

The Gospel According to John

8-28-2019

1. Last week, I taught in part Joh 5:33-47 by way of the *Doctrine of Jesus the Ultimate Revelation*. When the clock tolled 7:45 P.M. I was about to complete that study under the sub-heading “**Church Age—Positional and Temporal Salvation.**”
2. Before we return to that study, I want to give you opportunity to rebound.
3. I want to review some of that learned last week and then begin new material on page four.

Jesus The Ultimate Revelation

Introduction

Doctrine of Kenosis

1. Webster has the following to say of Kenosis: “The English word kenosis is derived from the Greek and means the state of being emptied. Kenosis as it relates to Christianity is the relinquishment of the form of God by Christ in becoming man.”
 - 1.1 Kenosis is closely related to what we call the Hypostatic Union. Paul said it well in his letter to the church at Philippi. Phi 2:6-7
 - 1.2 Kenosis indicates that Christ voluntarily took upon Himself the form of man to fulfill the mission of God. He did not provide for self but for us.
2. Christ depended on the power of The Holy Spirit and a soul full of doctrine to perform supernatural things such as miracles. Luk 4:4-18
3. We next reviewed a related doctrine, the *Doctrine of Confession and Faith*.

Doctrine of Confession and Faith

1. This doctrine answered the question, "Is faith alone enough, or do you have to add confession for salvation?" There are a host of Scriptures that indicate faith alone in Christ alone is sufficient. There are two or three Scriptures which some, in error, believe add confession.

2. I listed several Scriptures which made clear faith alone is sufficient and one which even tells us "the more you work the greater the debt." Isa 53:6; Joh 3:16; Joh 3:36; Acts 16:31; Rom 3:23-25; 8:1; Rom 4:3-5; 6:23; Eph 2:8-9

3. What about those passages which are wrongly interpreted as adding confession? Let's carefully analyze two troublesome passages: Mat 10:32-33? Do these verses teach that confession is necessary for salvation?

Mat 10:32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

Mat 10:33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

4. If confession before men is necessary, we need to see if the Bible takes note of any secret disciples.

Doctrine of Secret Disciples

1. Joh 19:38 tells of a famous secret disciple who was afraid to come out of the closet. There was also the tradition of using the secret "ichthus sign" to communicate the Christian faith.

2. This was done as a clandestine acrostic that stood for Jesus, Christ, God, Son, Savior. The word for fish in the Greek is: **Icthus**. The sign of the fish was used as a secret sign among Christians; thus, the acrostic

3. The book of Matthew is a synoptic Gospel and thus its contents have primary application to Israel. Therefore, positional sanctification is a product of accepting Christ as the Jewish Messiah and temporal sanctification is related to the New Covenant. Jer 31:31-33, 32:40-41 and Heb 8:7-11

4. The primary applications of the synoptic Gospels, relate to the Messiah's offering of His kingdom to Israel. The acceptance of the Messiah's offering, by definition, must be "before men." Many people think Christ came on that first Christmas to present His kingdom to us as Church Age saints. Clearly, given His caveat to His disciples, "Go not into the way of the Gentiles ..."

4.1 The Lord in His own Words restricted the kingdom message in Mat 10:5-6 and Mar 7:25-29. These verses clearly indicate Christ's kingdom was to be offered to Israel.

4.2 Lewis Sperry Chafer in his book entitled *Grace* was perhaps the first to clearly declare the Gospels have direct application to Israel and secondary application to the church.

“According to the Scriptures, all time is divided into ... dispensations. Due recognition of the essential character of each of these *dispensations* is the key to the understanding of the Bible ... The fact of confusing ... the characteristics ... in each is common, and is, doubtless, the greatest error into which many devout Bible interpreters fall.”

Church Age—Positional and Temporal Salvation

1. To understand our salvation, we must understand there are two types of sanctification—positional and temporal.

2. Our positional sanctification, as Church Age believers, comes by faith alone in Christ alone. However, temporal sanctification is a product of using the two power options—the intake of the Word and the filling of the Spirit.

3. Some have thought in error that Rom 10:9-10 required belief and confession for salvation. Paul uses the most sacred **Shema** to explain the correct meaning of these verses.

3.1 To understand these two verses, it helps to know that Romans, chapters nine, ten and eleven, should be set apart in parentheses. Within these three chapters Paul appeals to his beloved comrades—his fellow Jews.

3.2 In a Church Age letter written mostly to believing Gentiles in Rome, Paul elects to pause and speak directly to Israel. Rom 1:1-7

3.3 The **Shema** ritual gets its name from the first words of Deu 6:4. On every Sabbath, Saturday, each service is opened with the **Shema**.

3.4 Before quoting Deu 6:4, Paul paraphrases Moses' admonition to Israel found in Deu 30:11-14.

3.5 In Deu 30:11-14 Moses and Paul urge Israel to stop trying to do things for salvation and accept the salvation doctrine which is in their mouth, the Shema.

3.6 Rom 10:5-8 is, in part, a paraphrase of Deu 30:11-14.

Rom 10:6 But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:)

Rom 10:7 Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)

Rom 10:8 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;

3.7 About what word of faith is Paul speaking? What is in their mouths? It's the **Shema**.

3.8 Let's see what Deu 6:4 looks like in the Hebrew: "**Shema Yisrael Yehovah Elohenu Yehovah Echad.**" Paul is stressing the need for Israelites to become, by faith, true Israel.

3.9 Now let's see how Deu 6:4 looks by way of an expanded translation.

Expanded Translation:

"Listen up, Israel, the revealed member of the Godhead is also one of the personalities of the Trinity—the revealed personality of the Trinity—the Messiah became One and Unique."

3.10 This confession is well recognized by Moses and Paul as the entrance to salvation. Simply believe what you daily recite and it matters not if you recite it and then believe it or you believe it and then recite it.

3.11 The key, of course, says Paul, is to believe what you have been saying for so many years.

4. Conclusion

4.1 Faith in Christ alone in any age is the way of salvation.

4.2 There were secret disciples.

4.3 There was a secret sign called an **ICHTHUS**.

4.4 Confession before men is not necessary for salvation.

5. Now let's see what we can learn from Joh 6:1-14

The Feeding of the 5000

Joh 6:1 After this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias),

Joh 6:2 and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the miraculous signs he had performed on the sick.

Joh 6:3 Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples.

Comment: Before we can determine on what mountainside Jesus “sat down with his disciples,” we must recall where Jesus last visited. His last act was a healing of the formerly blind man in Jerusalem.

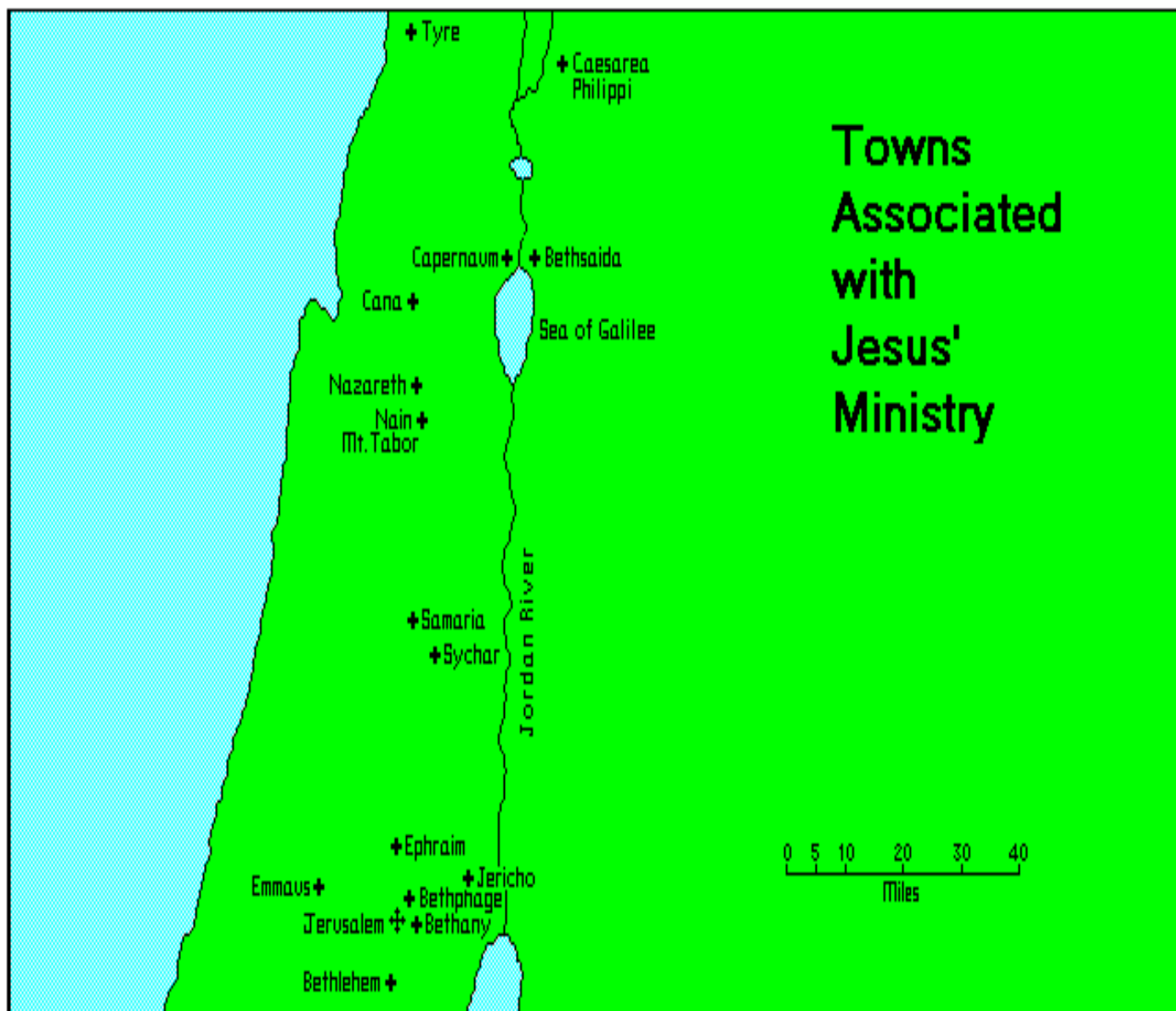
Joh 6:4 The Jewish Passover Feast was near.

Joh 6:5 When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?"

Joh 6:6 He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

Comment: The far shore of the Sea of Galilee would place the feeding just north of the city of Bethsaida in a secluded grassy area. I have marked that area on the map entitled “Towns Associated with Jesus’ Ministry” with an X.

1. The exact location of the “feeding” is somewhat problematic.



Joh 6:7 Philip answered him, "Eight months' wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"

Joh 6:8 Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up,

Joh 6:9 "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

Joh 6:10 Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about **five thousand** of them.

Joh 6:11 Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

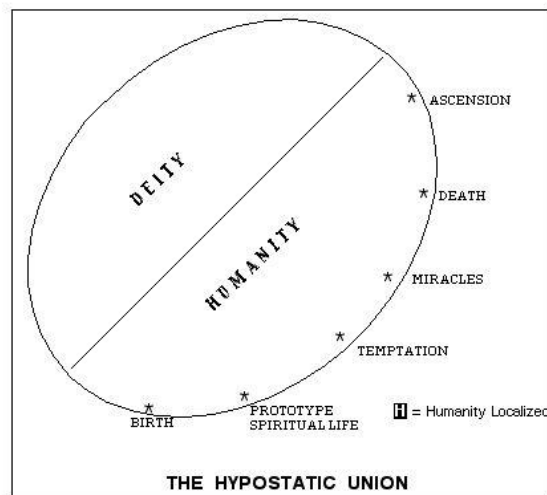
Joh 6:12 When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted."

Joh 6:13 So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

Joh 6:14 After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world."

Comment: Since we earlier studied the miracles of Jesus; I think a brief review will suffice. In the case of all miracles: "Did Jesus perform His miracles from His deity or his humanity or some combination of same?"

1. As we saw last week, Jesus performed his miracles from His humanity.



2. This is difficult for us to understand because none of us could feed five thousand people using only two barley loaves and two small fish.

3. But then none of us can heal the sick, move mountains, raise the dead etc.

4. It is necessary to once again review a chart created by Col. R.B. Theime where he makes clear Jesus performed His miracles from His humanity.

4.1 Keep in mind Jesus was unique in many respects and thus had powers beyond our understanding.

5. If we were free from personal sin having no OSN and thus always under the control of God the Holy Spirit maybe we too could perform miracles from our humanity.

6. Philip was at first amazed and doubted the Lord's ability.

Joh 6:7 Philip answered him, "Eight months' wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"

Joh 6:8 Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up,

Joh 6:9 "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

7. Notice how the attitudes of the disciples changed.

Joh 6:14 After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world."

8. In closing: perhaps it would be helpful to get the big picture by looking at what Mark and Luke had to say about this very interesting story.

Mar 6:32 So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place.

Mar 6:33 But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them.

Mar 6:34 When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

Mar 6:35 By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him.

"This is a remote place," they said, "and it's already very late.

Mar 6:36 Send the people away so they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat."

Mar 6:37 But he answered, "You give them something to eat." They said to him, "That would take eight months of a man's wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?"

Mar 6:38 "How many loaves do you have?" he asked. "Go and see." When they found out, they said, "Five -- and two fish."

Mar 6:39 Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass.

Mar 6:40 So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties.

Mar 6:41 Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to set before the people. He also divided the two fish among them all.

Mar 6:42 They all ate and were satisfied,

Mar 6:43 and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish.

Mar 6:44 The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.

Luk 9:12 Late in the afternoon the Twelve came to him and said, "Send the crowd away so they can go to the surrounding villages and countryside and find food and lodging, because we are in a remote place here."

Luk 9:13 He replied, "You give them something to eat." They answered, "We have only five loaves of bread and two fish -- unless we go and buy food for all this crowd."

Luk 9:14 (About five thousand men were there.) But he said to his disciples, "Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each."

Luk 9:15 The disciples did so, and everybody sat down.

Luk 9:16 Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to set before the people.

Luk 9:17 They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

9. Now let's see what we can learn from Joh 6:16-25.

Joh 6:16 When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake,

Joh 6:17 where they got into a boat and set off across the lake for Capernaum. By now it was dark, and Jesus had not yet joined them.

Joh 6:18 A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough.

Joh 6:19 When they had rowed three or three and a half miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were terrified.

Joh 6:20 But he said to them, "It is I; don't be afraid."

Joh 6:21 Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading.

Joh 6:22 The next day the crowd that had stayed on the opposite shore of the lake realized that only one boat had been there, and that Jesus had not entered it with his disciples, but that they had gone away alone.

Joh 6:23 Then some boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the people had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks.

Joh 6:24 Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus.



Joh 6:25 When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"

Words to the People

Joh 6:26 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, you are looking for me, not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill.

Joh 6:27 Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval."

Joh 6:28 Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?"

Joh 6:29 Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

Joh 6:30 So they asked him, "What miraculous sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do?"

Joh 6:31 Our forefathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"

Joh 6:32 Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven.

Joh 6:33 For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

Joh 6:34 "Sir," they said, "from now on give us this bread."

Joh 6:35 Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.

Joh 6:36 But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe.

Joh 6:37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.

Joh 6:38 For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.

Joh 6:39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day.

Joh 6:40 For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

Words to the Jews

Joh 6:41 At this the Jews began to grumble about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven."

Joh 6:42 They said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven'?"

Joh 6:43 "Stop grumbling among yourselves," Jesus answered.

Joh 6:44 "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 6:45 It is written (Exo 415; Isa 5:13) in the Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God.' Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me.

Joh 6:46 No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father.

Joh 6:47 I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life.

Joh 6:48 I am the bread of life.

Comment: The best way to understand Jesus answer to these Jews is to review the *Doctrine of the Advantage of Being a Jew*.

Doctrine of The Advantage of Being a Jew

1. Today there is no racial advantage to being a Jew.
2. A spiritual advantage today comes only through the salvation adjustment to the justice of God.
3. The Jew has certain advantages in the sense of a spiritual heritage.
 - 3.1 Their forefathers had received much doctrine and therefore great potential for salvation and growth.
4. Racially speaking they seem to have been blessed with an outstanding gene pool.
5. In the prior dispensation therefore the Jew had certain advantage because they were the custodians of doctrine.
6. In the Tribulation and the Millennium the Jew will have many advantages.
7. The Jew has many establishment advantages, i.e., a history of sound establishment heritage.
8. The Jew has a cultural advantage because they have consistently rejected foreign cultural influences.
9. Now let's see what we can learn from Joh 6:49-51.

Joh 6:49 Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died.

Joh 6:50 But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die.

Joh 6:51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

Comment: I think the best way to teach these verses is to review the *Doctrine of Manna*.

End Lesson

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