement of the ONENESS + SAMENESS between Jesus + God, the Father.

3- So let us see the names used of Jesus to describe + address Him.

I. THE NAMES RELATED TO JESUS: (John 5:19-27) (2)

A. The Names Used:

(1) "the only begotten Son" = The UNIQUE SON with Character and powers equal w/ the FATHER
- Used 5X in NT
- Always by the Apostle John
- 4 times in John's Gospel + 1 time in 1 Jn. 4:9

(2) Next is "SON"
- In 5:19 + 9 times in 5:19-26
- Used widely in O.T. + N.T., but implies a close + like relationship w/ the One who so speaks of a person or to him — PROV. 30:4
- 74 times used of Jesus in N.T. + 22 in this gospel

(3) "SON OF GOD" 5:25 — 51X in 11 books DEITY
- Both Character + Relationship
- Used by Jesus of Himself in Mt. 11:27

"All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whom the will reveal Him."

— An invitation in Mt. 11:28

"Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

- DISCIPLES spoke of Him thus
- Jn. 1:49 – Nathanael said "Rabbi, Thou art the Son of God."
- Jn. 1:33-34 — John the Baptist
- Mt. 14:28-33 – Peter walking on water + the disciples responded
- Mt. 16:16 – Simon Peter – "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."
- Mt. 24:54 – Centurion – "Truly this was the Son of God"

HOGG + VINE on Gal. 99-100

"An eternal relationship subsisting between the Son + the Father in the Godhead is to be understood. That is to say, the Son of God in His eternal relationship with the Father, is not so entitled because He at any time began to derive His being from the Father (in which case He could not be co-eternal with the Father), but because He is and ever has been the expression of what the Father is; compare John 14:9, 'he that hath seen Me hath seen the Father.'"

(4) "SON OF MAN" – Jn. 5:29 — The racial name of Jesus

- Refers to Jesus' HUMANITY, but not by Human generation
- Title Jesus used of Himself esp. in SYNOPTICS
- Used 79X in N.T. in 7 books
- UNGER – "Both Christ Himself + His Apostles

speak of His Sonship in a way which cannot be employed with reference to any, even the highest of God's creatures." Bible Dictionary, P. 1039

B: Their Significance Of These Names:

1- They are used to draw to a reader's attention BOTH Jesus' true HUMANITY and His significant DIFFERENCE from those around Him in a higher + nobler manner

2- Angel Gabriel foretold about Him before His birth - Luke 1:30-35

3- Jesus asked the man blind from birth - John 9:35-37

4- On another occasion Jesus said - Luke 10:21-23

5- The Father's work in maintaining + redeeming the world has continued from the creation until the present moment until now, not interrupted by the Sabbath

II: THE FATHER AND THE SON: RELATIONSHIP

A: Equality In Nature - SAMENESS: (5:17-18)

1- Philo Judaeus: God never ceases to work. Just as it is the property of fire to burn + of snow to be cold, so it is the property of God to work." - NO SABBATH REST FOR GOD

2- Jesus' response to the Jews:
   (a) He asserts His own Divine authority, commission, dignity + equality with God, His Father.
   (b) He brings up the evidence of His Divine commission which the Jews ought to consider + receive. - 5:17

3- The Son does the same deeds as the Father does No action of His, but it is the expression of the life + action of the Father.

4- The acts of the Son, therefore, are not His own independent acts, but the acts of His Father also - THE VERY SAME THING!

5- Jesus was annulling the law + duty of Sabbath observance!

6- Jesus left no doubts in the minds of the Jews as to His claim — EQUAL with the Father!

B- Equality In Works — SAMENESS: (5:19-21)

1- Interdependence of the Father + the Son - 5:19
- Submission is with perfect harmony
- Phil. 2:5-8 — Read
- "Verily, Verily" = "Truly, Truly" - IMPORTANT! Also 5:24, 25
- The "DOING" of works is a communion of interests between Father + Son

2- Two Facts - ⓐ God the Father LOVES the Son
ⓑ The Father will show that the Son will do GREATER THINGS!

3- The Father LOVETH + SHOWETH all things to the Son
- Continuing, habitual love
- What the Father DOETH is to also be done by the Son
- UNITY of ACTION is necessary showing in a matchless, marvelous way of the ONENESS of the Son with the Father

4- This increasing display of the Father's purpose in Christ's redeeming work would make them marvel + would produce greater wonder than these miracles of healing (the Nobleman's son - 4:46-54 + the Paralytic man - 5:1-15)

5- Three KEYS are in the HAND OF GOD + not given to the hand of another!
ⓐ - The RAIN - Deut. 28:12 - "The LORD shall open unto thee His good treasure, the heaven to give rain unto thy land in His good season, and to bless all the work of thine hand..."
ⓑ - The WOMB - Gen. 30:22 - "God remembered Rachel, and God hearkened unto her + opened her womb."
ⓒ - The RAISING of the DEAD - Ezek. 37:13 - "And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, + brought you up out of your graves."

6- Morris: "Jesus' actions do not proceed from merely human motivation. He acts only in accordance with the divine revelation"

7- John 14:10-12

8-Two more facts (5:21)
@ The Father raises the dead + makes them to live again
ⓑ Jesus Christ, the Son, makes alive also as He desires to do so — LAZARUS
-Mere men cannot command a miracle. ONLY GOD is able to do these things
-What the Father can do will be done by the SON

NB 9-It is never said of any Prophet or Apostle that he could do any mighty work at his will as it is said of Jesus!
10-Raising up the dead is more than curing the cripple. But "quickening" or imparting life is more than raising them up

C- Equality In Authority — SAMENESS: (5:22-23)

1-Delegated function of JUDGING — All of it to the Son
"To Judge" is an O.T. expression used to be in the sense of TO RULE
Judgment is a special work of the SON!
So also is His work to give Eternal Life!

2-PURPOSE STATEMENT — 5:23
-Honor to the Son equal with that merited by the Father! • An assertion of Jesus' DEITY!
• An evidence UNITY between the Father + the Son
-No inferiority of the Son
-The Father will exercise His prerogative of judging through the Son - Acts 17:31

3-KEY TRUTH: Jesus is the ROCK OF AGES and he that builds on Him shall never be confounded.

4-ONLY they who honor Jesus Christ pay any proper worship, or have any earnest proper worship. Most devotion to God is just in proportion to their love for the Redeemer — JESUS CHRIST.

* 5-There is no knowledge of the TRUE GOD except in the face of the SON

6-BURGON: "There never was a time when any of the three Persons was not" — AND it might be added there never was a time when the THREE PERSONS were not EQUAL!

CONCL: (5:24)

A. - The Importance Of "WHO IS THIS JESUS"

1 - The Words - "Verily, Verily" = TRULY, TRULY
- Very important summary - verse 4:25
- Found 3X in this chapter - 5:19, 24

2 - A direct word from Jesus to clarify with "MY WORD"

B. - The Instruction From Jesus:

1 - Two Instructions to ALL
- "He that heareth My Word" - The authoritative Instruction &
- "Believeth on Him that sent Me" - FAITH based upon FACTS

2 - John recorded Christ's miracles to generate FAITH in his readers . . . In fact, he put such emphasis on believing that he used the word "BELIEVE" 99X in his Gospel.

3 - The "WORD" often in the NT stands for the message of Jesus
- "Believeth on Him that sent Me" is unusual.
POINT: "All those who believe the Father, who really believe the Father, "ACCEPT CHRIST."

4 - The ALTERNATIVE to faith in Jesus Christ is CONDEMNATION; Rejection of Him as Savior is Spiritual Suicide; a failure to come to the Father by Faith in God's Son.

C. - The Invitation To BELIEVE On Jesus:

1 - The words of 5:24 constitute an INVITATION, a challenge. They are to CALL to hear Christ and TAKE THE STEP OF FAITH
- Salvation of one's soul depends upon HEARING Christ's Message
- How rich & full are the privileges of the true hearer & believer in Christ as REDEEMER
  - Present recipient of ETERNAL LIFE
  - NO CONDEMNATION by God
  - Passed from death to LIFE

John 5:25-47

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

INTRO:

A.- Examples:

Abraham Lincoln was an avid reader of the Bible. However, up until his 40th birthday, he could be best described as "an agnostic" and "a deist."

It took the death of his little son to bring him to a personal trust in the Written Word and the Living Word of God.

Sorrowing over the loss of his small son, he turned for comfort to Dr. James Smith, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Springfield, Illinois. Dr. Smith gave Lincoln a copy of his own work on the Christian evidences. It was titled: THE CHRISTIAN'S DEFENSE. "At the conclusion of his examination," writes Dr. Smith, "Lincoln came forth, his doubts scattered to the wind, and his reason convinced by the arguments in support of the inspired and infallible authority of the Old and New Testaments. He became a believer in God and in His providential government. He believed in Jesus Christ, God's Son, the Way, the Truth, and the Life."

Lincoln found reality in the Scriptures when he was willing to search for truth with a hungry heart.

So did Dr. Reuben A. Torrey, another man trained in law. When he was asked by the Australian Parliament to present his arguments *for* the resurrection of Jesus Christ, Torrey spoke eloquently and convincingly from the Scriptures for *four* hours. He presented his case with such force that many agnostics and deists had their views utterly shattered and later came in repentance to the Lord for salvation.

"I did not always believe the Bible," said Dr. Torrey. "I doubted that Jesus Christ was the Son of God. I doubted whether there was a personal God. I was not an infidel; I was a skeptic. I did not deny; I questioned. I was not an atheist; I was an agnostic. I did not know, but I determined to find out and act accordingly. If there were *not* a God, I determined to find that out and act accordingly. If Jesus Christ were the Son of God, I determined to find that out and act accordingly. If the Bible were the Word of God, I determined to find that out too, and act accordingly."

Then he paused . . . and with a strong, confident voice he announced: "I found out! I found out beyond doubt that there is a God, that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and that the Bible is the Word of God! Today it is with me not a matter of mere probability, or even of mere belief, but of absolute certainty!"

Shipmate, both Lincoln and Torrey discovered that when they were diligent in searching the Scriptures, they had their questions answered about God, Jesus, and the Word of God.

This is exactly as Jesus said it would be. In John 5:39, our Lord says "Search the Scriptures, for . . . they are they which testify of Me."

B.- Experience:

1- Pastor Haynes
2- Paul C. Reiter
3- Bob Lilly + Ken Lilly
4- Many more of you men
5- I want the reality of saving faith to be UNANIMOUS! - FAITH!
   - In the Scriptures as The WORD of God +
   - Jesus Christ as PERSONAL SAVIOR!
6- Listen, Hear, Understand + BELIEVE for yourself
7- I desire each and every one to be sure that this decision of FAITH has been made by him. TRUST JESUS as your personal Savior

I- JESUS' CLAIMS TO ACTIVITIES: (Jn. 5:25-29) (2)

5:25; 10:36; 11:4; 19:7; 20:31

A- Activities As Son Of God: (5:25-26)

1- All life is in Jesus control
- Already introduced in 4:14 - "Verily, Verily, But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." - Also 5:21, 24, 25

Very important sayings!
- Spoken in the name of Deity - Son of God
- A need to HEAR Him + to HEED personally
- Prediction that the conversion of many dead sinners would take place soon
  - Eph. 1:13 - "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the Word of Truth, the Gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise."
- 5:26 * SOURCE of life is the Father
  * DISPENSER of life is the Son
  * 1 John 5:11 - "God gave unto us eternal life, + this life is in His Son."
- Burgon: "Both the Father + the Son have the same life; both have it in themselves; both in the same degree; as one so the other; but only with this difference, the Father from all eternity giveth it, the Son from all eternity receiveth it."
- Declaration of the Son of God to give life to dead souls — PHYSICALLY as with Lazarus
  — SPIRITUALLY to those dead in trespasses and sins
- GIVING OF LIFE characterized Jesus ministry on earth for 3½ years

2- Resurrection of the dead is clearly an activity delegated to Jesus Christ as Son of God
- This is a most solemn prophecy of the final resurrection of the dead

-As to the nature of risen bodies we are told nothing in this passage of Scripture. It is enough for us to know that the passage clearly shows it will be a resurrection of bodies as well as souls. It is those who are "in the graves" that shall come forth. (See 1 Cor. 15)

1 John 3:2 later informs us Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him: for we shall see Him as He is.

B-Activity As Son Of Man: (5:27-30)

1-Authority to execute judgment is delegated by the Father to the Son of Man:

-The authority is assigned to Him as being truly man - GOD INCARNATED!

-The final verdict on men is in the hands of one Judge alone - A divine prerogative of the Son of Man

-This authority is GIVEN by the Father + RECEIVED by the Son

2-Title "Son of MAN":

-Used in the N.T. by Christ → 8X in Gospel / 79X in N.T.

-Schleiermacher: "Christ would not have adopted this title had He not been conscious of a complete participation in human nature."

-Son of Man is the bond between earth and heaven + He belongs in an equal degree to both: He the mediator through whom God reaches man and man reaches God

-These words seem to imply that there is a connection between our Lord's incarnation + His filling the office of JUDGE.

3- God commits some present aspects of judgment to men so that they are frequently exhorted to do just judgment (and the like) yet the final verdict on men is in the hands of one Judge alone - JESUS CHRIST

C.- The Two Resurrections: (5:28-29) Read these

1- This is the CLIMAX to this portion of Scripture. The voice of the SON OF MAN will call the dead of all the ages from their graves — summoned before Jesus Christ for judgment. Don't marvel at it. BELIEVE IT!

2- At the consummation of the age, the VOICE of the Son will usher in resurrection

"A SHOUT"

3- TWO RESURRECTIONS:

- Unto life — A series of groups — I Th. 4:14-16
  - Christ rises at the Rapture
  - O.T. Saints + Tribulation saints at Christ's return to earth to rule + reign during millennium
  - Millennial dead at end of Mill.
- "with the Lord" HEAVEN

- Unto damnation
  - Great White Throne
  - Rev. 20:11-15
  - Banished to HELL for everlasting punishment

- There is an immense difference between these 2 resurrections

4- It is The VOICE of the Son that will call the dead from their graves, even as now those dead in sin can hear, believe + be saved now.

NB - The lives people live will test the faith they profess.

- 5:29 Does NOT mean that salvation is on the basis of good works.
- Calvin: "He marks out believers by their good works, just as elsewhere Jesus taught that a tree is known by its fruit."

5- POINT - There is a judgment ahead and a hell to be avoided by a decision made NOW!! There is NO SUCH THING as annihilation! All of us will live somewhere FOR EVER.

II.- JESUS' CONFIRMATIONS TO HIS AUTHORITY:

A: Authority Is Not By Personal Claims: (5:30-22)

1- Jesus stressed His dependence on the Father 5:19-

2- Jesus' judgment is JUST = RIGHTEOUS
- Proved by Jesus' perfect obedience to the will of the Father at all times means that His judgement is divine.

3- Here John's recorded Gospel goes BEYOND Jesus' prerogative to work on the Sabbath + moves to the AUTHORITY God has delegated to Him as the Son

4- 5:31 — Difficult to understand at a quick reading — "If I alone bear witness of Myself my witness is not true."
- One's own word will not be believed or trusted without corroboration by others as witnesses.
- A Rabbinic saying - "none may be believed when he testifies of himself ... None may give testimony of himself." TRUTH IS PROVEN BY EXTERNAL TESTIMONY!
- Deut. 19:15 - "One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in which he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established."

5- So - "From myself, my independent volition or actions I cannot prove myself, even though I cannot operate independently or separately from the FATHER."

To put it another way... "If I have no other testimony to bring forward in proof of my Messiahship and authority beyond my own word, my testimony would be justly open to suspicion"

* 6- What is needed is multiple credible witnesses. In John's gospel the thought of witnesses is prominent, as in John 1:6-7 "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John (the Baptist). The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe."

7- Proofs that Jesus are multiple + credible.

B. But By Five Witnesses Jesus' Authority Is Confirmed:

1- Some disagreement over 5:32 as to the ONE -
- The Father — 5:37 or John the Baptist - 5:33-35 + 1:6-7

No needs to dispute this because ...
BOTH ARE TRUE

Isa. 53:1 - "Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?"

1 - THE FORERUNNER - John's Witness - (5:33-35)
- He testified of the truth
- Jews initiated John's word about Jesus
- They had John's word of testimony of Jesus, but they did not accept his word or act upon it.
** - If the truth John testified had been believed, it have put them on the path to salvation. "that ye might be saved" was the desire of BOTH John and Jesus
- The Jews' rejoicing in John's message and ministry was short-lived
- Morris: - "They exulted in God's gift of a prophet to their generation. And promptly turned their backs on him." - After 400 silent years
- (5:36)

2 - The WORKS WHICH JESUS DID
- There is no getting over the fact that in the days whenour Lord was on the earth, His miracles produced an immense effect on the minds of men. Those WORKS drew ATTENTION to Him.
1 - Water to wine - Jn. 2
2 - Nobleman's son healed - Jn 4
3 - Paralytic healed - Jn. 5
- NINE in all in John's Gospel
- The witness of Jesus' works was GREATER than John's witness
Evidence of Messiah in their midst.

1 - Their number - MANY
2 - Their greatness - MIGHTY
3 - Their publicity - MANY WITNESSES
4 - Their character - WORKS OF LOVE, MERCY + COMPASSION
5 - Their appeal - VISIBLE + INVESTIGATABLE

* - CONTRAST w/ recent seeking of miracles by a recent POPE to be elevated to A SAINT - No Proofs

→ - John 10:37-38 - "If I do not the works of My Father, believe me not. But if I do, though you believe Me not, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in Me, and I in Him."

3 - THE WITNESS OF THE FATHER - (5:37-38)
- Audible at Jesus' baptism + transfiguration

- But not visible to the Jews, But REAL!
  - They have never heard God's voice - 5:37b
  - They have never seen God's shape - 5:37c
  - They have not God's Word abiding in them 5:38a
- 1 Tim. 6:16 - "Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see; to whom be honor and power everlasting. Amen."
- 5:38 - God's WORD does not have a dwelling place in the Jews
- There is a CONTRAST between emphatic pronouns: "HE sent the Son, but YOU did not believe."
- From this we see that the Father's witness is accessible only to those who believe on the Son - BELIEVE - 98 times in John's Gospel
- What John is meaning is that the Truth of God in Jesus is self-authenticating in the experience of the believer - INSIDE the one who believes.

4. THE WITNESS OF THE SCRIPTURES: (5:39-44)

- 5:39 - A COMMAND: Not just read, but SEARCH and then believe because "they are they that testify of Me"
- Christ was referring to the O.T. prophesies concerning the coming of Messiah. Jesus' listeners would find prophecies of Messiah + find that He was fulfilling them. The Jews refused to accept the Scripture's witness to Jesus Christ. - Promises to Adam, Abraham, Moses, David, Isaiah, etc.
  - In general works of the Creator
  - In figures - Passover Lamb, Brazen Serpent + O.T. Sacrifices
  - In direct prophecies
- * - Men have no right to expect spiritual light if they neglect the greatest Treasury of all Light - THE SCRIPTURES
- 5:40 "And ye will not come to me..." Stress on the activity of their WILL
  - Stubborn refusal to believe + be saved
- Lk. 13:34 "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."
- This is the reason why many souls are LOST - Jn 3:19 - "Light is come into the world, + men love darkness rather than light."

-It is NOT that they could NOT be saved but that they WOULD NOT be saved!

-"Ye have not the love of God in you" — It is accessible — John 3:16

5:44 is the BIG QUESTION! — HOW can ya believe?

(5) THE WITNESS OF MOSES' WORDS (5:45-47)

- Jesus will not accuse the unbelieving Jews, BUT Moses' writings will accuse + convict them of unbelief — TRUST in knowledge, but lacking TRUST in the promised Messiah
- Deut. 18:15 - "Thou shalt in any wise set him king over thee, whom the LORD thy God shall choose: one from among thy brethren shalt thou set king over you: thou mayest not set a stranger over thee, which is not thy brother."
- Jews generally were proud of their Lawgiver, MOSES, but MOSES, not Jesus, is their accuser before God. — Present tense — A standing witness against unbelieving Jews
- Had the Jews really paid attention to Moses, they would have been convicted of sin, + eager to recognize the Savior.
- In the Pentateuch there is abundant evidence to believe Jesus' claim that He was SON OF GOD, SON OF MAN, co-equal with His Father one on whom the Father's authority had been conferred.
- The Jews trust was in A MAN, not in God. Hope in MOSES. The Law of Moses was not a religion of salvation.
- 5:46 — "He wrote of ME" — In almost ever chapter of his writings — Amplification of 5:45 — Therefore, those who rejected the Christ did not really believe what Moses had written.
- Book in my Library — THE MISTAKES OF MOSES is wrong on every accused mistake accused by Higher Criticism.
- Let us stand fast, + not doubt that every word of the O.T., as well as the N.T., was given by inspiration of God.

5:47 - A question that is rhetorical, but pertinent!

Lk. 23:38 - "And a superscription also was written over Him in letters of Greek + Latin + Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS"

2 Tim. 3:15 - "And that from a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

If you do not really believe what your honored lawgiver Moses WROTE, and it is clear that you don't, it is not likely that you will believe what I SAY.

CONCL:

A:- Recap:

1- Jesus' claims to activities
   Son of God has all life in His control
   Son of God clearly has the power to raise the dead
2- Jesus' activities as the Son of Man
   Authority to execute judgment over men
3- The Two resurrections are under His control
   Unto LIFE w/ the Lord in Heaven
   Unto DAMNATION banished to Hell
4- Jesus confirmations to His authority
   Authority is not by personal claim
   But by five witnesses to Jesus' AUTHORITY
   * The Forerunner, John the Baptist
   * The Works which Jesus did
   * The Witness of the Father
   * The Witness of the Scriptures
   * The Witness of Moses' Words

OVER

In the Old Testament we read this promise from God Himself: "Ye shall seek Me and find Me when ye shall seek Me with ALL THY HEART."

I like the comment made by Irwin Linton: "It may be safely stated that of all infidel lawyers, not one of them has ever made a careful, lawyer-like, two-sided investigation of the claims of the Bible and its Christ. Not one has studied or digested any of the great briefs or works on the Christian evidences which gather together the sum of proofs in support of the claim of the Lord Jesus Christ to deity and of the Bible to divine inspiration. I have never found one such person, and I have hunted for 25 years . . ."

Brethren, the Bible can stand any investigation you may want to give it. So search it carefully . . . from Genesis and Revelation. Spend much time examining the claims of Christ in the Gospel according to Saint John. And I assure you that you will join the ranks of Torrey, Lincoln, C. S. Lewis and millions of others who have declared, "Thy Word is truth!"

CHRIST - THE GREAT PROVIDER:
John 6:1-15

INTRO:

A- The Location: (6:1)

1- Just 1 year before Christ's crucifixion
2- Northeast of the Sea of Galilee near BETH-SAIDA = "House of Fishing"
3- Moving from public ministry to devote Himself to teach the 12 how to continue the ministry after His departure
4- WHY WITHDRAWING TO THE MOUNTAIN?
- Hostility of Jewish leaders
- Rest + recreation needed
- Instructing the 12

5- THEN the multitude followed on foot around on shore as Jesus + Disciples went by boat on the Sea/Lake 600 feet below sea level toward the Mountain EAST of Sea of Gal.
6- People kept on following Him:
- Some were believers
- Some had an idle curiosity or love of excitement
- Perhaps to see the SIGN MIRACLES -
- NOT ALL BELIEVERS - Some went back - (6.66)
- LK. 9:10-17 indicate some sought Him for healing

READ *

7- SO Jesus ministered to them as shepherd-less sheep + began to teach them many things

B- The Occasion:

1- The time for the Feast of Passover was at hand + some of the followers may have been beginning their journey to Jerusalem - 1 year before His crucifixion
2- Called "a feast of the Jews" (6:4) as it had degenerated from FEAST OF JEHOVAH. That is what had happened as the Jews had pushed feasts, ordinances + ceremonies beyond what was written. They defected from God's purposes for the feasts

I: THE SITUATION: (6:5-9)

A.-The Problem—People + Needs:

1- Jesus saw "a great company of people in an open area + had concern about them.
- SPIRITUAL needs — Relationship w/ God
- PHYSICAL needs — FOOD for so many!

2- Jesus turned to PHILIP— "Whence shall we buy bread that these may eat?"
- Philip was from that area + so would know what resources might be available
- The object was to call attention to the great quantity of food that would be needed to feed so many and their utter lack
- Luke 9:13— "Give ye them to eat"

3- 6:6
- Jesus intended to test Philip, but
- Jesus also was planing a MIRACLE
- Jesus was always STRETCHING His disciples
- Remember, Jesus is the same One who gave Israel MANNA in the wilderness 6 days a week for 38 years.

B.-The Response Of Philip: (6:6-9)

1- A fortune would be necessary for each to have even a snack, let alone a meal
- Calculated that it would require 8 months of a man's full wages to buy sufficient food.
- And they were not even near a small town in which to purchase food.
- And no town would have available enough food to sell them even if a town were near
- 6:10 tells us the crowd had about 5,000 men plus women plus children that were in this MULTITUDE

2— HOPELESSNESS in Philip's reply! He is incredulous, speaking an admission of INABILITY to conceive how this GREAT NEED could be provided — IMPOSSIBLE to suggest a solution!

3— Information from Andrew — 6:8 — Andrew is always seen bringing someone to Jesus

• 6:9 – A small boy's small lunch
5 barley biscuits + 2 small fishes.
• "but what are they among so many"
• BARLEY – the poorest grain with which to bake bread – usually fed to horses – INFERIOR sort of bread
• This meal would be barely enough for feeding one small boy

4 – There is no prepared scenario that Jesus' disciples had been trained to be drilled to be prepared for this situation
• But it had been foreknown by Jesus and He was prepared to work a MIRACLE
• Think of this scene:
* – Jesus has a purpose unknown by any
* – Philip has an insoluble problem
* – Andrew informs them of a little lad
* – The lad had a skimpy lunch for one
• The sacrifice of a lunch is enough for Jesus to feed the multitude
* GOD can take anything given to Him and use it miraculously

II. THE MULTIPLICATION WAS A MIRACLE:

A. An Orderly Procedure: (6:10)

1 – The instruction – "Make the men to sit down"
– Sit by companies – MK. 6:39
– Groups of 50 + 100 – MK. 6:40
– Prevents confusion or exclusion
** – Women + children were present also – Mt. 14:21

2 – The place – Grassy after a Spring rain
– A BEAUTIFUL SCENE
– Suggests Ps. 23:2 "green pastures" + John 10:9 – "I am the door by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, + shall go in and out and find pasture."

* THANKS was spoken – 6:4
OVER FOOD

Familiar Formula:
"Blessed art Thou our Jahovah our God, King of the World, who causest to come forth bread from the earth."

B.- A Miraculous Provision: (6:11)

1- What was available was brought to Jesus
- He MULTIPLIES it MIRACULOUSLY — A wonderful manifestation of the power of the CREATOR — Abundance to meet the need of many
- As fast as He broke the loaves + the disciples carried them away to distribute them, so fast did the loaves multiply in Jesus' hands. A CONTINUAL ACT OF CREATION + MULTIPLICATION.
- One loaf and less than ½ of a fish that fed each THOUSAND MEN!

2- As long as the disciples gave out the bread it multiplied. When they stopped giving it out, it stopped. Jesus did not ask for volunteers. He commanded the disciples.

3- Christ always has been the perfect provider of His people's need. It was He who was their "bread of God" in the wilderness, + it is He who is the BREAD OF GOD now!

4- This miracle and Jesus' resurrection from the dead are the only two miracles recorded in all four gospels.

5- A tendency in our day to explain some of the miracles in the Bible as natural occurrences.
- Parting of the Red Sea (Reed Sea)
- Crossing Jordan river blocked as Israel invaded Canaan
- Sun standing still in Joshua's day

6- It has been well said, "It requires more faith to believe their denials than to believe the miracles + take it as we find them in the Bible."

III.- THE CONSUMPTION OF THE MIRACLE: (6:12-15)

A.- Satisfaction Of Hunger: (6:12)

1- "They were filled" Not a snack, but a banquet!
2- All that were present ate ALL that they desired to satisfy their hunger.

3- Conservation of the excess - LEFT-OVERS were conserved:
- Each disciple got a full basket FULL
- Perhaps 100 times what the little lad gave to Jesus in each basket

B- Preparation Of Disciples: (6:13)

1- The disciples were being trained so as to minister to the needs of people BOTH physically with food + spiritually with God's WORD — "Give them something to eat"

2- Ministry of the Bread of Life is committed to the disciples

3- Obedience to Jesus' instruction — the ministry belongs to the Lord, but is carried on through His agents

4- It is NOT what disciples have that makes them good shepherds. RATHER, it is what they give of themselves to the Lord to meet people's needs + become good shepherds of people.

** 5- Morris: "Jesus, the Son of God incarnate, did something we can only call a miracle."

6- Such a CREATIVE ACT is quite incredible unless it was done by THE CREATOR!

C- Reactions Of Men: (6:14-15) ← Read these

1- The effect of this miracle was to think of Jesus as a PROPHET (the coming one) + some to wish to make a KING of Him. Evidence of a fierce nationalism + longing among the Jews of that period. They thought they could get Jesus to lead them to revolt against the Roman Empire.

2- They had seen the miracle (SIGN)

3- This miracle, rightly understood, pointed them to the Messiah, not a prophet, and not a kingdom on earth they loved

4- Some early writers call this the greatest miracle that our Lord ever wrought. CREATIVE POWER - Recorded in all 4 Gospels, but

only John's Gospel is the only one which records the result of this miracle – 6:15

5- NOTE: God was glorified as a result of the miracle, though (6:15) people had a physical response instead of a spiritual response.

6- WHY did those who were to feed with bread NOT WORSHIP?

* Because they rejected Jesus Person!

7- To Jesus the prospect of an earthly kingdom was nothing else than a TEMPTATION of the Devil. JESUS REJECTED THIS IDEA!

* He simply withdrew, because the Jews views were secular + worldly, not spiritual

Jews were SCHEMING to make Him "a king"

but "THE KING" knew their carnal plans

8- Gabelein: "They wanted to make Jesus a king they read + knew not the Scriptures, which foretold that He must suffer first + that God Himself would enthrone Him upon the Holy Hill of Zion." (119)

CONCLUDING IMPLICATIONS:

Day by Day, every Day

A:- About Jesus – SUFFICIENT:

1- Physical food – A miracle
2- Spiritual food – The Scriptures' TRUTH + PROMISES

B.- About A Theocratic Kingdom:

1- Not yet: In God's time on God's terms
- Satanic plan – By force of people
2- Act of God – SUPERNATURALLY

C.- About Christians – SERVANTHOOD:

John 2:5

1- Learn servanthood
2- Learn discipline + obedience to Christ
3- Learn to "Give them something to eat"
4- Learn to expect miracles from Jesus
5- Romans 10:8-17

We should notice, in these verses, *our Lord Jesus Christ's humility*. We are told that, after feeding the multitude, He "perceived that they would come and take him by force to make him a king." At once He departed, and left them. He wanted no such honours as these. He had come, "not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many." (Matt. xx. 28.)

We see the same spirit and frame of mind all through our Lord's earthly ministry. From His cradle to His grave He was "clothed with humility." (1 Pet. v. 5.) He was born of a poor woman, and spent the first thirty years of His life in a carpenter's house at Nazareth. He was followed by poor companions,—many of them no better than fishermen. He was poor in His manner of living: "The foxes had holes, and the birds of the air their nests: but the Son of man had not where to lay His head." (Matt. viii. 20.) When He went on the Sea of Galilee, it was in a borrowed boat; when He rode into Jerusalem, it was on a borrowed ass; when He was buried, it was in a borrowed tomb. "Though He was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor." (2 Cor. viii. 9.)

The example is one which ought to be far more remembered than it is. How common are pride, and ambition, and high-mindedness! How rare are humility and lowly-mindedness! How few ever refuse greatness when offered to them! How many are continually

THE GREAT PROTECTOR

John 6:15-21 + Matt. 14:22-36

INTRO:

A.- Previous Record: (6:1-14)

1- The miracle/SIGN of the Feeding of the 5,000
- A multitude who followed Jesus out into a rural area
- Jesus challenged ~~Andrew~~ PHILIP as to how all these people could be fed
- Andrew drew attention of a small lad who had a small lunch

2- Jesus responded with a miracle
- Orderly seating the people into 50's + 100's to be served
- Multiplication of that small lunch as Jesus sent the disciples to disburse baskets full of food to satisfy the hunger of all
- Conservation of LEFTOVERS as 12 disciples each returned a full basket.

3.- 6:14 The people recognized the miracle + identified Jesus as that prophet that should come into the world.

→ 4- Deut. 18:15,18

B.- The Aftermath That Followed: (6:15-21)

1- A miracle of Jesus walking on the waters of the Sea of Galilee

2- Record found also in Matthew's + Mark's Gospels

3- In John we find an abbreviated record of the central facts + in Matthew's record filling in the details for better understanding

4- We will look first at John's record + thereafter fill in significant details from Matthew 14:22-36

→

I.- WHAT HAPPENED ACCORDING TO JOHN:?

A.- Misunderstanding Of Jesus' Role: (6:15)

1- Men sought to forcibly make Jesus a KING over the Jews to lead the people in rebellion against Rome.

2-To Jesus rejected this idea as a short-cut to humanly accomplish what God would bring to pass spiritually in the MILLENNIUM as King of the Jews

3-Jesus saw this as a shortcut to the Kingdom offered by Satan

4-These men schemed to make Jesus "a King" but not "THE KING". Jesus saw through their carnal plans

5-Gabelein: "They wanted to make Him a King; they erred + knew not the Scriptures, which foretold that He must suffer first + that God Himself would enthrone Him upon the Holy Hill of Zion." (119)

B.-Retreat Of Jesus To The Mountain:

1-Jesus retreated to the mountain;
- To escape the men's attempts to press Jesus to a political + military Kingship AND
- To get away from the crowd to commune + pray with The FATHER

2-The Jews had rejected Jesus led by their rulers so that role + rule was postponed until the NATION would turn to Him in FAITH

C.-REMOVAL Of Disciples: (6:16-17)

1-At the end of that full day the 12 went down into the sea — To return across the sea at Capernaum

2-They began to row their boat across the sea which is 6 miles across at its widest

3-It is dark as they row.

4-Ryle: "We learn to know the value of Christ's company when we have it by the discomfort we experience when we have it not."

D.-Storm At Sea: (6:18-19a)

1-"A great wind" — Coming down off eastern desert coming down Rift valleys

2-"the sea arose" — Waves + White caps

3-Hard to row against the VIOLENT winds + Choppy waves — About 3 or 3½ miles out from the shore

4-Difficult to imagine what fear, fatigue + discouragement gripped them

5-Christ led His disciples into a storm to lead them out of a temptation

6-Making no headway to cross the sea

7-John's description becomes vivid with use of the present tense

E. Miracle Of Jesus Walking On Water! (3)

1- 6:19b - FIFTH SIGN - Jesus Christ is seen having power over NATURE —

NB * Gen. 14:22 - "I have lift up mine hand to the LORD, the Most High God (EL ELYON), the possessor of heaven and earth."

** 2- Perhaps the disciples did not recognize Christ in the storm or the dimness of light — Thought Him a GHOST. May have thought they were facing death in the storm. May have thought someone was coming from the dead to transport them to Hades.

3- They hardly expected the Redeemer to come walking on the sea, as their terror clearly conveys.

! 4- This was undoubtably as great as any miracle our Lord wrought

5- MOSES divided the Red Sea; JESUS, by His own power walked on the sea.

6- RESULT: - "they see Jesus walking on the sea" !!
- "they were afraid"

F. Comfort Of The Disciples: (6:20)

1- These FISHERMEN were discouraged by their lack of progress to shore

2- Then, above the storm they heard a familiar voice which brought them comfort

* 3- MK. 6:50 - "Take courage. It is I. Don't be afraid"

4- The presence of Christ dispells fear of a troubled heart.

5- Peter saw walking on the water as a miracle + asked that he might be able to do what Christ Himself was doing. Peter demonstrated faith that Christ could sustain him when he walked in obedience to the Lord's command. He stepped out + WALKED. He became conscious of his circumstances + began to sink!

6- Peter cried out - "SAVE ME, Lord", + Christ responded instantly. Jesus explained: Peter began in faith + walked. When he ceased to walk in faith, he began to SINK! Peter demonstrated remarkable faith. He dared to believe he could do anything if it was God's will.

BOORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®

7- "FEAR NOT; BE OF GOOD CHEER"
Let not your heart be troubled — A common saying of Jesus

G.- Receiving Of Jesus: (6:21)

1- Fear has been banished! Christ brought Peter into the boat by HIS POWER
2- "Then they (the disciples) willingly received Him" — Into the ship
— Into their hearts in a new way!
3- Morris: "John's very short account is intended to be understood in the same way as that of Mark, who tells us that Jesus was received into the ship, + that there was a lull in the winds
4- Christ is cognizant of all difficulties. He is WITH THE 12 in their problems. TRIALS must be borne in faith

TURN TO THIS

II: WHAT ELSE OCCURRED? Matt. 14:22-36

A- Directions To All: (14:22-24)

1- Jesus directs the 12 into the boat + to return to Capernaum
2- The multitude was sent away
3- Jesus went up to the mountain To pray.
- Fellowship with the Father
- Intercession for the 12
4- Contrary winds rock the boat + frighten His disciples + by that Jesus got the disciples' attention! He SPOKE; They HEARD

B- Demonstration Of Jesus' Power: (14:25-26)

1- Jesus walked on the water during the 4th watch, which was late in the night — Between 3 AM + 6 AM — AUTHORITY over nature!
2- He "went unto them where they were struggling on the Sea where:
- they saw a figure walking on the water
- AND "they were troubled"
- Saying "It is a spirit" + "they cried out for FEAR"

3- A remarkable demonstration of Jesus' POWER — Never seen before!

C: Declarations: (14:27-30)

1- Jesus spoke — 14:27
- He calms their fears
- He calmed the storm — A MIRACLE!
- He gave them HIS WORD — "Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid"
- AND HIS PRESENCE comforted them

2- Peter sees, hears + speaks — 14:28

3- Jesus challenged Peter's faith — "And He said, COME" — GET OUT OF THE BOAT — Let go and COME

4- Peter got out of the boat + walked on the water to come to Jesus

5- BUT — Peter saw the wind boisterous
- He was afraid
- Began to sink
- Cried "Lord, Save me" — short simple serious sincere

Reply: "Such a fact can not be explained away"

D.- Deliverance: (14:31-)

1- Only ONE can save / + He did!
- IMMEDIATELY — "Right now"
- Jesus stretched forth His hand"
- And caught him" — Jesus hears Peter's CALL + rescued him

2- Jesus also spoke "O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?"

3- No answer by Peter is recorded here
- But he did ask
- And he did step out onto the water
- And he did walk on water
- Which none of the other 11 did

E.- Devotion That Follows: (14:32-36)

1- The winds ceased — A CALM followed the storm

** 2- The TWELVE worshipped Jesus
- "Of a truth THOU art the SON of GOD"
- Confession of faith + devotion of heart
- Immediately their trials were over + they were safely on the land

→ 3- 14:34-35
- Safe travel to where people were
- People of Gennesaret responded
  - To the 12's testimony of what had occured on the Sea
  - AND to the presence of Jesus in their locale

4- MANY NEEDY PEOPLE were there
- They rounded up many to see + hear Jesus
- Also the brought "ALL that were Diseased"
- Jesus was available to ALL - Jn. 6:35-37
- People "besought Him" = "ASKED EARNESTLY that they might touch Jesus' garments

5- 14:36 b - ALL that sought Him received

6- J.C. Ryle: "We learn to know the value of Christ's company when we have it, by the discomfort we experience when we have it not."

→ 7- John 20:30-31

Another picture that I keep going back to is that of Peter walking on the water. There was nothing under him that could support him, but as long as he looked to Jesus and trusted Him, Peter did what was humanly impossible. When I start to get that sinking feeling, I remind myself to look to Jesus and trust Him, even though I don't see why I have to be in this position or how it's possible for me to "walk on water".

We should notice, secondly, in these verses, *the trials through which Christ's disciples had to pass.* We are told that they were sent over the lake by themselves, while their Master tarried behind. And then we see them alone in a dark night, tossed about by a great wind on stormy waters, and, worst of all, Christ not with them. It was a strange transition. From witnessing a mighty miracle, and helping it instrumentally, amidst an admiring crowd, to solitude, darkness, winds,

waves, storm, anxiety, and danger, the change was very great! But Christ knew it, and Christ appointed it, and it was working for their good.

Trial, we must distinctly understand, is part of the diet which all true Christians must expect. It is one of the means by which their grace is proved, and by which they find out what there is in themselves. Winter as well as summer, cold as well as heat, clouds as well as sunshine,—are all necessary to bring the fruit of the Spirit to ripeness and maturity. We do not naturally like this. We would rather cross the lake with calm weather and favourable winds, with Christ always by our side, and the sun shining down on our faces. But it may not be. It is not in this way that God's children are made "partakers of His holiness." (Heb. xii. 10.) Abraham, and Jacob, and Moses, and David, and Job were all men of many trials. Let us be content to walk in their footsteps, and to drink of their cup. In our darkest hours we may seem to be left,—but we are never really alone.

Let us notice, in the last place, *our Lord Jesus Christ's power over the waves of the sea.* He came to His disciples as they were rowing on the stormy lake, "walking on" the waters. He walked on them as easily as we walk on dry land. They bore Him as firmly as the pavement of the Temple, or the hills around Nazareth. That which is contrary to all natural reason was perfectly possible to Christ.

The Lord Jesus, we must remember, is not only the Lord, but the Maker of all creation. "All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made." (John i. 3.) It was just as easy for Him to walk on the sea as to form the sea at the beginning,—just as easy to suspend the common laws of nature, as they are called, as to impose those laws at the first. Learned men talk solemn nonsense sometimes about the eternal fixity of the "laws of nature," as if they were above God Himself and could never be suspended. It is well to be reminded sometimes by such miracles as that before us, that these so-called "laws of nature" are neither immutable nor eternal. They had a beginning, and will one day have an end.

SEEKING FOR JESUS?

John 6:22-31

INTRO:

A.- Jesus Returned To Capernaum: (6:22-23)

1- Following — 6:1-15 — Feeding the 5,000
— 6:15-21 — Walking on the water

2- Jesus + disciples return to their head-quarters in Galilee — CAPERNAUM — Home of the prophet NAHUM (O.T.)

3- Jesus had sent the multitude away after feeding the 5,000, but they continued to seek Him, following to Capernaum

B: An Audience Gathered: (6:24)

1- Some came by boat + many walked around the North end of the Sea of Galilee

2- The term "Lord" in 6:23 is more likely better translated "SIR"

3- They asked (how) Jesus had come there since He had not left w/ the disciples in their boat

4- The multitude wanted (more) miracles + free meals — PHYSICAL + MATERIAL things

It was (NOT) spiritual insight that they sought

* 5- Material blessings were more beneficial to them than spiritual blessings — A Kingdom of wilderness banquets + course miraculous triumphs over the Gentiles.

C: A Question Posed: (6:22-25)

1- "Rabbi, when camest Thou hither?"
— They think of Jesus as a TEACHER, not a Messiah

I.- THE FOOD THAT ABIDES: (6:26-27)

A.- The Importance:

1- "Verily, Verily" = "TRUELY, TRUELY" / 6:26, 32, 47, 53

2- Four expressions of importance of what Jesus began to teach - EMPHATIC (2)
in this one chapter

B. The Motivation: (6:26)

* 1- Jesus recognized the real motive of these fellow-travelers + speaks SHARPLY to them!
2- These are CRASS MATERIALISTS - Instead of seeing in the multiplication of the bread + fishes as a SIGN, they saw only the meal they ate. Morris: "They were moved (not) by full hearts, but by the desire for full bellies"
3- The multitude did not see in the bread + fishes multiplied as TOKENS of Jesus' divine power + mission. - Heaven-sent evidences of WHO HE IS

C. The Contrast - Two Kinds of Bread: (6:27) READ

1- Perishing food / IMPERISHABLE food
2- Christ bids them set their labor on the right sort of food. (NOT) food that perishes, (BUT) food that remains forever.
3- Labor is honorable (+) necessary, but is not the whole of what life is about. The body must be sustained, but (so) must the soul + spirit!
* 4- What a PROMISE! "The Son of man shall give unto you the meat that endures unto everlasting life" - A GIFT!
5- The multitude desired to eat Jesus' bread w/o laboring for it! For selfish reasons they considered the material food more beneficial to them than spiritual blessings
6- Jesus gave them a SOLEMN REBUKE!
   - Something FORBIDDEN - Don't labor simply for satisfaction of wants.
   - Something COMMANDED - Work hard + strive for spiritual food.
   - Something PROMISED - Jesus is ready to give spiritual food that endures forever.
   - Something DECLARED - Son of Man is appointed by God to dispense everlasting life (6:27)

Seek ye first...

7- THEIR REMEDY WAS SHOWN TO THEM (3) PRIORITY
"One thing is needful" — Mt. 6:33

8- "For Him hath the Father sealed" = A mark of ownership to show the owner's approval

9- Isa. 55:1-2

10- POINT: We ought to take far more pains about the wants of our souls, than for the wants of our bodies.

II: THE WORKS THAT WORK: (6:28-30)

A: The Question About Works: (6:28)

Q

1- The multitude's RESPONSE: "What must we DO to DO the works of God?" = What works does God require us to DO?

2- Their concept of having ETERNAL LIFE + entering into the Kingdom were synonymous ideas

3- The natural man thinks he can DO something + by DOING he makes himself acceptable to God.

- Keep the Golden Rule — No Gospel in this!
- DO something good every day
- Spiritual ignorance of the carnal man—
- DO, DO, DO to DEATH!
- Thinks "I must (DO) SOMETHING to satisfy God"

B: The Authoritative Answer: (6:29) Read it

A

1- Jesus replaces their "WORKS OF GOD" (6:28) w/ the singular "WORK OF GOD". But ONE THING is needful, that is FAITH, + Jesus made it clear, emphatically!

2- Jesus has been sent to earth by the Father. None less than the SON OF MAN (6:27) can provide EVERLASTING LIFE, + this makes faith in Jesus eminently reasonable

3- His response: "NOT BY WORKS", but by belief in the Father + the Son. In the Sermon on the Mount, Christ turned attention to HIS WORD. Now He directed them to HIS PERSON! Entrance into God's Kingdom was based on FAITH in His Person - ALONE!

4- FAITH is put as a moral act or work. The work of God is to believe. Faith includes all the works God requires. HE PROVIDES IT - A GIFT!

5- The common starting place for all sinners is seen in Acts 16:31 - "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved..."

6- This is the "WORK" God wants of us - "that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent" (6:30b) THIS is the work of God!

Til a man rests his faith on Jesus as a lost sinner, HE IS NOTHING!!!

SOLUTION → "Simply trusting, that is ALL!"

Heb. 11:6 - "But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."

C. The Request For A SIGN/MIRACLE (6:30-31)

1- This section of the discourse is to be understood against the background of a Jewish expectation that, when the Messiah came, He would renew the miracle of the MANNA.

2- The multitude wanted ANOTHER SIGN/MIRACLE after eating a miracle the day before. - NOT YET SATISFIED

3- 1 Cor. 1:22 - "For the Jews require a sign, + the Greeks seek after wisdom."

4- The multitude had not been penetrated by the miracle of multiplication of the loaves + fishes they had witnessed the day before. - A MIRACLE!!!

5- They wanted to get SOMETHING MORE out of our Lord. They had been fed

once + they would like to be fed again! MORE SIGNS WERE DESIRED

→ 6- 6:31

The multitude reminded Jesus that, although He had given them bread, it was earthly bread + Moses had given them bread from heaven.

7- Moses gave manna for 40 years to two million men, woman + children. Jesus gave bread to 5,000 men plus women + children — perhaps 20,000 for dinner

8- The Jews expected Messiah would give manna once more, but they thought Jesus' miracle was not as great as what Moses gave the Israelites in the wilderness.

*** BUT Moses' manna was not the TRUE BREAD from heaven

9- HOWEVER, the antithesis is between MOSES on earth + the FATHER in Heaven.

** Not Moses!!! God gave their ancestors manna, A disparaging comparison

→ 10- 6:32

RYLE: "What Moses could not give you, even the true bread which feeds the soul, my Father does give you, + is actually giving you at this moment in that He gives HIMSELF to be SAVIOR for all mankind

CONCLUSION:

A- If You Reject Jesus...:

1- Works will not cut it — Never enough! — No hope by works of human males or women

→ 2- Eph. 2:8-10

→ 3- Titus 3:5

B- Belief in Jesus A + SAVIOR

1- Essential + effective

2- EVERLASTING LIFE ← 6:27, 6:40, 6:47 — A threefold promise

3- Have YOU made this choice?

4- Will you put your faith in Christ TODAY? NOW

"Heaven Came Down and Glory Filled My Soul" (96)
And Can It Be That I should Gain? (107)
Christ Liveth in Me - (207)
11/27/11 — Putney Memorial Ch

THE BREAD OF GOD - THE GREAT SATISFIER

John 6:29-37

SATISFIER

INTRO:

A. What Has Gone Before:

1 - John 6:1-15 - The Great Provider

- Feeding a multitude with a lad's lunch.
- Resulted in the crowd wishing to make Jesus KING of the Jews
- Jesus sent His disciples away + He retired to a mountain to pray

2 - John 6:16-21 - The Great Protector

- Disciples entered their boat to row across the Sea of Galilee to Capernaum.
- A great wind came upon the men in their boat — GREATLY AFRAID!
  - Little progress in rowing
- Jesus crossed the Sea walking on the water — which made them AFRAID even more
- Peter asked permission to come to Jesus + walked toward Jesus UNTIL he took his eyes off the Lord + began to sink
- Jesus rescued Peter + they got into the boat + soon were safely on land

3 - John 6:22-29 - Seeking For Jesus the multitude came to the Capernaum Synagogue seeking more free food + Jesus confronted them with 6:27-29

B. This Portion In John 6:29-37:

A. - The Challenge of Unbelief (6:29-31)
B. - The Offer Of Everlasting Life (6:32-36)
C. - The Great Security (6:37)

THE GREAT SATISFIER SATISFIER

I:- THE CHALLENGE of UNBELIEF: (6:29-31)

A.-The Answer About the Works of God: (6:29)

1-The work of God in a human heart produces BELIEVING

2-That believing must "center" on Him whom He hath sent" — ON JESUS as its object

B.-The Reply of the Multitude: (6:30-31a)

1-They clamor for more miracles - MORE FREE FOOD

2-Literally, "Show us more of your tricks"

3-More miracles would convince them to BELIEVE JESUS! How many more?

They imply that *

C;-The Manna of the Past: (6:31)

1-A historic reference to God's provision of manna for 40 years in the wilderness

2-Thought of as BREAD FROM HEAVEN by the Israelites + often spoken of by Christians

II:- THE OFFER of EVERLASTING LIFE: (6:32-36)

A.-The True Bread from Heaven: (6:32)

1-A second of (4) "Verily, Verily" in this chapter

* IMPORTANCE communicated

2-Correction concerning source of manna. From Heaven + from God! (NOT) from MOSES

3-Manna was not from heaven, but an earthly material type of bread. TRUE BREAD comes from God + from heaven in the form of God's SON, and the Father keeps on giving that bread which is bread indeed

**

4-The crowd compared Christ to Moses, when they were (NOT) EQUALS!

5-Jesus is (more) than the manna which was given. He has come from heaven, (not) to sustain physical life, (but) to give eternal

life; not for Israel alone, but for the whole world

6- The offer of the TRUE BREAD was an offering for acceptance!!! — A personal response is necessary

B: The Savior's Answer: (6:33)

1- An astounding assertion
2- The PERSONIFICATION of the BREAD of GOD
- Originates w/ God - His Bread
- Jesus knew HIMSELF as the Bread of God
- Jesus speaks of this Bread not as SENT, but as COMING DOWN
- Jesus did not come to bring manna or to satisfy any other materialistic expectation of the people, but a STRONG AFFIRMATION of the essentially character of the life He came to bring as seen in 6:35.

3- The GIFT from the Father - EVERLASTING LIFE
4- His redemption was unto the WORLD, SUFFICIENT for all mankind, EFFICIENT for all who believe, providing eternal life for every member of Adam's race who would "eat of it"

Learn this Truth

5- CHRIST was the true spiritual food of which MANNA was the divine illustration
6- The source was "FROM HEAVEN" — from God to mankind

C: The Selfish Request: (6:34)

1- Their address: "Him, Lord" - Probably "SIR"
2- "EVERMORE" = Now ... and FOREVER
3- Jews wanted a forever gift for their stomachs
4- The multitude was respectful but not worshipful response to Jesus' answer of the BREAD of GOD
5- "GIVE US" food without working to earn it.
6- Parallel in John 4:15 - "GIVE ME this water"

D: An Audacious Promise: (6:35)

1- "I am" - A clear-cut answer of the self-existence - The ETERNAL God
2- I am the Bread of Life - SALVATION is a Person - Jesus Christ

3- OPPORTUNITY - "Seen me"
- Saw the miracle of the loaves + fishes.
- "COMETH TO ME"
- Hunger satisfied; Never thirst again

6:35 "Cometh" "Believeth"

4- "Belief" is TRUST in Jesus Christ

5- The Satisfying Life - Never hunger
- Never thirst
- LOOK TO JESUS
- He is the Bread of God.

6- A FREE OFFER

E. The Personal Decisions: (6:36)

1- A blunt assertion - "But I said unto you, That ye have seen me, and believe not"
- Eye-witnesses to His miracles
- Hearers of His teachings
- Repeated exposure to TRUTH given by Jesus

2- The bread of life is another way of linking life in the closest fashion with Jesus Christ. He Himself is the food, the sustenance which nourishes spiritual life. It is ONLY from this Bread that men really obtained, since Jesus is the Bread of Life, men were invited to come to HIM + to BELIEVE on Him - This is THE ISSUE!

3- HOW? - "Coming to Him" (Jesus) 6:35, 37, 44, 45, 65 - 5x
- "Believeth on Him" - 6:35

Synonyms

4- The bread of which He spoke is not something like the manna, which was picked up + eaten. It is nothing less than HIMSELF. This "I am" is a solemnly emphatic statement, PERSONIFICATION

OVERTONES OF DIVINITY

5- A vital decision has been faced: (Jn. 10:26)
- They SAW + HEARD repeatedly
- Fail from appreciating what they have seen + heard, the people "BELIEVE NOT"
- Their decision was made by REJECTION of Jesus as the Bread of Life

III. THE GREAT SECURITY: (6:37)

A. "All that the Father giveth me..."

1- People - The Father has given to the Son of God

2- "ALL" - Every last one given by the Father will come to faith + will not be turned away

B- Shall come to Me:

1- A bold declaration of Divine SOVEREIGNTY!

2- What God promises He is totally capable of fulfilling to people because He is OMNIPOTENT!

3- Apart from a divine work in their souls, men would remain contentedly in their sins.

4- A clear proof - 2 Thess. 2:13
- An elective calling by God PLUS
- Essential element is human "belief of the Truth"

C- And him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out:

1- Security of believers is ABSOLUTE!

2- None who come BY FAITH will be turned away — ETERNAL LIFE. It is impossible to have eternal life for a short time.

3- This is:
- "the will of Him that sent me" - 6:38
- "this is the Father's will" - 6:39
- "this is the will that sent me" - 6:40

4- These are the result of the Father's gift to the Son of God - Jn. 17:6, 8, 9, 12, 26

CONCL:

A- Do You Understand?:

1- What has Jesus Christ offered?
- To Jews long ago
- To you and me

2- Bread of God that confers ETERNAL LIFE

3- How does one obtain this Eternal life for himself?
- 6:35 - "cometh to me" - A decision to be made
- 6:29, 30, 35, 36, 40 - "believeth on me" - A TRUSTING FAITH on Jesus Christ
- 6:35 - Given to Christ + the lost sinner

4 - What does this give to the sinner who puts his faith, trust, believing on Jesus Christ?

@ The true bread from heaven - 6:33
(b) Life to the world - 6:33
@ Never hunger nor thirst - 6:35
(d) In no wise cast out by Jesus - 6:37
@ With more to follow —
Raise him up again at the last day
6:39, 44, 54

B. - Let Us Encourage One Another With Testimonies

1 - Tell age and date on which we, personally believed on Jesus to be saved.

2 - PCR - March 17, 1949 at the age of 19 in Lincoln, Nebraska, during my Sophomore year at the University of Nebraska

3 - How about your testimony?

HOW GREAT THOU ART- John 6:37-43

INTRO:

A:-Who Are We Looking At?:

1- Jesus Christ in Galilee about 1 year before His crucifixion

2-What have we learned about Him?

ⓐ He is a Rabbi — A TEACHER

ⓑ He is a miracle-worker

- Made water into wine
- Healed a Nobleman's son from afar
- Healed a paralytic man after 38 years of infirmity
- Fed 5000 men plus wives + children the day before by multiplying a small boy's lunch
- Walked on water of Galilee in the wee hours of that morning AND saved Peter from drowning AND caused the boat + His disciples to arrive on shore

3- No word of a time-out for sleep. People pressed upon Him looking for more miracles + more free food. — They want bread from heaven like that given to Moses + Israel in the wilderness

B:-What Have We Already Heard?

1-Two "Verily, Verily" ↔ — 6:26+32

2-An exhortation in 6:27, along with an explanation that WORKS just do not count in God's sight before one has A FAITH relationship with God- 6:29, 30, 35, 36

3- Jesus told multitude "For the bread of God is He which cometh down from

6:33

heaven and giveth life to the world."

4- The people said, "Lord, evermore give us this bread." (6:34)

5- "Jesus said unto them, I AM the bread of life: he that cometh unto ME shall never hunger; and he that believeth on ME shall never thirst." (6:35)

6- CONFRONTATION - (6:36)
- You have seen me - miracles + all
- "You believe not"

C.- PROPOSITION: Jesus gave them a declaration of His powers and then called for them to believe + be saved. HOW GREAT THOU ART -

I.- HE IS THE GREAT SECURITY: (6:37)

A.- The Assertion:

1- For WHOM? -
- ALL who will come to Him
- Very wide-open; available to ALL
- A welcome to ALL!
- The totality of all whom the Father had given Him would respond
- None who believed in Jesus would be turned away -

2- Divine sovereignty would assure them of eternal life - 6:27 - Jn. 17:6, 8, 9, 12

B.- The Actuality Was Promised:

1- The result of "COMING" to Jesus in faith would "be "in no case cast out" = "I will never, no never cast you out"

2- SECURITY was promised to all who came to Jesus in faith

3- BUT the "flip" side is clear - All who do not come in faith to Jesus will ALL BE CAST OUT!

II:- HE IS THE GREAT SUBMITTER: 6:38 (3)

A:- Who Is This Jesus?:

1- "For I came down from heaven" (6:38a)
- Assertion that He is supernatural
2- But the fact is much stronger. He spoke of "the Father" in 6:27 and now of "My Father" in 6:32
3- Claim is clearly of DEITY and EQUALITY - Offensive to many Jews

Considered Him son of Joseph + so of natural generation

4- Already attested at His baptism: "And lo a voice from heaven, saying 'This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased." (Mt. 3:17)
5- Also by John the Baptizer - "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (Jn. 1:29)

B:- What Would He Not Do?:

1- "not to do mine own will" (6:38b)
2- EQUAL with the Father, but submitted to the will + plan of the Father - PERFECT HARMONY between Father + Son
3- Sent to do the Father's will - Key is OBEDIENCE

C:- What Jesus Came To Do: (6:38c)

1- "but the will of Him that sent me."
2- First of 4 references to the "Father's will" 6:38; 39, 40; 7:17
3- The whole work of salvation Jesus was in perfect harmony w/ the Father Who sent Him.
4- Christ's proof that He came from heaven was that He would REVEAL the Father to them. Only One Who knew the Father perfectly could do this

III:- HE IS THE GREAT SUSTAINER: (6:39)

A:- Reassertion Of Determination:

1- "And this is the Father's will which sent me"
2- The will of God is not left in general terms: the salvation Christ brings is no ephemeral thing

B:- Revelation Of God's Will: (6:39 b + a)

1- NEGATIVELY - "that of all that He has given Me, I should lose nothing"
2- POSITIVELY - "but should raise it up at the last day"
3- VERY CLEAR + EMPHATIC - God is not contingent - Rom. 9:16, 18
4- Beza: "Faith in Christ is a certain testimony of our election + consequently of our future glorification."
5- Sir Robert Anderson: "When the gift of life was offered us, we were conscious in accepting it that we did so freely. But now that we have received the message + are come within the scene of joy and blessing to which it bid us, we have to learn that, in a deeper sense + fuller still, grace is sovereign." GOD KNEW WHAT HE WAS DOING!

C:- Resurrection As The Promise: (6:39c)

1- "but should raise it up again at the last day"
2- This promise is made 4 times - 6:39, 40, 44, 54
3- There is no ETERNAL LIFE without RESURRECTION, and there is no resurrection.
4- We have Jesus Christ's word on this PROMISE!

IV:- HE IS THE GREAT SAVIOR: (6:40)

A:- Why Is Jesus The Great Savior?:

1- Because it is the will of the GOD of the universe for mankind
2- Because, as seen in II, Jesus is the Great Submitter to God's plan of salvation which took Him to the Cross of CALVARY for all mankind.

B.- What Are The Conditions For Salvation?:

1- Two conditions are clearly stated; and BOTH must be fulfilled:

2- "that every one sees the Son:
Knowledge of the One set forth in the Scriptures is essential preparation for the second condition for salvation

3- "AND believeth on Him may have everlasting life"
Knowledge alone of salvation through Jesus Christ is not enough. BELIEF in the sense of TRUST + COMMITMENT are necessary

4- So Knowing the facts is essential, but there also must be a trusting belief in Jesus Christ for salvation

5- Romans 10: 9-11 — Read

C.- What Are The Two Consequences?:

1- Two consequences are stated are sure:

2- "may have everlasting life"
Life forever in the presence + favor of God

3- "and I will raise him up at the last day
RESURRECTION — It is unthinkable that death should blot out forever the life that Christ gives.

V.- THE GREAT SKEPTICS: (6:41-43)

6:40

A.- The Jews' Responses:

1- They heard Jesus' preaching + offered "ETERNAL LIFE"

2- The Jews murmered at Him"
- "to mutter, murmur, grumble, say anything in a low tone" — VINE
- Used in 1 Cor. 10:10 to describe Israelites in the wilderness
- Also in Jude 16 to describe persons upon whom judgment of God had fallen.

3- Reacted because Jesus said "I AM the Bread which came down from Heaven."

B.- The Jews Responses: (6:42

1- They belittled Jesus' pedigree as just "the son of Joseph" — A normal human being + NOT FROM HEAVEN
- Minimized Him as from common people as His parents

2- Clearly they understood what Jesus had said "I came down from heaven"

3- Their decision was unbelief and REJECTION
- Of Jesus as a person +
- Of Jesus offer of everlasting life thru faith in Him Jesus admonished "Murmer not among yourselves"

CONCLUSION:

A.- What Jesus Offered:

1- "Everlasting Life - 6:27, 40
2- Himself as the True BREAD of LIFE - 6:32, 33, 35, 41
3- Security in salvation - 6:37, 40
4- Resurrection from the grave to everlasting life - 6:39, 40, 44, 54

B.- How Could Those Jews Gotten What Jesus Offered?:

1- "Labor not for the meat that perisheth, but for that meat that endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give you" - 6:27
2- "Believe on Him whom he (God) hath sent" - 6:29, 35, 36, 40, 47
3- "Come to Me - 6:37
4- "I am the Bread of life" 6:33, 35, 41

C.- How Can We Get What Jesus Offered?:

THE BREAD OF GOD

John 6:41-59

Part 1

INTRO:

A. Previous Study - "How Great Thou Art":

1 - The Great SECURITY - "Never cast out"
2 - The Great SUBMITTER - "Came to do the Father's WILL"
3 - The Great SUSTAINER - Resurrection Promise
4 - The Great SAVIOR -
- Two Conditions - "See the Son"
- "Belief on Him for everlasting life"
- Two Consequences
- Have everlasting life
- Raised at the last day

B. Great Skeptics: (6:41-42)

1 - The Jews murmered over Jesus' words
2 - They belittled Jesus' pedigree VIRGIN BIRTH
3 - PROP - Jesus sought to clarify His message to the Jews + so we also can understand.

I. JESUS' PUZZLING DECLARATION:

A. The Revelation From The Father: (42-46)

1 - Jesus did not explain the Virgin Birth mystery
2 - He knew He was surrounded by unbelievers - enemies who would deliver Him to Gentile hands
* 3 - Jews "DON'T GET IT" - (2) Natures
- Totally supernatural - From HEAVEN
- True humanity - From Mary's WOMB
4 - A VERY OFFENSIVE statement to Jews (6:41+42) - Christ's proof that He came down from heaven was that He could reveal the Father to them
5 - Our Lord knew by His Divine knowledge that the Jews were murmering + saying contemp-

murmuring things about Him, so He answered.

6- "except the Father draw Him"
- A clear-cut declaration of EQUALITY w/ the Father + assertion of resurrection power, which belongs only to God.
- A MORAL INABILITY in the Jews — A humbling truth — God, who sends Jesus for souls, on the other hand, draws souls to Jesus!
- Answer to murmuring: "You are making My apparently low origin as an excuse for not believing Me. The fault was not in His sayings but in their lack of grace + unbelief.
- RYLE "I believe the drawing is a thing that belongs to none but God's elect, + is a part of the procedure by which their salvation is effected. They are CHOSEN IN CHRIST from all eternity, + then drawn to Christ in time" (320)
- NB Never suppose that the doctrine of this verse takes away man's responsibility + accountability to God for his soul. REMEMBER: God works by means, + the believer is to share the gospel + seek for souls.

** LUTHER - "The drawing is not like that of the executioner, who draws the thief up the ladder to the gallows, but is a gracious allurement, such as that of the man whom everyone loves, + to whom everyone willingly goes.

* 7- "I will raise him up" — 3rd of 4 times affirmed (6:39, 40, 44, 54)

8- 6:45 - Affirms the doctrine of the necessity of divine teaching by the Scriptures.
- ALL who are God's children + come to God through Christ's gospel, shall be taught of God!

9- 6:46 ONLY HE who had come from the Father could make such a claim. Jesus asserted this throughout His earthly ministry — NOT ONLY HERE.
- Flatfooted + Clear! — DEITY of Jesus Christ
- EQUALITY w/ the Father

10- ALL of the physical appearances of God in the O.T. record were not of the Father, but of the SON - Theophanies of the pre-incarnate Christ
= "A manifestation of God in visible + bodily form before the incarnation" Chafer
- The Angel of Jehovah - Gen. 16:7-13, Exod. 33:9-23
- John 1:18 - "No man hath seen God at any time; the only-begotten Son which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him."
- The Father was the eternal God whom no man had seen, nor could see.

B:- The Revelation From The Son: (6:47)

1- "Verily, verily" - Third of 4 times in John 6
- Jesus returns to the main thread of this discourse - BELIEF!

2- Absolutely bold + true - THE ONLY WAY to God + to life - John 14:6

3- "Believeth on Me" - 6:40 + now 6:47+48
+ People believing - 19 times
+ Believing in Christ - 36 times
+ Believing absolutely 30 times
85 in Gospel

- He that would have his sins pardoned + his soul saved must go to Christ for forgiveness,
- Repentance of sin + trust in Christ are the TWO ESSENTIALS
- That's what it takes + that's all it takes,
- RESULT - "hath everlasting life"
- Jesus is the ONLY WAY to Life eternal from God

C:- The Explanation From The Son: (6:48-51)

1- Short summation of Jesus' message + ministry in 6:48
- "I am" I Daily speaking about His role in God's plan

8 verses - "That bread" - 6:32, 33, 35, 41, 48, 50, 51, 58
Jesus HIMSELF is God's Bread of Life
- "of life" - What Jesus Christ has as Creator + can give as Redeemer

2- He told them plainly, I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE
- He wants us to see His claim in all its stark grandeur.
- If you ask WHAT it is * WHERE it is, you have only to look at Jesus

3- He, the Son of God having come down from heaven, it is He who is the object of faith, who assures the sinner who believes in Him that "He hath eternal life" Jesus Christ is all I need!

4- Statement of historical fact - 6:49
- The fathers ate God's sustaining manna, but it could not impart eternal life - They are dead + gone!
- INTENTIALLY said to remind the Jews how little lasting good from the manna for their fathers, + how unbelieving they were even when they ate of it - for they ALL DIED in the wilderness. Manna could not save them.

5 - The manna could do NOTHING for the soul to preserve those who ate it from DEATH in the wilderness, but the bread Jesus offered them - HIMSELF could give them ETERNAL LIFE!

* 6:50-51
* To "eat" that bread meant to take Jesus Christ into themselves by BELIEVING IN HIM - Partake of Him!
* Doing this believing offered the promise of never dying SPIRITUALLY "eat thereof and not die" 6:50

- 6:51 is a repetition of 6:49 + 50 Rephrased: "he shall live FOREVER"!

6-EXPANSION of Jesus' mission
- Not only individual & present
* - BUT universally available for an undisclosed time period...
- Live forever... UNPARALLELED offer

7-On top of that
* "I will give my flesh" - SACRIFICIAL SUBSTITUTE
* "for the life of the world" - SUFFICIENT to redeem all!

* 8-"and the bread which I will give is my flesh which I will give for the life of the world" - DIFFICULT WORDS!

BYLE - "In these words our Lord goes even further than He had gone yet in explaining the great theme of the discourse. When He speaks of "my flesh" I believe He means 'my body offered up in sacrifice on the cross, as an atonement for man's sins.' HIS BODY SACRIFICED as the Lamb of God - "I will give my flesh" - Ransom for the sins of the world - SUFFICIENT and SUBSTITUTIONARY (John, 394)

These words by Christ looks ahead to Calvary

9-Details that are important
* "the living bread" - 4th time in today's Script
* "come down from heaven" - Aorist verb to teach the incarnation of the God-Man - VIRGIN BIRTH
* "eat of this bread" - A startling invitation
* "bread that I will give" - FUTURE tense looks ahead to Calvary
* "my flesh" - NOT Christian cannabalism - Clarified later
* "which I will give" - EMPHATIC in contrast w/ Moses in 6:32
* "for the life of the world" = IN BEHALF OF is often used of death as our substitute
* Roman Catholic Church & some others use this text in connection w/ COMMUNION or The Lord's Table - HONORABLE EXEGESIS! WRONG! Confusing

D:-The Doubters' Discussion: (6:52)

1- Confusion by Jewish hearers — PERPLEXED — Led to strife among the hearers

2- Question "How can this man give us His flesh to eat" — REVOLTING to Jews.
- Aversion to what they heard from Jesus
- CONFUSED as to what Jesus said to them repeatedly "I am the living bread."
- SCORNING — "How can that man give us His flesh to eat?"

3- There is no evidence of saving faith among this multitude — DARKNESS of heart toward truth in the natural man

CONCLUSION

A:-Halfway Thru This Message By Jesus:

1- Revelation from the Father - 6:43-46
2- Revelation from the Son - 6:47
3- Explanation from the Son - 6:48-51
4- Doubters' Discussion - 6:52
5- All of this was the preparation for what Jesus intends to tell them. This is the groundwork readying Jesus' hearers for THE LIFE ISSUE where the hearers are drawn in for participation in...

B:-Jesus' Puzzling Explanation: (6:53-58)

1- Leading them to participate with Him
2- Seeking to create a relationship between the Savior and the lost souls before Him.
3- To do that will require 3 things
   (a) An understandable presentation to them by the Lord Jesus Christ
   (b) A drawing some from among the crowd by the wooing + winning of lost souls by the Holy Spirit
   (c) A heart decision to believe on the Lord unto the saving of their souls.

THE BREAD OF GOD CONTINUED (John 6:53-59)

Part 2

INTRO:

A- Review Of 6:41-52 - Jesus' Puzzling Declaration

1- Revelation from the Father - 6:43-46 The Father draws people
2- Revelation from the Son - 6:47 Belief brings Et. Life
3- Explanation from the Son - 6:48-51 - I am that Bread of Life
4- Doubters' Discussion - 6:52 - Strife
5- All of this was the preparation for what Jesus intends to tell His hearers. This is the groundwork readying Jesus' hearers for THE LIFE ISSUE where the hearers are drawn in for participation in ...

II: JESUS' PUZZLING EXPLANATION:

A- The Exception: (6:53)

1- "Verily, Verily" - 4th time in this chapter
- Powerful wording
- What Jesus was saying was DELIBERATE and IMPORTANT

2- 6:53 - The only Way to gain Eternal Life!
- Rejection would mean NO LIFE in you
- One MUST participate!

3- When our Lord uses "EXCEPT" it is of something of more than ordinary importance
- Jn. 3:3 - "Except a man be born again..."
- Mt. 18:3 - "Except ye be converted & become as little children..."
- Lk. 13:3 - "Except ye repent..."

4- ENIGMATIC STATEMENT - 6:53
- "Eat the flesh" + "drink His blood"
- An addition to previous statement
- Remember that the main theme of John's gospel - that ETERNAL LIFE is only thru their faith in the risen Christ

- This a very graphic way of saying that people must take Christ into his inmost being

5- Clarification

- What it is NOT - Communion / Lord's Supper
- What it is — Cajetan as quoted by Ryle P.484

"To eat the flesh of Christ and to drink His blood is faith in the death of Christ. So that the sense is this: if you do not use the death of the Son of God as meat and drink ye have not the life of the Spirit in you."

- Both "flesh and blood" are mentioned here by our Lord to make it certain to the Jews that He spoke of His death, and of the offering of His whole body in sacrifice on the cross.
- Reinforced by 6:51 - "The bread which I will give is my flesh I will give for the life of the world."

B. The Declaration: (6:54-55)

(Converse of 6:53)

1- A Positive Restatement:

- The requirement - eating + drinking
- The reward - "hath eternal life"
- The reaffirmation - "I will raise him up in the last day"

Receiving

A voluntary act by one who believes in Jesus as His Savior from sin P.238

2- Quotation:
J. Dwight Pentecost - The Words and Works of Jesus C.

Christ used the process of physical digestion to teach a spiritual truth. Food taken into the body is digested and then assimilated so that it becomes a part of the body of the one who consumed it. Likewise, people must identify with Christ and appropriate Him and become one with Him by faith in order to receive the gift of eternal life. He declared, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him" (John 6:56). The food taken into the physical body becomes an actual part of the body of the one who consumed it; thus that food remains as a part of the body. So it is with the one who puts faith in Christ. Christ lives in that person, and the person lives in Christ. Christ thus shut this multitude up to Himself as the only One through whom eternal life can be obtained.

3- WHO will have eternal life + be promised resurrection?
- Ones given to Jesus by the Father
- Ones who have seen Him as Son of God
- Ones drawn to Christ by the Father
- Ones who have come to Christ by faith

6:55 4. Rollock remarks of this verse that the best way to understand this verse is to make a trial of Christ, & to feed on Him by faith. We shall soon discover how true these words are. (Ryle, P. 406)

5- The "food" Jesus offered for their souls and for ours has come down from Heaven in the PERSON of God's beloved Son.

6- The Jews did not comprehend what Jesus was saying to them. They sought food and miracles, but not His message of salvation.

C- The Obligation: (6:56-57)

1- Restatement of 6:54 - A close connection with what Jesus had said previously

2- Calling for a RELATIONSHIP
- A close connection between "eating His flesh" and "drinking His blood"
- (WITH) "dwelleth in Me and I with me"
- Not a temporary association, but a PERMANENT relationship, a UNION! as the expression of relationship
  - John 15:4 - "Abide in me and I in you" = "DWELL in me and I in you" ABIDING
  - In a word, there is as intimate a union between Christ + the believer's soul as there is between a man's food + a man's body

3- SO... to possess eternal life is to be intimately connected to Christ + we need to maintain the companionship
- Prayer
- Reading God's Word
- Fellowship w/ Christ + brethren
- Local Church

4 - The PIVOT - 6:57 - A Comparison - As ... So (4)

- Our Lord's WORDS about Himself
- Jesus came back to HIS MISSION - The life of the Son is bound up with the will of the Father. TO DO HIS WILL is Christ's intent.
- The Son lives for the Father - TO DO the Father's will is His very meat - 4:34
"Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, & to finish His work"
- This statement is drawn from that unspeakable & inexplicable union which exists between the first 2 members of the Trinity.

The Living Father
The Living Son
The Living Believer

All three of their lives are linked together

D. - The Distinction: (6:58-59)

1 - A repeat of 6:49 in another form & a SUMMARY of this entire discourse

2 - Jesus reminded them that, wonderful as the manna had been, there had been no life-giving quality in it. Those who ate the manna in the wilderness DIED like other men. BUT the bread of which Jesus has been speaking is DIFFERENT!

3 - Those who partook of this bread - THE CHRIST - were promised that they would LIVE FOREVER!

4 - Three points Jesus wanted them and us to carry away:

(a) - That Jesus Himself was the true bread which came down from heaven.

(b) - That the Jews must not cling to the idea that their fathers had ever eaten this TRUE BREAD as distinct from manna.

(c) That those, on the contrary, who would eat of the bread Jesus had come down

to give, should live forever.

5- Summation: He who by faith, eats the bread of Christ's sacrifice for sin shall have everlasting life + his soul shall never die.

6- 6:59 gives us the location where this discourse was spoken

E: Summary — What Did Jesus Offer?:

1- Eternal/Everlasting Life - 6:27, 40, 47

2- Satisfying Life - 6:35
- Never hunger — The Bread of Life
- Never thirst — Water springing up

3- Resurrection Life - 6:39, 40, 44, 54

4- Relationship with the Son - 6:48, 53-58

III: THE EFFECT of THIS TEACHING: (6:60-71)

A: The Test Of Commitment: (6:60-66)

1- 6:60

- The multitude, who gladly received the loaves + fishes that Christ provided the day before, now REJECT the bread from heaven that Jesus offered them.
- Their MURMURING grew into an ABANDONMENT — The crowd, not the 12
- They had expected that He would, as MESSIAH, set up His Kingdom of power + glory

2 - HARD SAYING - Shattered their hopes when He said: - John 6:53-59. This was shocking to their minds — They STUMBLED at Jesus' words. They could only receive eternal life by "eating His flesh + drinking His blood" — Eating + drinking of HIM

- The allegiance of the multitude was TESTED,

sifted, and the TRUE disciples were separated from the false.
- Jesus' words were not hard to understand, but they were hard to accept. It was the part they could understand, rather than the part they could not understand that bothered them.

3- Jesus' words to the crowd - 6:61-65
- His Question - 6:61 - "Doth this offend you?" Literally "Cause you to stumble". Jesus understood what they were murmuring about
- His follow-up Question - 6:62
A rhetorical question in the light of their defection — NO ANSWER GIVEN
- If they were offended by HIS WORDS, what would they do if they SAW HIM as the Son of man ascending back to heaven from whence He had come?
- This anticipates both His resurrection + ascension into glory — ONLY GOD COULD DO THESE!
What will be your feeling if you see this body of mine BODILY ASCENDING to heaven?
STILL NO ANSWER GIVEN

4- Jesus' declaration - 6:63 — While people can come into the world by natural generation, they cannot come to God EXCEPT by supernatural regeneration, for "the Spirit gives life"
- The human spirit is not life-giving, but the Holy Spirit is a life giver.
- Christ's words are spiritual + the Holy Spirit uses them to give life to those who believe.
- It is the Holy Spirit who is the special author of Eternal Life in a person's soul. This the quiet work of the Holy Spirit on hearts that God's will to actuate.
- THUS, Spiritual nourishment is not to be had through the mouth, but through the heart

5 - OMISCIENCE at work - 6:64 -

- Some of the multitude "believe not"
- That knowledge had been His all along
- It included the awareness of His betrayer.
Calloused Hearts - JUDAS
- The true account of your murmuring and thinking. His sayings were "HARD" is because of their lack of faith. Though they had professed to be Jesus' disciples, they did not believe Him to be the MESSIAH
- I am amazed of our Lord's patience in the light of what He knew about the multitude and Judas.

6 - 6:65 - Clear spiritual TRUTH - Explanation of 6:44 → Previously taught to them all
- Without the Father's drawing, it is impossible for anyone to come to Christ without the Father drawing Him and giving him grace.

7 - 6:66 - They "went away" turned back defected
- They viewed His teaching TOO DEMANDING - Proof of the hardness + corruption of man's hearts
- As they turned away from Him + no longer followed Him it was Jesus comfort and joy that (all) whom the Father had given Him would come to Him and be HIS OWN!
- To me it is a sorrowful conclusion concerning the multitude who BELIEVE NOT

B. The Test of The Twelve: (6:67-71)

1 - 6:67 - The Question - THE BIG TEST - What will His disciples do?

2 - 6:68 - Peter became their spokesman - "WHAT IS OUR ALTERNATIVE? NONE!
Confession of FAITH - 6:69 - Twofold
(a) Jesus alone has the words of Eternal Life

(1r) Also a confession of His PERSON. HE IS DEITY as clearly shown in John's Gospel – "the Son of the Living God" 14 times in John 1-5

– Perfect tense on "believe" + "are sure" – Completed action that has achieved consummation "We have believed + have known"

– A noble confession as to Jesus' MESSIAH role

3- Jesus Answer – 6:70-71 – He had chosen the 12 to be His Apostles, but Judas never came to personal faith, + so was never a true disciple as were Peter + the others of the twelve.

– Peter overstepped, for only 11 of the 12 were true believers – Judas was a COUNTERFEIT.

– If ever there was a man who had great privilege + opportunity, it was Judas Iscariot but he ended as did Lot's wife + Demas.

– Let us settle it in our minds, that the possession of religious privileges + proximity alone is not enough to save one's soul.

CONCL.

A- What Did They Do?:

1- The multitude retreated because most were only interested in food for their bellies + to be able to witness the MIRACLES Jesus did

2- The eleven of the 12 recommitted themselves to follow the Lord and serve Him.

B- What Did We Do?:

1- Be sure of our salvation personally

2- Determine to eat His flesh + drink His blood in daily fellowship

3- Decide to speak of Him boldly in witness + serve Him faithfully until He calls us home to heaven

John 7:1-13

INTRO:

A. The Intent to Kill Jesus: (7:1)

1- This occasion is 6 months after Ch. 6 when Jews were preparing to go up to Jerusalem to celebrate PASSOVER
- Jesus walked in Galilee as a Rabbi moving among the people teaching them

IMP * - We have here an inspired record of what occured

2- Opposition by leaders + rulers of the Jewish nation GROWS! From here to the end of Jesus' public ministry, John depicts a steadily deepening hostility.
- NOW DANGEROUS for Jesus to go to Judea His life will be in danger - 7:1, 13, 19, 25, 30, 32, 44 in this chapter - He must be circumspect! - 7 Verses record this.

3- All that Jesus said + did was subject to careful scrutiny

4- Jesus' disciples were not observing the Pharisees regarding the rituals of cleansing before eating food - BEFORE + AFTER eating.

** "To slight hand-washing was a CRIME worthy of DEATH"! The Mishna sets out instructions as to HOW to wash hands to the wrist. NOT in the Mosaic Law - Traditions of the Elders - Mt. 15:1-6 gives details + in 15:7-11 Jesus quoted Isa. 29:13 "Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, + with their lips do honor me, but have removed their heart far from me, + their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men."

B. The Feast of Tabernacles: (7:2)

1- It was an Autumn feast commemorating the end of the growing season when they

gathered the fruits of their labors from the fields. ALSO this feast commemorated the goodness of God to His people during their wilderness wandering. (2)

2- It was in the middle of this public rejoicing, + the coming of Jews from all around the world that this recorded chapter took place. It was the last of the Jewish feasts every year + formed the completion of the annual routine of Mosaic ordinances. This wound up all.

* 3- The MOST JOYFUL of Israel's feasts + it had deep religious significance.

4- Morris: "Neither in the Tabernacle in the wilderness, nor in the Temple which replaced it, was God fully manifested. The final + perfect manifestation of God was in Jesus, whose ministry would result in God dwelling neither in a tent nor a Temple, but in men's hearts." (393)

IMP.

C- The Purpose for Going Up:

1- So the people could SEE Jesus, HEAR Him teach, and BE WITH Him and His disciples.

2- BUT that was not enough to make people believers - John 6:44 - "No man can come to Me, except the Father which sent Me draw him: and I raise him up at the last day."

Key Point

I- JESUS' DISCUSSION WITH RELATIVES:

A- The Relatives' Advice: (7:3-4)

1- Who were they?

- Could have been half-brothers or sisters to whom Joseph + Mary were parents
- OR it could reach more widely to include cousins and other kinsmen

2- What did they recommend?

① "Depart hence + ② go to Jerusalem"

- To do as they suggested would be to provoke trouble. They challenged Him to appear in public AND perform "WORKS" (a reference to MIRACLES) before the multitudes

-This was the relatives who were NOT convinced of our Lord's MESSIAHSHIP (3)

3- Jesus well knew the Jew's plot to KILL HIM, so He absented Himself in Galilee from Jerusalem while a mass of the populace went up.

4- Brethren challenged Him to go up to the feast, but the time was not right - so He tarried in Galilee

5- THEY SAID - 7:4 -
- What the "these things" were is not explained
- "Show Thyself to the world" was worldly advice - "IF YOU ARE MESSIAH, go tell the world" - Do it in Jerusalem!!

THE PLACE - Such would be the gathering in Jerusalem for the feast + Jesus could make contact with the multitudes from all over the world.

6- According to Jewish thought, it is only then that He will become Messiah in the full sense of the term. Before that time we may say that He is but Messiah designate, a claimant to Messianic status.

7- There is no implication that Jesus had hidden Himself of set purpose. BUT Galilee was far from Jerusalem, + anything done in Galilee would be "secret" AND the Messianic question could not be settled in Galilee.

8- The Man of God remembers that true religion does not "CRY" or "STRIVE", nor court publicity. His destiny was not popularity, but the hatred of the world, a hatred such as no one else could experience, since He alone brought the world into judgment.

B. The Relatives' Spiritual Condition: (7:5)

1- 7:5 - Their words arose from UNBELIEF + that was their continuing attitude, how-

ever, there does not appear the HATRED of the world

2- They had no faith in Jesus as MESSIAH

3- We should learn from this verse the desperate hardness of men's hearts, + the absolute necessity of grace to make anyone a believer + the extreme danger of FAMILIARITY w/ high spiritual privileges.

C- The Savior's Response: (7:6-9)

1- Contrast: "MY time" + "YOUR time"

- "My time" was not yet the time to move + "go up"
- It was better for Jesus to wait till the crowds assembled so that He could suddenly come among them. - Mal. 3:1 - "Behold, I will send My Messenger, and He shall prepare the way before Me: and the Lord whom you seek shall suddenly come to His Temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, He shall come, saith the LORD of hosts."
- Choosing His time carefully + w/ prudence as He moved forward to meet His divinely appointed destiny.
- These words mean that our Lord did everything during His earthly ministry according to a pre-ordained plan, + that He could take no step except in harmony w/ that plan.

2- "Your time is always ready" must mean that to unconverted people, like our Lord's relatives, it could make no difference when they went up— All times were alike.

3- 7:7 WHY does the world HATE Jesus?

Jesus marks Himself off from the world by His continual testimony that the world's deeds are EVIL. The evil-doer does not appreciate having his sin rebuked!

- Reasons are distinctly indicated:
  - @ Not merely a rejection of His claims to be MESSIAH
  - @ Not merely the high + spiritual doctrine He preached.

*** @ Rather, His constant testimony against the sinful lives + wicked practices of many in His day.

- The wickedness of human nature is painfully shown in this sentence: "Christ was HATED"!

- True Christians must never be surprised if they are HATED like their Lord. In fact, the more like Christ we are, the more likely to be hated. HOLY LIVES are needed

TRUE → - Luke 6:26 "WOE to you when all men speak well of you." That sentence is too much forgotten.!

4- 7:8 — "YET" + "NOT YET"

- Jesus had a different schedule for His actions than did His relatives + it was different in the conduct from what they urged.

- "YET" did not stop His going, but shows He had His own schedule.

- Much would happen before He would make that PUBLIC CLAIM His relatives sought to foist on Him.

*

5- 7:9 - The meaning was that He remained in Galilee until it was His choice of the time to "GO UP"

II- JESUS' INTERACTION IN JERUS.

A- The Ascent To Jerusalem:

1- 7:10 - With Jesus' training of the 12 largely completed, He turned His face to Jerusalem. He took the direct route thru Samaria + sent a messenger ahead to arrange food + lodging.

- The Samaritans were unwilling to accept Jesus because He was going to the TEMPLE which they despised.

2- Our Lord never sought publicity but once + that was when He entered Jerus. at the last PASSOVER just before His crucifixion. 6 months hence

- He went up not openly, but incog- (6)
nito so as to not draw attention,
NOT as a pilgrim worshiper in a cara-
van of people, BUT as a Prophet differ-
entiating Himself from His relatives
urging, but supremely as MASTER
of every situation.

B. The Receiving in Jerusalem: (7:11-13)

1- 7:11 - The enemies "SOUGHT" + "SAID" — They plotted to KILL Jesus.
- "Where is he?" - A comment on His absence
- Indication of DISLIKE + CONTEMPT toward our Lord as if saying "THAT FELLOW" or "THAT DECEIVER"
- It is evident that Jesus' prior ministry in Jerusalem has had an effect - John 5

2- 7:12 - Murmuring usually indicates discontent, but here it probably denotes a great discussion - WHISPERING - It was not safe to speak about Jesus, so they kept their voices low.

** - The role of the CROWD throughout this chapter should not be overlooked. These people were an uninformed majority, wanting to do the right thing, but not sure what it was. The MULTITUDE gathered from around the world to Jerusalem on account of the feast!

- TWO OPINIONS!
① • Some - "He is a good man"
② • Others - "He deceives the people"
• Let it be noted that Christ is, + always has been the cause of division of opin-
* ion, wherever He has come or been preached.
- He is a "savor of life" to some + to others "a savor of death" - 2 Cor. 2:16

* - The fault is not in Christ or the gospel, BUT in human nature!

3- 7:13 - "The Jews" were the religious + polit-
ical leaders in Jerusalem.

- Those members of the hierarchy prevented free discussion, and so a HIGH POINT OF HOSTILITY was reached
- The leaders of the nation HATED Jesus, & it was dangerous thing to talk favorably of Him.

CONCLUSION:

A- What Have We Learned From This Passage?:

1- Opposition to Jesus' person & message were growing, & leaders sought to KILL HIM!

2- The timing is in October when Jews completed harvest & journeyed to Jerusalem for the FEAST of TABERNACLES

3- Jesus' relatives did not have faith in Him as MESSIAH, but they did urge Him to go up to Jerusalem to teach & do "WORKS", or MIRACLES during the Feast of Tabernacles that lasted 8 days.

* 4- Jesus' response was not an agreement with their worldly suggestion, but He would do what He would in "MY TIME" and not "YOUR TIME", because the worlds ways & times were EVIL!

5- Jesus did go up to Jerusalem in the middle of the Feast & His reception was mixed.

* 6- Those mixed reactions ranged from HATRED to personal BELIEF in Jesus as their MESSIAH

B- What Difference Does This Make To Us?:

* • What do we, ourselves think of Jesus?
  • Let us never be ashamed to be of that little number who BELIEVE ON HIM, and confess Him before men.
* • While others waste their time in vain jangling & unprofitable controversy, let us take up the CROSS & give all diligence to make our calling & election sure.

- The children of this world may hate us, as they hated our Master, because our faith is a standing witness against them.
- But the Last Day will show that we chose wisely, lost nothing, & gained a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

"MAN'S WILL IN GOD'S WILL" John 7:1-24
Gen. 32:24-28

INTRO: A.-Recap Of First Message (See 2 Tim. 3:1-17):
1-God has a PLAN for all christians' lives
2-ILLUS--A lady who had an only child said to a friend of mine, "I do not dare to pray 'Thy will be done,' because I am afraid God will take away my little boy or send me some heavy trial."
My friend answered, "Suppose your child should come to you and say, 'I want to be & do just what you want today,' would you say to yourself, 'Now is my opportunity to make this child do all the disagreeable duties I want done; I will take advantage of his willingness to please me by cutting off his pleasures today, & will keep him at hard discipline all day long'?"
"NO, NO," said the mother, "I would give him the best day I could possibly plan."
To which her friend replied, "And can you think that God is less just & less loving than you?"
3-SPECIFIC STATEMENTS--Salvation of the lost
--Security of the believer
--Sacrifice of self & subst.
--Sanctification
--Suffering
4-SEVERAL SPHERES--Business activities
--Home & family activities
--Spiritual activities

B.-Willingness To Do God's Will:
1-Essential theme of LORDSHIP
2-Your will fitted into His will
3-ILLUS--At a meeting in Massachusetts several years ago, a speaker, who had just delivered an urgent appeal to young people assembled in a large group to accept Christ as SAVIOR was asked this question by girl from the group.
"Sir, I should like to know how we can be Christians, and have OUR OWN WAY."..... IMPOSSIBLE!
4-G. C. WEISS---"A life must be conditioned, & be in readiness, before the specific will of God for it can be revealed." (P. 30)
5-"Having a will," says one thoughtful writer, "is the price we have to pay for being human."
6-What you do with your will in relating it to the will of God is the subject before us now!
--GOD'S PROMISE concerning His will
--GOD'S PROVISION concerning His will
--GOD'S PRESCRIPTION for doing His will
7-RALPH DAVIS, formerly of A. I. M., once said: "If we were as desirous of DOING the will of God as we are of KNOWING the will of God, we would know it."

I.-GOD'S PROMISE:

A.-Past Time Experiences (Ways God has dealt with men):

1-To Abraham---God appeared in physical form (Angel of Jehovah)
2-To Moses-----God appeared in a burning bush
3-To Gideon----God sent an angel to speak
4-To Samuel----God spoke in a voice in the night
5-To Paul------God sent the blinding light of the Resurrected Christ
6-To Peter-----God sent a sheet let down from heaven
7-"God employs ordinary means to accomplish His purposes whenever ordinary means prove sufficient."
8-THUS---I'm not to expect the unusual & the supernatural revelation as a means of knowing His will.
9-"While God may have to resort to the supernatural methods at times to reveal His will to SOME people, He does not USUALLY do so. Certainly it is no compliment to any christian if God has to knock him down, or blind him, or bring him into some sort of a trance, or reduce him to some condition of extremity to reveal His will to him."
10-No uniform pattern to be expected.

B.-Present Day Promises:

1-Heb. 1:1-2--"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son..."
--Various methods
--Various agencies
--Source was God
--Now thru His Son
--A completed, written revelation
--No more new truth being revealed
--No longer a VOICE, but a VERSE!
2-John 16:12-13--"I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth."
3-Ministry of the Spirit is to GUIDE believers into God's promises ------ as found in the WORD!

C.-Principle:

1-John 7:17--"If any man will do His will, He shall know the doctrine, whether it be of God..."
--Open to ANY man who is a believer
--Matter of the WILL
--For doing, not for passing judgment
--He shall know ** Absolutely sure!
** This is God's best plan
2-ILLUS--Little boy who was talking to his older brother, and who asked him to promise to do what he wants him to do without knowing what he will be asked to do.

Answer----"WHAT IS IT YOU WANT ME TO DO?"
Shows he was not sufficiently trusting & surrendered to do WHATEVER his brother wanted, until he knew what it was. THIS IS NOT SURRENDER AT ALL

II.-GOD'S PROVISION:

A.-Consummated Salvation:

1-Jn. 19:30--"It is finished"
2-Nothing more needed
3-All has been DONE — No more "do" is left

B.-Completed Revelation

1-2 Tim. 3:16-17
2-Rev. 22:19--"And if any man take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the tree of life."

C.-Comforter Came:

1-Acts 1:4-5--"And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence."
2-Acts 2--Pentecost
→ Fulfillment

D.-Correct Place:

1-Just one "correct" place for each believer
2-Gen. 24:27
3-Will of God is not static, but dynamic
4-ILLUS---Eye of hurricane is the ONLY safe place, though the winds of the storm of life rage all about. THERE one finds peaceful calm.

III.-GOD'S PRESCRIPTION:

A.-Requires Surrender:

1-Rom. 12:1
2-"Present"=="Yield"=="Surrender"=="Give up completely"
3-Once for all decision
- --Occasionally at salvation
- --As with Apostle Paul ---Acts 9:6
- --Generally subsequent to salvation
- --Sometimes confused with terminology of "Second Blessing" or "Second work of grace"
- --OFTEN has to be renewed as a reminder to us

4-ILLUS---D. L. Moody, in his early life heard Henry Varley say that the world had yet to see what God can do with and through a man who is COMPLETELY YIELDED to His will. Then and there Dwight Lymann Moody resolved to be that man.

5-Surrender--is to Christ as Lord of life
- --is not to the work of Christ
- --is not to a place of geography
- --DELBERT KUEHL--(Candidate Sec'y of TEAM)

"Where He leads is secondary. The Lord's call is, 'Follow thou Me.' This is not only confession of Him but also commitment to Him as Lord."

"Jesus Christ gave His life, not for our sins only, but for the sins of all mankind. It is God's will, therefore, that all men should hear the message and that redeemed men should bear the message to the whole world.

"The Lord has committed Himself in His Word to guide us specifically concerning His will. There need be no uncertainty concerning the call of God if our response includes self denial and complete submission to His will. Then His will becomes our will, and He can easily send us to the place of His choosing."

--GEORGE MUELLER--"Nine-tenths of the difficulty is overcome when our hearts are ready to do the Lord's will, whatever it may be. The difficulty arises when we ask God to reveal His will before we are ready to do it unreservedly."

6-NOT--"Let God show me His will and I'll consider it"

7-NOT--to know the whole plan first

--ILLUS--Car headlights don't have to show all of the road to our destination before we'll start out at night. But as we move, the lights also move, so we see ENOUGH of the road.

--ILLUS--Henry G. Hawkins--"I'll go IF you want me to go. I'll go WHERE you want me to go. I'll PREPARE to go, but if you don't take me then that is your responsibility."

-"The real problem is not the place of service, but the commitment of the servant." (Delbert Kuehl)

8-UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER

--No wilfulness

--ILLUS--Uzziah in 2 Chron. 26:6-19

--No "crawling off the altar"

--ILLUS--The experience of a young man in the U. of Minn. illustrates this truth. He was wanted on the varsity football team, and wanted as mangager of a branch store by the firm for which he had been working, but God was claiming his life. One evening as the sun was setting, four young men who had spent the day together in his home on the shore of Lake Superior went & seated themselves for prayer on a large rock which jutted out a little way into the water.

The other 3 had prayed & he began, but his throat filled; the tears started & the voice stopped; he began to sob & his big body shook with emotion. After a brief silence he said: "Fellows, forgive me, I can't help it."

Isaiah 57:15 was quoted to assure him that his present condition was pleasing to God: "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite & humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, & to revive the heart of the contrite one."

He resumed praying and said, "LORD, THOU DIDST NEVER HAVE ME BEFORE WHERE THOU COULDST SPEAK TO ME AS THOU HAST THIS EVENING. TAKE ME & USE ME IN ANY WAY THAT WILL SERVE THY PURPOSE."

From that moment he desired above everything else to know & do God's will. Nothing else was now so "acceptable".

--Surrender is more a matter of the HEART than of the INTELLECT ! — David Clark - "God is not as interested in your "I.Q." as He is in your "I WILL"

--Poem--------"Once it was my working,
His it hence shall be.
Once I tried to use Him,
Now He uses me."

--Do you agree with this statement by Norman Lewis?

"The woman who is a great missionary to China is she who was willing to go to Africa, and the man who is a blessing to man & a faithful servant of God in the pastorate is he who was willing to work in a factory or shop. It is just as blessed to be a mechanic, or a housewife, or a doctor, or a grocer as it is to be a minister or a missionary if that is God's will for the life.

"The only abundant life is the life that never lays hand on the Lord to say, 'I am going to do it this way'. For there is no joy in rebellion when you know the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the King of your life."

--I certainly agree.....DO YOU ?

— MISERABLE to not be yielded to the will of God

9-Thus we see that if our will is to be rightly related to the will of God, it must begin with ABSOLUTE SURRENDER. In that way you can "prove"=="experience" the perfect will of God--------which is your reasonable service.

B.-Requires Separation:

C.-Requires Spiritual-Mindedness:

CONCLUSION:

A.-Orientation To The Truth:

1-Saw in last week's message the
UNQUALIFIED SUBMISSION to the WORD

2-Seen today
UNQUALIFIED SURRENDER of the WILL

3-Yet to consider
UNQUALIFIED SEPARATION from the WORLD

B.-Obedience To The Truth:

1-Some may object that the price of knowing the perfect will of God is too high!

2-What price is too high?

--Price Christ paid for you?

--1 Cor. 6:19-20--"What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

--1 Pet. 1:18-19--"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver & gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish & without spot."

--OR the price of yielding your own will to the will of God

3-It is true that:
"Having a will is the pride we have to pay for being human."

4-But there is even a BIGGER PRICE to pay if that human will is at cross-purposes with the------

Good
Acceptable
PERFECT will of God.

5-I urge you in the privacy of your own heart to join with me----the best way you know how, and with a pure heart---to willingly,
devotedly,
yield your will to Him.

.....

Westbrae 7/3/66
8/19/73

"He Leadeth Me" 71
"Footsteps Of Jesus" 252
"I Surrender All" —348

REVELATIONS DURING THE FEAST

John 7:14-24
Part 1

INTRO:

A- Review Of John 7:1-13

1- Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem 6 months before Jesus' crucifixion

2- Jesus' relatives worldly advice to go up + make a public display of His preaching and work miracles to gain adherents to follow Him.

3- Jesus reply:
- Immediately - "My time is not yet come"
- Later Jesus did go up + taught in the Temple courtyard openly before all

4- Reception in Jerusalem
- Murmuring among the people
- Hostility from political + religious leaders
- Hatred against Jesus + threats - "KILL HIM"

B- Today's Study — 7:14-24

1- Revelations during the Feast week

2- Opposition is made evident + HOSTILE

** 3- Let us look, learn and come to the ability to JUDGE RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT (7:24)

I: DIVINE TEACHING + the JEWS' MURDEROUS INTENTIONS: (7:14-24)

A- Honest Obedience Leads To Spiritual Knowledge

7:14-17

1- Jesus spent about 3 months in Judea - TEACHING there or in Perea until Lazarus' death called him back to Jerusalem + Bethany.

* - He waited until the festive feast was half over + then appeared in the outer court of the TEMPLE to teach

- Alford thinks this the first time Jesus had taught publicly at Jerusalem.

HE CLAIMED AUTHORITY as He taught.

He gained a ready audience in a place that was as PUBLIC as any place could be — The Court of the Jewish TEMPLE

2- Jesus' opening address is a CALL to make serious judgments + not just snap decisions on the basis of surface appearances. John 7:14

His message was from Heaven - 7:14-24 but there is no record of the sermon's content -

3- 7:15 - To the Jews there was one kind of learning - that of THEOLOGY. The only road to this learning was to enter a school of the Rabbi's. Among the Jews a Rabbi's authority derived from the fact that their teaching was according to tradition.

- Jesus' hearers were surprised. This seems to indicate that many of them had never heard Him teach before. Many were pilgrims from places Jesus had never preached. They EXPRESS ASTONISHMENT at Jesus' knowledge of "the letters" (= The Bible O.T.) He had never been attached to a Rabbi, so He was viewed as UNEDUCATED.

→ • Our Lord could read - Lk. 4:16 - "And He came to Nazareth where He had been brought up: and as His custom was, He went into the Synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read"

→ • Our Lord could write - Jn. 8:6 - "And He stooped down, and wrote on the ground"

- The whole argument of 7:15-24 turns on the question whether Jesus is a TRUE PROPHET like Moses, OR whether He is a FALSE PROPHET

7:15

- The Jews "marveled" at Jesus' teaching + asked - "How did this man get such learning?"

4- 7:16 - Jesus claimed the highest authority for His doctrine, or teaching, was not His own invention - It was the teaching of Him that sent Him. He was God's messenger + had been taught directly from God.

- Of this 2-fold claim there was also 2-fold evidence

@ Let trial be made of it

@ 6:68 - "To whom shall we go?"

- Jesus claims the authority of Heaven behind His doctrine, for that is the origin of Jesus' message + not from any earthly source. The great truth of the Son's inseparable union with the Father is here once more pointed out. Jesus was not INFERIOR, but HARMONIOUS.
- Moses wrote of Messiah - "I, God, will put my words in His mouth" - Deut. 18:18

5 - [7:17] - His hearers had raised the question of His competence as a teacher. He raised the question their competence as hearers.

** - ANY MAN who really wills to do the will of God will have the spiritual discernment required. Submission brings knowledge of God.

- Therefore this teaches us that one secret of getting the Key to knowledge, is to practice honesty what we know + if we do this conscientiously, we soon find more light coming to our minds. We must live up to the light we have.

* - THE PRINCIPLE here laid out is one of immense importance. We are taught that clear knowledge depends upon honest obedience. Our HEARTS, not our Heads are at fault when we fail

** 50 - The way to know of the doctrine whether it be of God, is to do His will. — AMEN!

B. Self-Exaltation Is Wrong: (7:18-21

1 - [7:18] - The desire to exalt ourselves is a BAD SYMPTOM. It is a sure sign of something wrong within.

Q - If Jesus met these qualifications, Is He not THE CHRIST? Is there not evidence that He is God-sent? that He is the God-sent, real + True AMBASSADOR of God?

- Jesus' point - Am I not of God? - Sent of Him? - He that seeks the GLORY of GOD is True! There is no unrighteousness in HIM!

2 - QUESTION - [7:19] - "Has not Moses given you the Law, and yet none of you keeps the Law? Why are you trying to kill me?"

- This very day you have been hearing that Law read aloud at the Temple, which Law you profess to honor so much

- The Jews were willing to accept the Law that came thru Moses as GOD'S WORD rather than Moses' word + they claimed to submit themselves to it, because the Law had come from God.

** BUT though they recognized the divine origin of the Law, they DID NOT OBSERVE IT!

The Law forbade MURDER, but they sought to KILL JESUS. Jesus had violated their Sabbath (John 5) tradition + had healed a man on the Sabbath Day. Christ reminded the Jews that the Law did permit work on the Sabbath, for circumcision involved work + yet was permitted on Sabbath — Lev. 12:3

→ — Our Lord points out that there is a difference between receiving + keeping the Law.

— Paul pointed out that the only profit in circumcision is when the Law is kept. Being a Jew is not merely a matter of pride of race.

→ Romans 2:25-29 — And far from keeping the Law, they were seeking to put Jesus to death.

→ Galatians 3:24 shows that the Law was a SCHOOLMASTER (= a child-leader) to lead the Jews to faith in Christ.

Inconsistent — The Jews rejected Christ + His teachings, which the Father had given Him to proclaim, yet they were boasting of the Law given by Moses.

7:20 — The crowd was heavy with foreign pilgrims who professed to know nothing about a plot against the Christ — They did not know what was going on. "Thou hast a devil" was shouted out, as it had also been hollered at John the Baptist in Matt. 11:18

→ 3- 7:21 — John does not write of miracles by that term, but writes of them as SIGNS and a WORK — a wonder, the power and a sign. It is not that Jesus had only done one miracle, but that He singles out ONE for attention. John 5 records the one miracle performed in Jerusalem til this time, PUBLICLY in their Capitol.

— The Jews at Jerusalem were ready to condemn our Lord as a sinner against the Law, because

He had done a miracle of healing on the Sabbath Day at the Pool of Bethesda. This was the real cause of their hatred — the healing of the impotent man — BECAUSE He had healed him on the Sabbath

- They forgot the 4th commandment was not meant to prevent works of mercy or of necessity. A work on the Sabbath our Lord had done no doubt, but not a work forbidden by the Law, but a fulfilling its deepest meaning.
- The "marveling" or "wondering" by the people betrays their reaction was not at the greatness of miracle of healing, BUT because Jesus had healed the man on the Sabbath

C: Hasty Judgment Is Dangerous! (7:25-31)

1- 7:22 - Edersheim: "Moses was a messenger of God, + I (Christ) am sent of God. Moses gave the law of circumcision — not, indeed, that it was of his authority, but had long before been Given — to observe this law no one hesitated to break the Sabbath, since, according to Rabbinic principle, a positive ordinance superseded + negative. And yet when Christ, as sent from God made a man every whit whole on the Sabbath they were angry with Him. Every argument which might have been urged in favor of postponement of Christ's healing to a weekday, would equally apply to that of circumcision." (Life + Times of Jesus the Messiah, 153).

John recalls the astonishment with which they greeted this miracle of healing. Though they would scrupulously avoid all manner of things that remotely looked like WORK lest the Sabbath be profaned, they had no hesitation in carrying out the ritual requirement on that day. Had they understood the significance of what they were doing the would have seen that the significance of what they were doing they would have seen that a practice which desecrated the Sabbath in order to provide for the ceremonial needs of a man justified the overriding the Sabbath in order to

* Provide for the bodily healing of a man.
This is a most important point for an understanding of the Sabbath controversy between Jesus + His legalistic opponents.
- NO BREACH of Sabbath to circumcise a child on the Sabbath Day as fulfillment of the 4th Commandment.
- John pointed out that Jesus' action fulfilled the purpose of the original institution of the 10 Commandments.
- THE POINT: What is circumcism in comparison to the great work He had done, a work that glorified God + made the cripple man WHOLE!

2- 7:23 "If the Jews permitted the work of circumcison, they would not object if He healed man on the Sabbath Day. Yet that miracle had made the Jews determined to put Christ to death." (J. Dwight Pentecost, 227)
- Circumcision is concerned primarily with ONE MEMBER whereas Jesus has made a COMPLETE MAN healthy — WHOLENESS!
- This statement implies restoration to entire strength + health of the physical man AND a conversion of the heart as well!
- QUESTION: Is it just + fair to be angry with Jesus, because He has done a far greater work to a man on the Sabbath, than the work of circumcision? NO!!

3- 7:24 - STOP JUDGING superficially, but according to what is RIGHT. This implies that they were guilty of WRONG JUDGMENT + urges them to mend their ways. The verb is Aorist Imperative
- NOT "outward appearance," but factual information on which to judge.
- We are often too ready to be deceived by an appearance of good. REMEMBER: The best of men are but men at their very best. The holiest man may fall sadly for a time, + yet the grace within him may finally get a victory!
- What kind of WORK did Christ DO?
  - An act of necessity + mercy!
  - Look below the surface of people + CORRECT our estimate
  - Let us be JUST, HONEST + FAIR, because righteous judgment must be our goal

- WHY must righteous judgment always be our goal? 1 Sam. 16:7 - "The Lord looketh on the heart"

CONCLUSION:

A.- What Have We Learned From These Verses?

1- Listening to worldly advice from unsaved people is not likely to give a godly man useful guidance

2- God has good guidance to follow + is able to have it suitable at the RIGHT TIME

3- Many Jews knew the letter of the Law, but knew it as simply to be obeyed, while giving no thought to MERCY or A HIGHER GOOD to take precidance

* 4- All that we do or say ought to be of a nature to GLORIFY GOD!

* 5- It is important for us in our ordinary life to study the Bible + guide what we do + say by its truths

6- Be a believer in Christ as PERSONAL SAVIOR and... that He is the God of miracles

* 7- Hasty judgment without knowing all the facts is DANGEROUS!

B.- So What?

1- How does this study impact You?

REVELATIONS DURING THE FEAST:

John 7:25-36 - Part 2

INTRO:

A- Review Of Previous Studies

1- John 7:1-13 - Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem 6 months before Jesus' crucifixion
- Jesus' relatives urged Him to go up for all the Feast days with them + many other pilgrims AND to put on a great show of miracles to attract wide attention
- Jesus declined to "do it their way" + He went up later, saying "My time is not yet come"
- Reception when Jesus did arrive in Jerusalem
  * Murmuring among the people
  * Hostility from religious + political leaders - "KILL HIM"
  * Hatred expressed toward the Christ

LEARN TO Judge righteous judgment

2- John 7:14-24 - Divine Teaching + the Jews' murderous intentions
- Honest Obedience Leads to Spiritual Knowledge 7:14-17
- Self-Exaltation is Wrong - 7:18-21
- Hasty Judgment is Dangerous - 7:22-24

B- This Study - 7:25-36

1- Divided Reactions of People in Jerusalem.
2- Hostile Reactions of Jewish Leaders
3- Prop We need to see + hear what occured as Jesus taught truth + explained His origin + relationship with the Father

II: DIVIDED REACTIONS OF PEOPLE IN JERUS. 7:25-31

A- Some Thought Jesus The Christ Genuine:

1- Some in Jerusalem saw, heard + believed that Jesus was credible.
2- They questioned if Jesus was going to be arrested + killed = WHY?

B. Some Thought The Rulers Must Believe in Him

1. [7:26] - They heard the Christ speaking boldly
   - No refutation of His teachings caused hearers to conclude that the leaders had no ability to refute what was taught
   - THEIR Q - "Do the rulers know indeed that this is the very (true) Christ?
   - Rulers should have seen / heard + believed because they had detailed knowledge of MESSIAH prophecies
   - Expected a YES!
2. Jesus has publicly presented Himself in the Temple. He was teaching publicly + had entered into open conflict with the leaders + Pharisaic traditions
   * Hand-washing before + after eating
   * Healing a crippled man on Sabbath
3. The people could not understand why the leaders Temple Guards did NOT DO SOMETHING

C. Some Thought Jesus Was Not Qualified:

1. [7:27] - "We know this man whence he is..."
   - They could trace Him back to Nazareth + Galilee + Joseph + Mary
   - Ignorant of His birth in Bethlehem of the Tribe of Judah descended from DAVID
   - They had taken no initiative to learn the FACTS as predicted in Scriptures:

BIRTH

* Micah 5:2 - "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth hath been from of old, from everlasting."

COMING

* Mal. 3:1 - "Behold, I will send my messenger + He shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: Behold He shall come, saith the LORD of hosts."

TIME

* Dan. 9:25-26

SON OF MAN

* Dan. 7:13

2-Predicted and FULFILLED.
3-"...but when the Christ cometh, no man knoweth whence He is" - 7:27b OBSTNATE WILFUL BLINDNESS of the unbelieving Jews! WRONG AGAIN!
4-At the very time that the Christ is coming more will not know from where He comes.
* • If they honestly searched + inquired they should have known HIM!
• They did a little reasoning within themselves instead of ascertaining by searching + watching. MISTAKEN!

D. Jesus Answered Them Clearly: (7:28-29)

1- 7:28a Jesus raised His to a high pitch - "A SHRIEK" - Here + 4 other times (Jn. 7:37; 12:44; Mk. 15:37; Mt. 27:50 + even stronger Mt. 27:46
- A rare action by Jesus - "
- Jesus TAUGHT so they might learn the whole TRUTH!
2- They think that they know, but only partially. They thought of Him as going forth on His own initiative. On the contrary, He was sent from God!
3- Why did they not understand? SIMPLE!
* They did not know God
* They did know a little but they knew little of Jesus - Actually knew very little of Him. Jesus charges the unbelieving Jews of IGNORANCE of God whom they profess to serve.
* The One who really sent Jesus into the World was THE REAL GOD but they did not know that Jesus came from HEAVEN and the FATHER. - So, HOW could they be expected to know - Him whom the Father had sent?
4- 7:29 - "I" is emphatic TWICE; Emphatic!
- Jesus could reveal the Father to them if they would listen.
- He does not share their IGNORANCE - He Knows the Father!
- Jesus origin is heaven, from which He came

-His mission was to preach, teach + become THE LAMB OF GOD, who would die for the sins of the world. He was EQUAL with the Father, ETERNAL, OMNIPOTENT + OMNISCIENT — the peculiar + intimate knowledge within the 3 Persons of the Trinity.

V.B. -Jesus is the Seed of the woman sent to bruise the Serpent's Head + to be the SAVIOR OF MANKIND! They could reveal the Father to them if they would listen.

E- A Futile Attempt To Arrest Jesus: (7:30)

1- Jesus' enemies — Sanhedrin + Pharisees — sought to take Him because they at once detected in our Lord's language a claim to be received as MESSIAH.

2- Jesus was IMMORTAL until the Father's will had been worked out.

3- The leaders were not successful in an arrest.
- Jesus was not to the time for His death, so the Temple Police were Divinely restrained from laying hands upon our Lord.
"His Time" was not yet when He would be the SAVIOR of the world.

F- Many Believed + Cited His Miracles:

1- 7:31 - "And" should read "But", showing a difference between leaders + people who heard Jesus teaching concluded that it was more than a general belief that our Lord must be the MESSIAH, the CHRIST + that He deserved to be received as such.
- Many "BELIEVED ON HIM"
- The MIRACLES that Jesus had performed confirmed the words of the Savior, BUT many in the crowd wanted MORE MIRACLES

2- "What greater evidence could any one give that He is the CHRIST!" than this man has given?
Why should we not acknowledge this as THE CHRIST? - If Jesus is not the Messiah, then WHO IS HE?

III.- HOSTILE REACTION OF JEWISH LEADERS: (7:32-36)

A.- An Attempt To Arrest Jesus: (7:32)

1- [7:32] - Murmuring of the people AGAIN - 6:43+61 - concerning Jesus whom "many (7:31) of the (common) people believed in Him"

2- Pharisees + Chief Priests took action! They paid close attention to what Jesus said + did - Resolved in the midst of the Feast to arrest Jesus + stop His preaching - Sent the Temple Police under their orders to watch for a favorable moment to pounce. These Leaders were irritated + alarmed at Jesus' teachings + the populace's response to Jesus.

- Pharisees + Chief Priests knew that a multitude of witnesses who would testify that they had heard Jesus claim to be the SON OF GOD who had come as God's messenger from Heaven.

B.- Jesus Predicted His Return To The Father:

1- [7:33-34] TWO DECLARATIONS by Jesus

① - 7:33 - After a short period with them, He would go unto Him who sent Him

- Jesus was unconcerned about the PLOT against Him. The accomplishment of His mission is in the Father's control.

- Not only were the Temple Police held by Divine restraint unable to lay hands on Jesus, but they are obliged to stand by + Listen to the Christ!

- Jesus had a little longer time to minister on earth - "MY TIME IS NOT YET COME"

- When He has accomplished His mission He will GO HOME to the Father - John uses this term 17 times of going to the Father

- MORRIS - sees these words as an enig-

matic reference to HIS DEATH

-(2) 7:34 - Addressed to the Officers
- Note that "YE" + "ME" are EMPHATIC in the Greek text
=These who so persistently rejected Him would not be able to accompany Him + He was not concerned about the threat from the officers.
-"LATER" Jesus declared, not as now for disputation or violence, but for HELP! Without new hearts, without the Holy Spirit, without the blood of Christ, they could not enter nor enjoy Heaven.
-Those who REJECT JESUS can never come to that place, because they have rejected the message.
-There comes a time when it is TOO LATE to cry out for pardon + salvation, because the DOOR to heaven will be SHUT FOREVER. Hell itself is a truth known too late for CHRIST'S HELP!
-It is an utter impossibility that those who die in their sins + in unbelief will ever reach the place where Christ is - HEAVEN is a PLACE and "Ye cannot come"
-Many would remember Jesus' words long after this and find it is TOO LATE!

C-The Jews Questioned: (7:35-36)

Q-1-7:35a "then said the Jews among themselves, "Whither will He go, that we shall not find Him?"
-They could not conceive of where He could go to hide from them + to avoid being arrested.
-John had recorded their misunderstanding about the MESSIAH on the part of some. NOW He matches it with a misunderstanding as to HIS DEPARTURE.

Q-(2)-7:35b "Will he go unto the dispersed among the Gentiles, and teach the Gentiles?"
-A suggestion of Jesus journeying to the Dispersion of Jews + carry His message to Gentiles. NO, but Saul/Paul did exactly that!
-The Jews were rejecting Christ's message preached

so God would send the message of Christ to all the world.

Q-3- 7:36 "What manner of saying is this that He said, 'Ye shall seek me, and shall not find me: and where I am, thither ye cannot come."

- The Jews repeated Jesus' words of 7:34.
- These words made them not only puzzled, They made the Jews uneasy.
- The Temple Police had been sent to "TAKE HIM" because the Sanhedren + Chief Priests were determined to KILL Him!

CONCL:

A- What We Have Learned Today?:

* 1- The carry-over truth from 7:24- "Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment"
2- The importance of gathering the facts as Jesus spoke and fulfilled what the O.T. foretells about the coming MESSIAH
3- When questions are asked + answered, you need to listen + learn the truth + then BELIEVE what Jesus taught about The Father + Himself
4- Failure to believe Jesus' words is to ignore Divine Truth and fail to accept Christ's teaching and doom yourself to ignorance or HELL or both!

B- What Decisions Do You Need To Make?:

1- Openness to learning what God's Word teaches us.
2- Believe what Scripture teaches us.
3- Grow in God's grace in both understanding + in life change continuously
4- Share the gospel + impact people for eternity

INDWELLING of the SPIRIT

John 7:37-39

Introduction

SRB, - P. 981 982 Footnote - Read it

Mal. 2:15

I. THE SOVEREIGN RELATIONSHIP TO THE H.S. PRIOR TO THE CROSS

A. The O.T. Record: - A sovereign coming for power

1 - Balaam's Ass - Num. 22:1-41. (esp. vss. 28-31)
2 - Othniel - Jud. 3:9-10
3 - Gideon - Jud. 6:34
4 - Jephthah - Jud. 11:29
5 - Samson - Jud. 13:25; 14:6, 19; 15:14
6 - SAUL - 1 Sam. 10:6, 10; 11:6; 16:14 Departure
7 - DAVID - 1 Sam. 16:13; 2 Sam. 23:1-3
8 - Saul's Messengers - 1 Sam. 19:20, 21, 23
9 - Elijah + Elisha - 2 Kgs. 2:9, 15, 16
10 - Amassai - 1 Chron. 12:18
11 - David + Solomon - 1 Chron. 28:11-12
12 - ~~Obed~~ - 2 Chron. 15:1-7 Azariah
13 - Jahaziel - 2 Chron. 20:14-19
14 - Zechariah - 2 Chron. 24:20-22
15 - Israel - Neh. 9:20, 30
16 - David - Ps. 51:11

B. The Prophetic Expectations:

1 - During Jesus' earthly ministry - John 7:37-39
2 - In preparation for Jesus' departure - John 14:16-21

C:- The Transitional Provision:

John 20:19-23

II:- CHURCH AGE RELATIONSHIPS OF THE SPIRIT:

A:- The At-Salvation Ministries Of The Spirit:

1- What they are – Regeneration – John 3
– Baptism = Identifying – 1 Cor. 12
– Indwelling – John 7
– Sealing – Eph. 1:13
– Filling – Eph 5:18

Only one is COMMANDED

2- Their characteristics
– Instantaneous
– Simultaneous
– Fact, not experience

B:- The Scriptures Related To Indwelling:

1- Acts 1:8
2- " 2:4, 33, 38-39
3- " 8:17 Transitional + never repeated
4- " 9:17
5- " 10:44-45; 11:17
6- " 19:1-6
7- Rom. 5:5; 8:9, 11
8- 1 Cor. 2:12
9- " 6:19-20
10- 2 Cor. 5:5
11- Gal. 3:2; 4:6-7
12- 1 John 3:24; 4:13

GIFT

C.- The Terminology Used:

1- "A gift" — John 7:37-39
— Acts 2:32-39; 11:17
— Rom. 5:5
— 1 Cor. 2:12
— 2 Cor. 5:5
— 1 John 3:24; 4:13

No need to repeat these references

2- "The Anointing" — Lk. 4:18
— Acts 4:27, 10:38
— 2 Cor. 1:21
— 1 John 2:20, 27 (twice)

Leave Marker in place

3- "The anointing" when used related to Christians seems always to relate to the initial act of indwelling in the sense of "apply".

4- "the presence of the Spirit is the result of the anointing, and every reference to the anointing by the Spirit is used in this sense." (The Holy Spirit, 155) Walvoord

5- NOT a subsequent-to-salvation experience but simultaneous with salvation

D.- The Problem Passages:

1- Psalm 51:11
2- Luke 11:13 "... how much more shall your heavenly Father give the H.S. to those who ask Him?"
3- Acts 5:32 — "to those who obey Him"
4- Acts 8:14-20 — TRANSITION to mixed breed people
5- Acts 19:1-6 — John's Disciples QUESTION

BOORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®

(4)

E. The Meaning Of Spirit Indwelling:

1 - Universal among all believers beginning at the same moment as salvation. !!

2 - PERMANENT

3 - Foundation of all of the ministries in the believer by the Spirit in this age.

4 - ABSENCE of the Spirit = UNSAVED
Rom. 8:9; Jude 19

5 - Sinning + carnal believers possess the indwelling Spirit
1 Cor. 6:19-20
1 John 1:9
Prov. 28:13

6 - DISTINCTIONS:
a - Regeneration is the impartation of NEW LIFE.
b - Indwelling is THE PRESENCE of the Spirit in the believer
c - Filling of the Spirit deals with empowerment or enabling + deals with control + direction

7 - This "PRESENCE" of the Spirit is "our earnest" of the blessings yet ahead for us = DOWNPAYMENT
- 2 Cor. 1:22; 5:5
Eph. 1:14

CONCLUSION
1 - "The high standard of grace requires supernatural enablement." (The Holy Spirit, 152) - Walvoord
2 - "The blessed fact that God has

(5) made the earthly bodies of Christians His earthly temple renders to life + service a power + a significance which is at the heart of all Christian experience." (The H. S., 156 Walvoord)

6 - Last ¶ of attached letter

Feb. 13
~~January~~ 2000 - Grace Gospel Church
10/17/2001 - Bible Center Church. 10/24/01 completed

THE HEAVENLY CLAIMS OF CHRIST

John 7:37-52

INTRO:

A.- Previous Messages:

1- Jesus' message is from Heaven - 7:14-24

2- Jesus' came from Heaven + became incarnate as the GOD-MAN - 7:25-36

B.- This Message:

1- Jesus will send the Holy Spirit from Heaven John explained what Jesus' Prophecy meant - 7:37-39

2- The affect on the people who heard Jesus' Prophecy - 7:40-52

3- PROP We need to understand clearly what Jesus words meant and also realize the ways different groups of people responded to His prophecy.

I: THE PROPHECY: (7:37-39)

A.- The Setting:

1- The timing - Last Great Day of the Feast of Tabernacles in October after the crops of this agrarian people lived by were harvested.

2- A Feast of rejoicing was observed by day-by-day pouring out of WATER to remind people of God's miraculous provision of WATER during Israel's wilderness wandering for 2 MILLION people plus flocks + herds.

B.- The Speaker:

1- "Jesus STOOD + CRIED" - A loud voice to be HEARD above the sounds of the multitude.

2- "saying 'If any man thirst, let him come unto ME" - In John 4:13-14 Jesus had offered a Samaritan woman to satisfy her thirst. SHE DRANK and was satisfied!

3- Jesus made the same offer to the MULTITUDE assembled at the Temple

4- SATISFACTION was to be found in a PERSON - Jesus was their way to God — people must "come to me."

5- The "thirsty" are offered streams of living water.

6- His declaration — He could supply all they need —

C- The Invitation:

1- "If any thirst" — ANY - Publicans, Sinners, outcasts, Dying malefactors, persecutors & procrastors — ANY and ALL

2- "come unto ME" is believing on ME —

3- The implication that the thirsty soul will find supplied IN HIM, that need which could not be satisfied elsewhere. It was the WORK of Jesus that makes the difference.

4- MEANING: Lift your eyes to heaven & say "O LAMB OF GOD, I come". To answer His attraction, however feebly, is TO COME!

5- TWO RESPONSES
* Some saw Jesus only as "THAT PROPHET"
* Others responded "He is the CHRIST"

6- Jesus saved this great invitation 'til the end of the great feast

D- The Supply: (7:38)

1- "RIVERS" - The perpetual emblem of fertility, freshness, abundance & sufficiency of supply — All of this is to express the abundance of life that can flow TO EACH thirsty soul AND FROM each one! PASS IT ON to a drought-smitten world

2- The RIVER is Jesus HIMSELF
* The Son of God in simple garments
* Our Lord has one panacea for all woes, all needs, all the intimate WANTS of a man's spirit. — It is HIMSELF !!

3-"He that believeth on ME" - HE is the object of faith. All the fullness of the Godhead is in Jesus Christ's VAST + MULTITUDINOUS NATURE
Jesus is all-sufficient

4-"Out of His belly" -
* "Living water comes FROM CHRIST"
* Out of WHO + WHAT Jesus is

5-Richard Baxter used to say that, if his name had stood out on this page, he would have feared that it referred to some other who bore the same name. BUT since the Lord had said "ANY" he knew that even he was welcome. The ONE and ONLY qualification required is THIRST

6-During our Lord's earthly ministry - He supplied so far as was needed ALL that each disciple needed by His personal care + oversight. He knew each sheep by name + provided out of His bountiful supply. He met all their needs.

7-When Jesus was crucified, risen and ascended, His absence was more than compensated for by the gift of the Holy Spirit

E-The Explanation About the Holy Spirit:

1-7:39 is John's after the fact explanation
- A NEW ERA is predicated!
- In the PAST the Holy Spirit had selectively rested upon some for a time and a service, BUT HENCEFORTH the Holy Spirit would be in them PERMANENTLY!
→ John 14:16-17

2-In REGENERATION the Holy Spirit does literaly INDWELL each believer + 14:16 teaches us "He abides forever." This not a "Second Blessing" but a part of a PACKAGE - Regeneration, Baptism, Indwelling + Sealing all at the moment of salvation.

3-"If the Spirit of Christ be in us, Christ Himself is in us. It is a mistake to differentiate

these two. Jesus Himself is the supply of our spirits, then the Holy Spirit whom He gives to be within us AND with us FOREVER!

4- The Spirit would not be given until AFTER Jesus Christ was crucified, resurrected, ascended and enthroned at the Father's right hand.

E: Conditions of Receiving The Holy Spirit:

1- Because the sacrificial death for all mankind's SIN must precede our reception of our NEW LIFE in Christ.

2- Because the power to send the Holy Spirit could only occur as the reward of Christ's accomplished service of the Father's will and plan of redemption.

3- Because the glory of the Lord Jesus must be perfected ere it could be communicated.

4- Our Lord was able, as the perfected second Adam, to bestow His crowned + victorious LIFE on man + INSTANTLY as the Spirit was given.

If time allows, insert TERMINOLOGY USED + PROBLEM PASSAGES

II- THE PERPLEXITY OF PEO

A: Many of the People: (7:40)

1- Response #1 - 7:40

2- "Of a truth this is the Prop

3- Tendency to accept Jesus ... HIS WORDS — as compared with the Galileans who responded to Jesus for His WORKS of MIRACLES

B: Others of the People: (7:41a)

1- Response #2 - 7:41a

2- These believed Jesus was the promised MESSIAH as prophesied in the O.T.

C: Some of the People: (7:41b-44)

1- Response #3 - Questioners with an expectation of an answer of NO! .....

2- Evidence of PERPLEXITY of some who doubted - 7:41b

3- The failure of the people to investigate the historical circumstances concerning Jesus' birth and lineage left them with misinformation which blinded them as to Jesus' identity and ...

4- Some did have ... MESSIAH should ...

5- Result was a DIVI... concerning Jesus C... BUT very little a... NOT UNANIMOU...

Possible use here of THE MEANING of SPIRIT INDWELLING

6- Some (7:44) were there to take Jesus away. NO ARREST was made or attempted. "His hour was not yet come" + so the Temple Police were thwarted.

III: THE OPPOSITION: (7:45-52)

A- The Opponents: (7:45-49)

1- Chief Priests + Pharisees (referred to in 7:32) interrogated Temple Police with "WHY" + because they failed to do their duty to "take Him". (7:32) 7:45

2- Leaders wanted an ARREST not a RIOT

3- The officers had no opportunity in the multitudes in the Temple court to "TAKE HIM"

4- The officers reply is one of "AWE", (7:46) "Never man spake like this man" seems to convey that these officers were cowed by Jesus' superhuman authority.

5- The irritated Pharisees questioned "Are ye also deceived?" (7:47) These Pharisees viewed the officers as naive to fall for Christ's "DECEPTION" as they viewed it

6-They ask-7:48 - as though it was UNTHINKABLE to them to believe Jesus, for they were SET IN OPPOSITION to Jesus.

7-7:49 shows their ELITIST perspective toward others outside their INTELIGENSIA circle. - Thought them as ignorant and unlearned people.

8-These men believed that fulfillment of the LAW earned them salvation + so these lesser people were CURSED

B: The Defender: (7:50-51)

1-Nicodemus
- Previously came to Jesus by night + has believed to the saving of his soul. (Jn. 3:1-16)
- One of the leaders in the Sanhedren.
- He SPOKE OPENLY to answer the other leaders.

2-QUESTION - 7:51
- This called the Pharisees + Chief Priests to task for condemning a man without investigating to GET THE FACTS before condemning.

3-These professed believers of the THE LAW violated the Law by not following due process.

4-These Leaders blatant disregard for the Law that Nicodemus was forced to STAND and PROTEST. This he did very carefully in defense of Jesus Christ, but he did not bear witness to His faith as a believer.

C: The Reply: (7:52)

1-The Sanhedrin was in no mood for legalities + Challenged Nicodemus to put him down. They protested - "Search + Look: for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet"

2-NOT TRUE! - JONAH from Gathhepher 3 miles from Nazareth in Galilee

AND - NAHUM was a man of Elkosh which was renamed Capernaum which means "Town of Nahum" also in Galilee.

3- The Pharisees accused Nicodemus of partisanship toward Galileans, BUT DID NOT ANSWER Nicodemus' pertinent question "Doth our Law judge any man before it hear Him, and know what He doeth?" They were angry men who had been thwarted in their taking of their enemy into custody.

4- The Sovereign God can raise up prophets — or Pastors — wherever He desires!

CONCL:

A- Review Of The Heavenly Claims Of Christ:

1- 7:14-24- Jesus' message is from Heaven
2- 7:25-36- Jesus came from heaven & became incarnate as the God-Man.
3- 7:37-39- Jesus will send His Holy Spirit from Heaven
4- 7:40-52- The effect of Jesus' Prophecy about His sending of the Spirit to indwell all believers.

B- Rereading Of Jesus' Prophecy:

1- John 7:37-39
2- Q - Do you know what it is to be SATISFIED? CONTENTED
- Do you know what it is to communicate to others what you have received from the RISEN LORD?
3- The world would soon become THIRSTY if believers were to become R O L W — Rivers Of Living Water!

CONFLICT OVER THE LAW
John 8:1-11

INTRO:

A:- The Background:

1- After the end of the Feast of Tabernacles, Jesus left the Temple + "went unto the Mount of Olives" (8:1)
- Perhaps to pray.
- Probably to go to Bethany, the home of Mary + Martha where He often found hospitality.
- There is no record in the 4 Gospels of Jesus ever remaining overnight until the night before His crucifixion in Jerusalem.

2:- The Sadducees + Chief Priests
- Had decided to KILL Jesus
- Had sent Temple Police "to take Him"
- But they were restrained from "taking Him" + were mesmerized by Him + said "Never man spake like this Man" (7:45)

B:- The Text For Today - John 8:1-11:

1- Read it

2- "Immorality of that time had reached such a pitch, that the Laws of Moses had fallen into disuse, for the very reason that is impossible to legislate in advance of public opinion."

* 3- Immorality was virtually UNIVERSAL

4- Let us seriously listen and personally decide as to WHAT LESSONS God would have us learn from this portion of God's Word to us.

I- THE PARTICIPANTS:

A- The People: (8:2) WITNESSES

1- Those in the Temple grounds
- Jerusalem residents + areas nearby
- Others from all Israel's provinces according to their tribal areas
- A multitude of Jewish pilgrims from all around the DIASPORA in the known world.

2- They were a CROWD who were drawn to surround Jesus to hear Him TEACH. Many had heard Him gladly the previous 5 days during the Feast days.

B- The Scribes + Pharisees: (8:3-6) ACCUSERS

1- They were the POWER PEOPLE in Judaism

2- While Jesus was teaching these men brought in a woman taken in the act of adultery whom they pushed into the presence of the Lord + formed a circle with Jesus + the woman in it.

3- Trying to TRAP Jesus because He had raised the issue of the relationship of Pharisaic Tradition to the Law of Moses - 7:19, 22-23. Mosaic Law does allow certain works on the Sabbath, which Pharisees denied in their traditions.

4- These most religious of all the seats in Judaism + the most strict interpreters of Mosaic Law

→ Matt. 23:1-7

5- 8:4 - Their accusation + it implies that witnesses had been there to observe the act of intimacy - this puts stress on HER part in the affair, for the woman's guilt is plain.

6- 8:5-6 - "NOW WHAT DO YOU SAY, Jesus?" They have set their Trap + 8:6 makes it clear that they were not sincere.

7- These unsaved men had no understanding of LAW + GRACE. They knew only severity + ignorance of Gal. 3:24-25

C: The Disciples: LEARNERS

1- No reference to them, but they were there, because where Jesus went, His followers followed them — As He TAUGHT, they LEARNED

2- They had CONFIDENCE in Jesus. They had heard His teachings for 3 years. They had SEEN His miracles + had performed miracles in His Name + WITNESSED the blessed + pure life He lived.

3- They were convinced that He had the word of ETERNAL LIFE (Jn. 6:68-69), + they had forsaken all to follow Him (Mt. 19:27). They knew the purpose of the crafty questions of the Scribes + Pharisees.

4- They themselves may have suffered the ridicule of the Pharisees for following Jesus of Nazareth. It was not popular to follow Him then any more than it is today.

5- They could easily recall some of the Lord's statements on sin + forgiveness (Mt. 7:20-23; 18:21-22) and the purpose of His coming into the world (Lk. 19:10)

Do NOT Quote These

D: The Woman: GUILTY SINNER

1- Taken in the act of adultery + brought to Jesus as He taught in the Temple Court- 83

2- If a man divorced his wife, she would take her property with her, BUT if she died, her husband would succeed to it.

3- The Scribes + Pharisees looked upon this poor woman, this sinful woman, was looked upon with no human compassion, only as a means of entrapping Jesus. INDEED, THEY were as guilty as she was, even of the same sin of adultery AND of hardening their hearts against the Redeemer.

4- She was a prime candidate for salvation + forgiveness of the Savior. She did not deny

her sin. She had been caught red-handed. (4)
She stood condemned by the Law of God.

* Lev. 20:10 - "And the man that committeth adultery with another man's wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbor's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death."

* Deut. 22:22 - "If a man be found with a woman married to a husband, then they shall both of them die, both the man that lay with the woman and the woman: so shalt thou put away evil from Israel."

→ * For WHAT PURPOSE? - Read Rom. 3:19

5- This adulterous woman was in exactly the position all sinful men + women will be in a coming day if they continue as they are: confronted with their sin in the presence of the Holy God, their JUDGE.

6- She stood condemned by men; this was evident to all. She was condemned by the conviction of her own conscience. But notice that she made no * → plea of righteousness. - Ps. 130:3 "If Thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?" She looked to the Lord for her only help. This can be seen by her attitude + address to the Lord.

John 8:11

E- The Savior: - NOW WHAT? Where the rubber meets the road!

1- He came to the Temple court; People came to Him + He sat down + taught them + the people heard.

2- His environment was invaded by the Scribes + Pharisees thrusting an accused woman in front of Him as they created a circle around Jesus + disheveled woman as the people surrounded the circle watching + listening.

3- Jesus is challenged to judge the woman in the light of the Mosaic LAW - "WHAT SAITH THOU?" and 8:6 makes it clear that they were "tempting Him", not seeking guidance as to what they should do.

4- Jesus' reaction was to ignore them + so He refused to answer their challenge. He was not the one to sit in judgment or pronounce a sentence at that time.

5- Jesus stooped + wrote in the dirt.

Q WHY Jesus wrote? No answer in Scriptural record

Q WHAT Jesus wrote?

8:7 - "They continued asking Him"

6- Evidently the accusers felt that Jesus' silence arose from an inability to evade giving the opening for which they were looking. THEY PRESS Him for a judgment of the woman.

7- As He stooped again as He said, "He that is without sin among you, cast a stone at her," while He stooped down again and wrote in the dirt — WHAT? My opinion is that He wrote "WHERE IS THE MAN?" He should also be stoned if the woman had been caught in the very act; so must he!

II- THE HANDLING OF THIS ISSUE:

A- A Sinner's Way Of Treating Sin:

1- It is a terrible thing for a sinner to fall into the hands of his fellow sinners. Sin blinds them to their own faults, but sharpens to detect the faults of others.

2- There is not one of these men who can claim + proclaim his freedom from this very sin of adultery!

3- But they have no burning shame, no pity for the sinner, no jealousy for the honor of God. There is little hope for sinners such as these.

4- They could be saved if they would only be freed from their religious world + be left alone with Jesus.

B- The Law's Way Of Treating Sin:

1- Moses wrote that such a one should be stoned! It is with the MORAL Law as it is with NATURAL Law — the least violation of its promises is to be immediately + terribly avenged.

2- The function of the Law is twofold:
- First the Law is given to teach mankind its need for salvation + is designed to be a schoolmaster to lead us to Christ.
- Second, the Law is designed to smite +

punish all who go aside from the straight & narrow thread-like path of perfect goodness.

C: The Savior's Way Of Treating Sin:

1- Jesus sometimes seems to wait until He utters words of peace. This not due to a tardiness in His love. He can detect signs of repentance + a wistful yearning; when the soul turns from its sin to Him with desire — HE SAYS "There is now no condemnation, neither do I condemn thee; GO, and SIN NO MORE."

2- By right of the propitiation of the cross, He will forgive you — and send you forth to TELL OTHERS the story of His love + forgiveness.

3- Christ, the Savior was there. He knew the sinfulness of all men, knew it was not man's prerogative to condemn + knew all were under the same condemnation. This woman was no more wicked than those who surrounded her. The Lord knew her heart — REPENTANT — (8:7) + He also knew her accusers — Proud, Cruel + Wicked. Moreover Jesus knew how the sin problem would be settled once + for all.

4- Christ knew all the need of the adulterous woman + her sin were to be taken care of on HIS CROSS. What He said to her was repeated by Paul's words to Philemon "CHARGE IT TO MY ACCOUNT"

Called Jesus "Lord" (8:11)

CONCL:

A: The Lessons Of Importance:

1- The power of conscience in the accusers — they left the scene HEART

2- The nature of repentance in the woman — GRACE UPON GRACE!

3- The forgiveness of our Lord to all who repent + confess Him as Savior

B: The Illustration To Reinforce:

The story is told that many years ago in Russia a regiment of troops mutinied. They were at some distance from the capital, so in their fury they murdered their officers, resolving never to submit to discipline. But the emperor, who was a very wise man, no sooner heard of their mutiny than, all alone and without attendants, went to their barracks where the men were drawn up in defiance. Addressing them sternly, he said: "Soldiers! you have committed such an offence against the law that everyone of you deserves to be put to death. There is no hope of any mercy for one of you unless you lay down arms immediately and surrender to me, your emperor." They did so, then and there. The emperor said at once: "Men, I pardon you; you will be the bravest troops I ever had." And so they were. Now, this is just what God does with the sinner. The sinner has dared to rebel against God. God says: "Sinner, you have done that

which deserves My wrath. Ground your weapons of rebellion. I charge you to submit to My sovereign authority. Accept My Son as your Savior. Once done, you are forgiven; henceforth you will be the most loving subjects My hands have made."

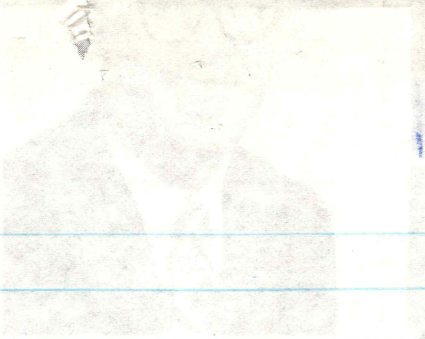
The dilemma of the ages? How could the blessed Christ of God forgive sinners and still take account of a violated and broken law? This is a message angels would delight to deliver, but it is entrusted to us. Let us be up and doing!

Each of us is to share the gospel with all who listen to GOOD NEWS!

HYMNS

Grace Greater Than Our Sin — 468
My Jesus, I Love Thee — 297
Jesus Paid It All — 131

12/4/15 — Putney Memorial Ch



CONFLICT OVER THE LIGHT
John 8:12-24

INTRO:

A- The Context:

1- 8:1-11 - Conflict over the Woman + the Law
2- After that interruption by the Scribes + Pharisees, Jesus returned to teaching in the Temple Court near the Treasury.
3- These opponents had tried to ensnare Jesus + desired to KILL Him.
- Yesterday - 7:37 "If any man thirst, let Him come unto me and drink."
- Today - 8:12 "I am the light of the world"
4- This was the Jewish title for MESSIAH + here Jesus claims to shed forth His benefits for the WHOLE RACE - Jews and Gentiles.

B- The Message: (8:12)

1- Proclamation that Jesus is THE LIGHT
2- Opposition of THE DARKNESS - (8:13)
3- Clarification by Jesus - (8:14-20)
4- Declaration of Options - (8:21-24)
5- PROP: Let us SEE the Light, BELIEVE in the Light and REFLECT the Light in the midst of the Darkness around us.

I: PROCLAMATION that JESUS is THE LIGHT - Jesus Teaching: (8:12)

A: What Jesus Said of Himself:

1- The Rabbis spoke of the original light of creation in which God had wrapped Himself in a garment, + which could not shine by day, because it would have

OUTSHINED the Sun!

2- GOD is the fundamental source of the Illumination of the world.

3- Here Jesus claims this Messianic title + promised His benefits for the whole race — Jews + Gentiles

4- To have the LIGHT is to have JESUS! There is no light apart from a faith relationship to Jesus of Nazareth.

5- This claim startled the Pharisees + raised in them a spirit of antagonism!

6- The devout SIMEON spoke of the baby Jesus → "A LIGHT to lighten the Gentiles, & the glory of Thy people Israel." Luke 2:32

B: What Jesus Said of His Followers:

1- Jesus invited ALL who want spiritual help + guidance to turn to Him, taking Him as their Leader.

2- The believer is delivered from the power of darkness, from the power of sin and from ignorance as to spiritual things.

3- FOLLOWING necessitates believing in HIM, for none can follow Him as the LIGHT unless there is faith in Him. FOLLOWING Jesus Christ is walking in the Light, not in darkness.

4- AS ISRAEL FOLLOWED the pillar of cloud + fire in all their wilderness journeying, so must the believer follow Christ. BEGIN by following and you will find the LIGHT. FOLLOW NOW and HAVE HEREAFTER!

5- Jesus said, "He that followeth Me" is delivered from darkness + has THE LIGHT! This is in contrast with the darkness, all of whom do not have faith in Jesus Christ.

C: What Jesus Said of the Rejecters:

1- He is THE LIGHT and gives light to all who believe; apart from Him, ALL IS DARKNESS

2- The world is in DARKNESS + desperately in need of LIGHT! This has been true since the

FALL in sin in the Garden of Eden.

→ ISA. 60:2

3- Jesus similarly contrasted light + darkness.
→ John 3:19-21

4- The great truth underlying this conflict in the great truth of the FALL OF MAN + becoming in a state of moral + spiritual darkness. They NEED LIGHT! Light must be ACCEPTED!

II: THE OPPOSITION of the DARKNESS - (8:13) — PHARISEES' DENIAL:

A: The Pharisees' Statement: (8:13 a+b)

1- Accusation that Jesus' Proclamation + Promise is without support or truth to His claims.

2- The biblical support for their position:

→ • Deut. 17:6 - "At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death."

→ • Deut. 19:15 - "One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established."

3- So, no person's was to be received unless substantiated by other witnesses.

B: Pharisees' Evaluation: (18:13 c)

1- They rejected Jesus Christ's witness to Himself since they heard no supporting testimonies from others. — In Essence: "Your testimony is not trustworthy, not deserving of attention."

2- Pharisees branded Jesus' testimony as untrustworthy — they ATTACKED Jesus' proclamation.

III: THE CLARIFICATION BY JESUS: (8:14-18)

A: The Statement: (8:14)

1- When questioned by the Pharisees about His Father, Christ explained that the Question

revealed their ignorance. They were ignorant of Him. Christ was the only One who could introduce the Father to them.

** + He could be thoroughly be depended on.
+ Saying "I know My commission and Who sent Me. I claim attention to My message.

2- He was saying "MY EVIDENCE IS STRONG"! He was saying that He is qualified to bear witness, though His enemies were not. His testimony was not unsupported, for the Father bears witness to Him.

3- the LIGHT of the world + the WATER of life was an open challenge to the Pharisees. These 2 features related to the Feast of Tabernacles:

(a) Lighting the golden Lampstand so the Temple Court might be illuminated during the evening hours of the Feast.

(b) Also during the Feast of Tabernacles people would go to the Pool of Siloam to draw water, carry it to the Temple + pour the water out around the ALTAR of SACRIFICE

(c) Lighting of the Lamps signified Israel's need for LIGHT, for which God was the only true source.

(d) Pouring out of the WATER was a confession of SIN + an acknowledgement of the need for cleansing of sin.

4- SO, the Feast of Tabernacles not only looked backward to God's provision for His people's needs, AND also looked forward to the coming of MESSIAH.

B- The Contrast: (8:15)

1- Jesus Christ drew attention to the DIFFERENCE + the CONTRAST between Himself and His enemies.

2- Jesus' accusation is that the Pharisees were judging everything by a false standard.

3- Christ was claiming to be MESSIAH who fulfilled all that was anticipated in the Feast of Tabernacles.

4- Jesus' POINT: The Pharisees were disqualified because they judged after the flesh — which was weak and incomplete.

5- "I judge no man" is, in the Greek, a double negative! Judgment was not the purpose of Christ's first coming to earth. See 8:11 where Jesus refused to judge the woman. He did not practice the kind of judgment that the Pharisees practiced. He came to provide SALVATION, NOT JUDGMENT!

C: The Witness of the Father: (8:16)

1- Jesus has already professed knowledge of God, the Father in the record of chapter 5 in ten verses of the record.

2- His judgment is unlike the judgment of the Pharisees. It is "not after the flesh, but TRUE JUDGMENT, because His judgment arises out of His relationship to the Father.

* 3- Jesus insists that there is in fact ANOTHER who witnesses to Him. Whether the Pharisees accept the witness of the FATHER or not IT IS A FACT! His clear witness is borne to Jesus that He is COMPLETELY VALID!

4- Jesus may appear as a single person, but the truth is that the FATHER is WITH HIM, and the Father has not left Jesus at all.

5- Our Lord was a "sent One" on a mission of redemption. He has not been forsaken by the Sender. 8:16,18

6- In summary, knowledge of the Father is only possible through Him, and judgment of people was not yet His business. That will occur in the proper time + circumstance.

D. - The Two Witnesses: (8:17-18)

1- Jesus now appeals to the Mosaic Law which the Pharisees admitted to be binding for Jews, + makes it agreed that it was "TRUE" = VALID, and puts in STRONG CONTRAST of the testimony of two men with the testimony of Himself + His Father in heaven.

2- "I AM" is emphatic as a reminder of DEITY. Jesus stood with God + the Pharisees stood with men. Jesus claimed to be the great "I AM" who was testifying of Himself and the Father.

3- The Issue: Admitting that the testimony of 2 witnesses is trustworthy, I bid you observe that there are two witnesses to My Divine nature + mission - I, Myself, the Eternal Son, am one of these witnesses: I am ever testifying of Myself. The Father that sent Me is the other witness: He is ever testifying of Me:

- By the mouths + pens of O.T. Prophets
- By the miraculous works God is doing by My hands
- By the Father's witness at Jesus' baptism

4- Thus, whoever denies the Son, the same has not the father! 1 John 2:23
"Whosoever denieth the Son, the same has not the Father: but he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also."

E. - The Question: (8:19a)

1- The Jews wanted to know where the Father of whom Jesus spoke was. NOT a serious inquiry,

but sneering sarcasm - Not WHO?, but "WHERE (?) Ignorant of both!
And also ignorant of WHO Jesus of Nazaret is. Many lived + died in a fog without truth!

2- Let it be noted that great familiarity with the letter of Scripture is perfectly compatible with gross spiritual darkness.

3- Knowing Jesus as Savior + Advocate, they will find it easy + pleasant to know God the Father.

F- The Answer: (8:19b-20)

1- The Pharisees prided themselves on their knowledge of their God. Jesus told them that they have no knowledge of Him at all

2- Ignorance of Christ and ignorance of the Father are inseparably connected.

3- All our times are in the hands of God, so the wicked can do no harm to Christ + His members until God gives permission ("After that")

4- Probably a pause between 8:20 + 8:21

IV- THE DECLARATION of OPTIONS: (8:21-24)

A- What Jesus Said: (8:21)

1- Jesus stated again that the ONLY WAY to receive forgiveness of sins + the gift of Eternal Life was to believe that He was the one He claimed to be.

2- Told the Jews that He would leave them + they will not be able to follow Him where He goes. This relates to His departure to be with the Father — after His death.

3- Jesus' DEATH is set in contrast to theirs. THEY will die in their sins + that will prevent them from going where He is going. THEY have no possibility of ever being in heaven

B- The Jews' Confusion: (8:22)

1- The Pharisees "don't get it" — They really didn't think Jesus was planning to commit SUICIDE

2-Jesus repeatedly made Himself clear.

C.-The Differentiation Made Explicit: (8:23-24)

1-Their different sources + spheres -(8:23)
- Ye - from beneath / I - from above
- Ye - of this world / I - not of this world

2-Jesus differentiated between the Jews + Himself

3-It is because of the essential nature of them, He told them they will die in their sins - BLUNT + CLEAR-CUT; A wide difference

4-There is no union, harmony or fellowship between them and our Lord

5-Repeated - Believe or Die -(8:24)
There is but one way of avoiding dying in sins, namely to BELIEVE in Jesus. This involves a right estimate of Jesus' PERSON. This expression is related to His DEITY

6-How awful is the end of those who will not come to Jesus in faith - UNBELIEF is that special sin that ruins men's souls. - Unrepented sins are the cause of their damnation

7-Indeed, there is a HELL to avoid and a HEAVEN to those believe in Christ as one's personal Savior.

CONCLUSION:

A:- We must receive the LIGHT
We must live in the LIGHT
We must share the LIGHT in a world of darkness

CONFLICT OVER JESUS PERSON – "WHO ART THOU?" – John 8:25-36

INTRO:

A. The Context:

1- Late in Jesus' 3½ years of earthly ministry, so quite well-known to both Jewish leaders + the comon people.

2- Jewish leaders had directed Temple police to "TAKE HIM" so as to KILL HIM, but they were divinely restrained because "His time was not yet come."

→ 3- John 8:1-11 – The woman taken in the act of ADULTERY

→ 4- John 8:12-24 – The conflict over The Light as Jesus claimed to be The Light of the WORLD as the first segment of John's Sixth recorded Discourse in Chs. 8, 9 + 10

B. The Contention: (8:25-36)

1- This portion of that long discourse follows John 8:24 (READ) where Jesus declared Himself THE GREAT LIBERATOR from sins.

2- The Contrasts:

I- Light with Darkness – John 8:12-24

II- Truth with Unbelief – John 8:25-59

3- This all focuses on WHO JESUS IS! as THE major issue

I- THE FATHER + THE SON – Co-Equal:

A. The Jew's Question: (8:25a) "WHO ART THOU?"

1- Asked here + again in 8:53

2- The relationship of our Lord with The Father

– 120 refs to The Father in John's Gospel

– 39 refs. to the Father up to John 8:25

– 13 refs to The Father in this chapter

3- Jesus had made a LARGE CLAIM

B.- Jesus Replys To Their Question: (8:25b-29) (2)

1- The same as always since His baptism (8:25b)
— 8:12-24 — "I am the Light of the World" (8:12)
→ * 8:21-24 - Jesus liberates from death
→ * 8:28 - A reference to THE CROSS
** — This is Jesus' DECLARATION of His Mission
→ 2- The words He uttered — (8:26)
** — His mission includes judging the world (5:22-27), but this will come later
- His Father has sent Him + the Father is TRUE! Jesus' words are reliable because they came from the Father Who IS TRUE. He is the source of Jesus' words are to be to THE WORLD - Wide scope!
→ 3- The Jews did not understand (8:27) when Jesus spoke of the Father.
** - Because the Jews did not recognize Jesus' heavenly origen, it meant nothing to them as He traced His message to Him Who sent the Son Who was TRUE
** - SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS is the "special sin" that ruins men's souls is UNBELIEF
→ - Mark 16:16 - "He that believeth not shall be damned"
→ 4- Prophetical declaration - (8:28)
* - This must point to THE CROSS + eventually to GLORY, for it would be the ground of sinners' liberation
- Jesus would accept the shame + humiliation of the Cross in order to bring salvation to sinners.
- The "I AM" is significant + the "he" unnecessary ALSO, a period should follow. Remember this name from Ex. 3:14 "And God said to Moses, "I AM THAT I AM": and He said unto the children of Israel "I AM hath sent me unto you."
** - MEANING: "The Self-existing One Who reveals Himself + always keeps His covenant."
- Jews would understand the "I AM" but not WHO JESUS IS until after His Crucifixion + RESURRECTION in an "after-the-fact" recognition in which He is shown to be SON OF GOD!
- Also, Jesus made it clear that He did not

speak of His own self, but always only as the Father wished Him to speak. (3)

5- 8:29 shows His pattern of consistent behavior in submission to the Father's Words, showing His union + pleasure to be co-equal w/ the Father.

C- The Response of Many: (8:30)

1- "Many believed on Him" is the record, indicating that they were convinced in a certain measure, BUT hearts + consciences were not touched! Along with these were many others who rejected Jesus as Messiah.

2- We are not told who these "believers" were, but they included many with shallow understanding + conviction + thus would fall away. (8:31-36)

II- THE TRUTH ABOUT MAN + SIN: LIBERATOR

A- The Truth Explained: (8:31-32)

1- Normally John uses this verb of "trust" in Jesus, as such trust that brings men out of death into life. BUT as the text unfolds, it appears that many Jews were not passed to life.

- It is best to think that John wrote of men who had made an outward profession, but in their cases it did not go very deep. MK. 4:1-20

- EXAMPLE - Parable of the Sower - Matt. 13:18-23

- Seed sown on wayside - Fowls got it - DEVOURED
- Seed sown on stony ground - Sprang up - SCORCHED
- Seed sown among thorns - Yielded NO FRUIT - CHOKED
- * Seed on Good Ground - 30, 60 or 100 fold - FRUITFUL *

→ Expressed in Jn. 15:4 - "Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in Me."

2- If men in any sense believe in Him, it is important that they be led to see what real faith means - CONTINUANCE! - "If you continue in My Word..."

3- The beginning of spiritual life is comparatively easy... BUT when the newness of his position is past + gone, when the freshness of his feelings is rubbed off + lost, when the world + the Devil begin to pull

hard at him, when the weakness of his own heart begins to appear — THEN it is that he finds out the real difficulties of vital Christianity." (Ryle, 538)

** "We must not forget to begin is one thing, + to go on is quite another. Patient continuance in well-doing is the only sure evidence of grace" (339)

4- THE GREAT PRINCIPLE — Steady continuance is the only REAL + SAFE proof of one's discipleship. NO CONTINUANCE in God's Word = No real faith + conversion — Our lives will SHOW THE REALITY!

→ John 15:7 "If ye abide in Me, and My WORDS abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." ***

*** This is THE KEY that unlocks all the Truth of God for Jesus is the center of God's revelation

5- THE BIG "IF" — There is a CONDITION of continuance to those who believe + thereafter as DISCIPLES of Christ come verses 8:32+36 — "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free." Request

6- To recognize the truth that is in Christ + do nothing about it means that in effect that one ranges himself with the enemies of our Lord — the true DELIVERER!

YES →

7- 8:32 — "THE TRUTH is the whole doctrine of TRUTH concerning CHRIST, His NATURE, His MISSION + His GOSPEL. Knowledge of the Truth is associated with being a true disciple!

ALL OF THESE →

8- FREEDOM — Lk. 4:18 "... to proclaim freedom for the prisoners." HEREIN IS VICTORY — The Word is a moral cleanser of ATTITUDES + FORGIVENESS. A moral deliverance from the habits + prejudices for one who "abides in the WORD" SINNERS are thus liberated from guilt, burden, bondage to the dominion of SIN

- From SIN
- From DARKNESS
- From UNCERTAINTY
- From IGNORANCE
- From INSTABILITY

into FREEDOM

9- Augustine: "Let us flee to Christ" — Our Liberator by His shed blood.

B: The Reaction of the Crowd: (8:33)

1- "We be Abraham's seed" gives their view that they hang on Abr's coattail with God
- Abr. had personal faith - Gen. 15:6
- No evidence of personal faith by those in the crowd
- The Jews were proud of their religion but did not know their need to be free of their sin - Individually

2- "And were never in bondage to any man"
* Not true physically
  - Egyptian bondage
  - Babylon + Medo Persia
* Not true politically - ROME at that time
- Spiritually in the BONDAGE of SIN, but ignorant of this bondage to Satan

** - This is the language of an unchanged heart

*** - Jesus told them the BAD NEWS of their bondage to sin so they might listen to the GOOD NEWS of the Gospel, but they considered themselves FREE because of descending from Abraham

Q 3- "How sayeth thou, Ye shall be made free" they asked
- Anger + resentment at being confronted with the FACTS
- Self-deception of the natural man -
- SUPERB DISREGARD of the Facts

C: The Nature of Slavery: (8:34)

Two times in Ch. 8

* 1- "Verily Verily" = Truely Truely - Very important point to be heard + heeded
2- "I say unto you" - Authoritative message of their condition as INDENTURED SLAVES to sin
3- "Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin"
- Sin is the hardest of all taskmasters
- Present tense verb indicates HABITUAL lives in commiting of sin
- True SLAVERY for all who live sinful lives. SIN rules over lost people!
- The one who sins & continues in it is a SLAVE to sin, whether he realizes it or not and is in servitude to SATAN!

= Every single one of them

4- The Jews were fond of boasting but they were enslaved to sin - Ambition, Love of money, passion for drink, craving for pleasure, excitement, gambling, gluttony, illicit sex — YET they boasted that they were eminently free!

D.- The Nature of Liberty: (8:35-36)

→ 1- 8:35 - Contrast of a servant with a SON. Very great difference between their statuses!

* Servant
- Station was always temporary, subject to whims + decisions of the Owner - EXPULSION
- Never any security + having no power to bestow favors, for they were not masters

* Son has a relationship + a permanent place in the house + family - FOREVER belonging
- He may go or stay at his pleasure
- He can do or not do work as he chooses

2- An ANALOGY - Isaac was Abraham's SON + so had provisions, perrogatives + powers

HAGAR was Sarah's handmaiden + her son ISHMAEL were both slaves in Abraham's tent. They were to do as they were told without rights to refuse or require anything that Abraham + his wife + son desired for them. Their circumstances were precarious + eventually they were sent away!

3- The Son has real FREEDOM, while the Servant or slave has no rights + no power.

→ 4- 8:36 - Moses was revered because he delivered the nation out of Egypt's bondage, but a GREATER ONE than Moses was present + He offered to deliver Jews from the bondage of sin. LIBERTY is rightly deemed as the highest temporal blessings. ** THE SON is the one who can make them FREE. - The "free indeed" means "free in reality"

5- TRUE FREEDOM - What is it?

- Freed from the guilt + consequences of sin
- ** Forgiven, Pardon, Justified
- → Rom. 8:33 - "Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God

that quoteth" !!

- Converted, Renewed, Sanctified, Mortifying sin & treading sin down

6- LIBERTY is our portion forever if we continue in His Word! The property of a true Christian FOREVER!

- Ryle: He only is perfectly free who is free from sin. All beside are slaves." (546)

7- Freedom from the yoke of bondage -

→ Gal. 3:19-26

10/9/11 + 1/8/12

Jn. 8:31-59 TRUE SPIRITUAL FREEDOM

Intro — A.- Like in the Parable of the Sower, some of the ground has been shallow + Jesus prepares to test its depth

I FREEDOM THRU THE TRUTH + THE SON

8:31 A.- Continuance depends upon real Salvation

8:32 B.- Passing from falsehoods to truth removes from bondage of sin unto righteousness Ro. 6:22

8:33-36 C.- Bondage

8:33 1.- Lineal descent — Abraham's seed
2.- Passion blinds to truth of Bondages in Egypt, Babylon + Rome

8:34 3.- Explanation √ — Real issue is SIN

8:35 4.- Illus — Servant = Ishmael) Gal 4:30
Son = Isaac)

8:36 5.- Gal 5:1 — Saved only by a vital, living connection with the N.T. Isaac, — "the Son of Promise", the Lord Jesus

Freedom is thru the truth as Personified in the Son.

II UNDER SERVITUDE OF THE DEVIL 8:37-51

A.- The Jews

8:37 1.- Truly Abraham's physical seed
2.- Spiritual + Moral lineage linked to the Devil as proven by their actions

8:38 3.- Each speaks from own father. MY — YOUR

8:39-40 4.- ~~No~~ Ro. 2:28 + Mt 3:9 Their works show different source than theirs

profess – Ab. loved truth – they hate + persecute it. – 8:56

8:41 B.- Accusation against Christ – Implication on basis of His unusual birth is that He is born of fornication
1.- accuse X
2.- excuse selves

8:42-47 C.- Accusation answered
8:42 1.- You profess to know God; then accept me for I am from God + am approved of Him 14:14+2
8:43 2.- understand – 1 Cor. 2:14
cannot – will not in case of unsaved
8:44 3.- YOUR FATHER IS THE DEVIL
a.- lusts – after power + prestige
b. will do – will to do – choice
c.- murderer – death enters man's life
d.- abode – lost his place in heaven + so have they
e.- lie – Isa. 14:13-14 ; I Jn. 3:8
8:45 4.- All the above is the truth: This is your Sin
8:46 5.- Challenge to find sin in Him —
(the theory that Jesus was the noblest + holiest of men, but nothing more shatters in the face of these words)
Josh. 24:15 – "Choose you this day whom ye will serve"
8:47 6.- Verdict is returned – 10:26-27
illus seen in sheep
8:48-50 7 Sparing + exchanging of statements of defense. Railing versus sweetness

III A GREATER THAN ABRAHAM 8:51-59

8:51 A.- The Great Invitation
1.- saying = word
2.- death = eternal death

8:52-3 B.- Railing answer
1.- possessed of a devil
2.- Ab. + prophets dead
3.- what is meaning
4.- Who are you cf. 4:12

C.- Jesus Answers
8:54 1.- not self, but God whom these Jews reject who honors Christ
8:55 2.- They KNOW (RECOGNISE) Him not
3.- Jesus does KNOW (Really) + in order not to be a liar (as they), he must reveal Him.
8:56b 4.- Calls Abraham as witness
He. 11:13 - saw afar off

8:57 D.- Jews Rail back that Jesus is yet a man + under 50 yrs.
RIDICULE

E.- Direct Assertion of Deity + Eternity

(I AM THAT I AM) - Ex. 3:14
Isa. 43:10-13
Col. 1:17

leads out of Bondage of E
leads out of Bondage of Sin + Devil in 8:58

This is why Jesus is "Before Abraham"

F.- Stones taken up because X makes self equal with God.

Concl.

A

Christ is Center	Self is Center
God is Father	Devil is father
Righteousness Practiced	Sin is Practiced
Free - in Son set Free Saved	In Bondage - Sin Egypt Yet Bound Lost
Free from Death	Dead already
No Condemnation	Condemned Already

B.- This is written (20:31) that ye (personally + individually) might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, + that believing ye might have life thru His Name.

CONFLICT OVER JESUS' PERSON- "WHO ART THOU?" - John 8:37-59 (Continued)

INTRO: Review of 8:25-36

A- The Father + The Son - CO-EQUAL:

1- The Jews' Question - "WHO ART THOU?" - (8:25)

2- Jesus' reply to the Question - Read 8:25-29 (The great I AM)

3- Response of many (8:30) "Believed"

B- The Truth About Man + Sin: (8:31-36) Christ the LIBERATOR

1- The Truth explained (8:31-32) (8X in chapt.)

2- The Reaction of the crowd (8:33) (Self-Satisfaction)

3- The Nature of SLAVERY (8:34) (to SIN)

4- The Nature of LIBERTY - (8:35-36) Related to the SON!

C- The Point:

1- Liberty is ours forever if we continue in Christ's Word

2- Ryle: (546) "He only is perfectly free who is free from sin. All beside are SLAVES."

I- WHAT JESUS TAUGHT THEM: (8:37-47)

A- The Natural Man's Spiritually Ignorant In His Self-righteousness: (8:37-41)

1- Jesus' Confrontation - (8:37-38)

- Agreement that the Jews were Abraham's physical descendants, but that did them no good, but that their attempts to KILL Him showed that were not spiritually following Father Abraham.

(The way we were before salvation)

- The REASON for their antagonism was their HOSTILITY to "My Word". They had no room in their lives for GOD'S SON or GOD'S WORD - they were spiritually BLIND in their conceit + they refused to see in regard to spiritual life + truth.

2- Jesus spoke of TOTAL OPPOSITES (8:38)

I — Ye

My Father — Your Father

Seeing through God the Father — Doing what ye have seen with YOUR FATHER

3- Clear VISION by Jesus for He has seen (2) that He is the Light of the World, but the Jews' vision is clouded because they are children of DARKNESS. There is no doubt that Jesus refers to their Father as the DEVIL!

4- Jews' answer to Jesus (8:39)

- The true marks of Sonship of Abraham are absent for their actions are not in harmony with Abraham's character + deeds
- Straight talk by Jesus to the Jews' deeds are what is expected fom Abraham's descendants. RATHER they do what comes naturally to unsaved people.

"If"

- WORKS grow out of what one is, + these of the Jews do not measure up. They are not with sincere faith (+) continuing in God's Word. Where there is NO LOVE and following God's ways, There is NO SONSHIP of God.

** DEEDS flow from RELATIONSHIP!

5- Jesus' REBUTAL (8:40-41a)

"BUT" shows a hard response! Their seeking to MURDER Jesus is PROOF that they did not know God! The very opposite of how Abraham lived

* [Rom. 2:28-29] "For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the flesh, whose praise is not of men, but of God"

- THE TRUTH - Jesus has told them the Truth 8 times in this chapter as the message that has COME FROM GOD! Telling them the TRUTH is what the Jews believe is worthy of death of Jesus.

** - They do not behave like Abraham (8:40)

- Rather (8:41a) "Ye do the works of Your Father who is NOT Abraham, but Satan!

Jew's Declarations (8:41b, c)

(1) They say "We be not born of fornication"-

- IDOLATRY was called "spiritual fornication" (3) meaning Unfaithfulness to the COVENANT God made with Abrahham, Isaac + Jacob - FORSAKING God for False Gods.

- Less likely, but some Jews had the scuttle- but questions Jesus' birth, + certainly not understanding Jesus' VIRGIN BIRTH

(2) "We have one Father, even God". God is called "FATHER OF THE NATION" of Israel in the O.T. five times (Deut. 32:6; 1 Chron. 29:10; Isa. 63:16; 64:8 + Mal. 1:6, but there is no place in the O.T. of this being said of an individual person. Israelites claimed the FATHERHOOD of GOD, while having wickedness in their hearts. In reality we'll see in 8:44 that "Ye are of your Father, the Devil".

**

B.- The True Marks of Spiritual Sonship:

1- You would LOVE Jesus Christ (8:42)

- CLEAR DECLARATION!
- Jesus shows them that they are NOT THE CHILDREN OF GOD because they did not love Him! Love to Christ is the infallible mark of all true children of God.
- No MARK; No SONSHIP!
- These Jews were so wrapped up in their preconceptions that they could not perceive the TRUTH Jesus spoke.
- Here our Lord showed the Jews His own DIVINE NATURE + mission. The eternal Son proceeded from the eternal Father. If anyone does not love the Son, it is clear that such a one is no true child of the Father.

BASIC ISSUE →

- Simple Question: "Do you love Jesus Christ + live for Him??
- The reason Jesus came was to deliver them from the bondage of sin. This was WHO He is and WHY He came to earth

And, Secondly...

2.- You would Hear His WORD — (8:43) (4)

- The question asked (8:43a)
- The question answered (8:43b)
- They did not understand because of lack of faith. Their hearts were utterly hardened + closed against Jesus' WORD of salvation. SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS to TRUTH
- There is no attack against their intellect but on their spiritual condition. — "My mind is made up, so don't confuse me with the facts"

C.- The Reality + Character of the Devil: (8:44-47)

1- Their Relationship - A FLAT-OUT STATEMENT (8:44a)

- These Jews were wicked + unbelieving — TRULY the children of the Devil — Shown in REJECTION of X
- HOW? — Not by birth, but By imitation of the Devil. — They were ready + engaged in doing his bidding.
- The Devil is said to be the father of those whose understanding he blinds, whose hearts he moves to commit all unrighteousness + on whom, in short, he acts powerfully + exercises his tyranny.
- These Jews were LIKE THEIR FATHER, Satan, and it showed in their rejection of Christ

2- The Devil's Characteristics (8:44b+)

(a) • The lusts (= STRONG DESIRES) of their father express- ions of His will overcoming their wills — so under His guidance + control.

(b) • A Murderer from the beginning — Angels, Eve, Adam, Cain + the whole Human Race. Rom. 5:12 "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."

(c) • He abode not in the truth — Created perfect + called "SON OF THE MORNING" + guardian of God's Throne, He rebelled + willfully chose to usurp God's power + place in heaven. =Lucifer
Isa. 14:12-17 — So it can truthfully said of him "There is no truth in him"

(d) • "When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a LIAR, + the father of it.

The Devil's captives are LIARS like him, + this Master of Falsehood has affected all men — who seem quite willing to practice the lie + do his bidding. (5)
AWEFUL THINGS TO SAY — BUT TRUE!

3- The Devil's GOALS

(a) TO USURPE GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY + RULE
(b) TO KILL SOULS, DESTROY Lives, DECEIVE all beings + ROB mankind of Eternal Life
(c) To do these things, he abode not in the TRUTH! The world is a den of liars + murderers, all subject to their father — Like puppets on strings under control of the Devil. (8:44)

4- Jesus' Confrontation of the Jews + their father — (8:45-46)

- The Daivl spoke a lie. The Jews believed that lie. The SON OF GOD spoke the TRUTH; They believed Him not!
- Note how strongly + directly our Lord rebuked His enemies!
- They rejected both Christ and His teaching
- This was clear evidence that they were NOT Children of God! (8:45)
- Satan's influence over these men was SO STRONG, they could not believe. They had gone beyond a point of return to Truth.

** 8:46 - Jesus challenged them head-on

Q • "Which of you can prove or convince Me as an offender concerning sin of any kind?" NO ANSWER!

Q • "What is the reason that you do not believe Me?" NO ANSWER!

- Jesus Christ was spotless + innocent of sin as proper descriptions of our LORD + His Character.
- He was TRUTH; They were FALSEHOOD

5- Jesus' Evaluation (8:47)

- He answers the questions of 8:46

#1- He that is a true Child of God hears with pleasure, believes + obeys God's words which Jesus brought from the Father

#2- You, Jews, by not hearing + obeying God's words, prove that you are not God's children. If you were His children, you would hear Him gladly!

- POINT: When we see people obstinately refusing to listen to counsel + to listen to the Gospel, we are justified in regarding such people as not God's children, not born-again, without the grace of God, + needing to be BORN AGAIN!!!
- Jesus did not answer harsh words, though an answer was deserved. RATHER, one can feel calmness of His holy soul.
- NO SIN in Him!
- Speaking the TRUTH! — 8X in this chapter
- ALL should have believed!!
- CONCL. They did not believe because they were NOT OF GOD!

II- WHAT WE LEARN FROM THIS CONFLICT: (8:48-59)

A- Blasphemy Answered: (8:48-49)

1- Silenced in argument those wicked men resorted to SLANDER — 8:48 - A favorite weapon of Satan's

- An accusation made in many times + places

BLASPHEMY against the Holy Son of God

- 1 Cor. 2:14 - "...the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

2- Simple denial of a false charge (8:49)

- Statement of denying their charge and asserting the TRUTH about God and them
- 1 Pet. 2:23 - "Who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not; but committed Himself to Him that judgeth righteously ---

B.- Glorious Encouragement: (8:50-51)

1- Disclaimer of self-seeking glory. That is all Jesus seeks - GOD's glory + interests

* The Father set everything straight against Jesus opponents actions + attitudes.
* Reminder that there is a God in heaven who will see, hear and judge righteously.
* COMFORT to oppressed believers that God will righteously deal with ALL PERSECUTERS - Gen. 50:20 - "But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto me to bring to pass, as it is today, to save much people alive."

2- Jesus' CLIMACTIC PROMISE (8:51) (Read)

* "Verily, Verily" - A statement of great importance
* Reaffirmation of John 6:40 44 47 - "Ye are not of God"

Second in this chapter →

* A MIGHTY SAYING! - Jesus sets forth a GREAT TRUTH (8:51)

This verse seems intended to wind up the whole conversation. All Jesus had said had been with NO EFFECT. He closes this teaching for the present:

** "Whether you will hear or not whether you choose to know Me or not, I solemnly tell you that if any person receives, believes, + keeps My doctrine, HE SHALL NEVER SEE DEATH. Despised + rejected as I am by you, life or death, heaven or hell, blessing or cursing, depend + hinge on accepting the message I proclaim to you. I am the WAY the TRUTH and the LIFE."

It is like Moses taking leave of Israel + saying, "I call heaven + earth to record against you, that I have set before you life and death," (Deut. 30:15,19)

CHOICE HAS TO BE MADE

N.B. Just as our Lord seems to say, "I tell you once more, for the last time, that to keep my saying is the way to escape death,

* This promise belongs to him who receives into his heart + obeys in his life the message which Jesus our Lord has brought from Heaven!

3- Obviously Jesus spoke not of physical death of the human body, except for those raptured to heaven. (3)

• Augustine - "The death from which our Lord came to deliver us is the second death, eternal death, the death of hell, the death of damnation with the devil and his angels. THAT is indeed death, for this death of ours (our bodies is only A MIGRATION (from earth to heaven).

4- Our first death, physically, may be difficult, but that is to be the worst. The true believer will face THEREAFTER it is "VICTORY through our Lord Jesus Christ." I Cor. 15:57

• SECOND DEATH - That final ruin of the whole man in which the first death is only a faint insight — Into the LAKE OF FIRE — Rev. 20:13, 14-15

→ • Rev. 2:11 - "He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death."

** • DELIVERED entirely from the second death, even eternal punishment, for over him the second death shall have no power over us.

C- Clarification Related To Abraham: (8:52-55)

1- 8:52 - The Jews then were sure that their accusations were now proven + Abraham is dead - 1550 years + Prophets are dead

• In the face of these facts, Jesus says that "Keeping His words is the way to avoid death."

• In their view this claim is greater than anything accomplished by the ancients, so it does not occur to them that Jesus' claim is NOT NECESSARILY FALSE

2- The Jews' Question - (8:53) A repeat of 8:25

• Their conclusion is that if those "GREAT ONES" + righteous before God had not been delivered from death, such deliverance was impossible!

CHALLENGE "Who do you think that you are?"

• Their question only shows how thoroughly the Jews MISUNDERSTOOD OUR LORD

3- Jesus' Evaluations - (8:54-55) Self-glorification is to be discounted! The Father honors The Christ, but these men do not recognize that, though they say "He is our God"

HOW DID THE FATHER HONOR THE SON?

• Verbally at baptism + transfiguration

(1)(2)

③ • Works done - Heal the paralytic, 5:36; 6:29 ④
④ • Miracles performed - Feed 5,000, Walk on water
⑤ • Signs - 6:30 + 20:30
• The Father does the honoring, not Himself or men. - GOD GIVEN
• Jesus differentiates - MY Father / Your God.
They CANNOT call God "Father", but God"
• 8:55 - Although they say of MY FATHER in heaven that He is your God, they do not really know Him, + are plainly ignorant of God's character, God's will → God's purpose. FACTS must be faced! They have NEVER KNOWN God. Jesus does more than "Know Him", Jesus "KEEPS HIS WORD"

D. How Abraham Relates To Jesus: (8:56-58)

1 - "Your Father Abraham" (8:56) Physical progenator
- He REJOICED to see my day" - God's purpose
- "He SAW it" - by faith in God's promise to him
- "He was GLAD" - Hope + Joy as he had confident expectation that through HIS SEED would cause ALL NATIONS to be blessed
• A fulfillment of God's divine plan by the INCARNATION of God coming as GOD-MAN
• Abraham was father of the nation Israel genetically, but they do not follow Ab. spiritually looking for the ONE SAVIOR, who is the ONE HOPE for sinners that Ab. + many O.T. saints looked for. Jesus was replying
YES I AM THAT MESSIAH! NOT

2 - Jews' response - (8:57)
• They look only at Jesus' physical appearance with their physical eyes + not BY FAITH, so they asked HOW could He possibly have interacted with Ab.?
• Perhaps Jesus appeared care-worn with a furrowed face + a sorrowing heart to be OLDER — OR perhaps His great wisdom might have led them to misjudge His age.

3- CLIMACTIC AFFIRMATION - 8:58 - "Verily, verily" - Impossible to misinterpret what Jesus said: SUPREME CLAIM TO DEITY - Pre-existence forever - Independent continuance from the beginning - as the UNCREATED ETERNAL GOD "The self-existing GOD who reveals Himself - and always keeps His Word"

!! • Without a doubt this is one of the greatest words spoken by our Lord in witnessing to Himself.

• Fulfillment of Chapter 8 - Christ is THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD — 8:12 + 9:5

• CHRYSOSTOM - "He said not before Abraham was, I WAS, but I AM, for this signified continuous being."

* AUGUSTINE - "He that spoke was made the Seed of Abraham, and that Abraham might be, He was before Abraham."

4- If language means anything it teaches us that our Lord Jesus Christ existed long before He came into the world as the GOD-MAN. Before the days of Abraham, HE WAS! Before man was created, HE WAS! Jesus was no mere man like Moses or David. He was One whose goings forth were from everlasting, the same yesterday, today + forever, very and eternal God

• This the Jews seemed to understand. They were not in doubt of what Jesus meant. He spoke to them in no uncertain tones and they realized that HE CLAIMED TO BE JEHOVAH, very God Himself

5- The Aftermath - (8:59) The discourse ended with LIGHT REJECTED!

• The Jews viewed this BLASPHEMY: Full of hatred, they took up stones to KILL Jesus

• Jesus passes through the crowd in a miraculous disappearance!

• Until Jesus' time had come, they could not have their way to KILL HIM as the murderer, Satan wanted them to do. Jesus was not subject to their machinations.