

The Gospel According to John

3-24-2021

1. Last week I completed our study of Joh 5:25-32 and when time expired, we had just begun an analysis of Joh 5:33-47 by way of the *Doctrine of Witnessing*.

2. I want to review some of that learned and then we will begin new material on page three.

KJV

Joh 5:33 Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth.

Joh 5:34 But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved.

Joh 5:35 He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light.

Witness of Works-We witness with our works as well as with our words.

Joh 5:36 But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.

Witness of the Father-The Father indwelling in the Son and controlling all things provides a witness re: The Son and His role as the Messiah.

Joh 5:37 And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape.

Joh 5:38 And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not.

Witness of the Scripture-The Old Testament foretold of the coming and what the Christ would do.

Joh 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

Joh 5:40 And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

Joh 5:41 I receive not honour from men.

Joh 5:42 But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you.

Joh 5:43 I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.

Joh 5:44 How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?

Joh 5:45 Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust.

Joh 5:46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me; for he wrote of me.

Joh 5:47 But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?

Doctrine of Witnessing

1. Witnessing is the responsibility of every believer.
2. Witnessing is the normal exhale of doctrine inhaled.
3. Witnessing will be effective regardless of the motivation of the one witnessing.
4. The power is in the Word.

Rom 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Isa 55:11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

5. The convincing of sin, righteousness and judgment is the responsibility of God the Holy Spirit.

Joh 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

Joh 16:8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

Joh 16:9 Of sin, because they believe not on me;

Joh 16:10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;

Joh 16:11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

6. Some false concepts of witnessing

- Assuming the lost will not be saved if we do not witness

- Assuming you are spiritual because you witness
- Assuming you are spiritual because you witness "effectively"
- Assuming you must ask people to accept Christ in your presence
- Assuming God is not using you if God does not lead you to a "target"

Tit 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

Joh 1:9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

Rom 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened ...

Rom 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

7. We can therefore relax and enjoy the privilege of witnessing.

8. We should witness simply because God said to do it.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

9. Let's look at a few nuances of witnessing.

9.1 As a general rule, every believer is responsible for presenting the gospel to a lost and dying world--this is called "personal evangelism." Believers are also responsible for supporting world-wide evangelism--this we do by giving to people or organizations with mass evangelism programs.

9.2 The family plan:

9.2.1 The first parents set the example for all future parents by witnessing to their children.

9.2.2 The family plan of evangelism continued up and through the time of Noah and it is our job today as parents and grandparents to witness to members of our families.

10. Evangelism in each of the respective ages has its nuances. First, let's look at several important differences in the respective dispensations.

10.1 Age of the Gentiles—This age can be divided into three sub-ages: innocence, fall and flood.

10.1.1. In this age the family plan was the most important method of evangelism, even as it is today.

10.1.2 God also appeared directly to people in this first age; it was up to them to respond positively or negatively.

Gen 3:21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

Gen 3:22 And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever:

Gen 3:23 Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.

Gen 3:24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

Gen 5:23 And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years:

Gen 5:24 And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.

Gen 6:19 And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee; they shall be male and female.

Gen 6:20 Of fowls after their kind, and of cattle after their kind, of every creeping thing of the earth after his kind, two of every sort shall come unto thee, to keep them alive.

Gen 6:21 And take thou unto thee of all food that is eaten, and thou shalt gather it to thee; and it shall be for food for thee, and for them.

Gen 6:22 Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.

Gen 12:1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

Gen 12:2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

Gen 12:3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

10.2 Age of Israel—In this age we see a major change. Although God continued to use the family plan and direct appearances, He also chose a people and assigned them the job of evangelizing the nations.

10.2.1 After God destroyed the Tower of Babel, after selecting a people (Gen 12:3) and after the sojourn in Egypt, He created the nation Israel as His priest nation.

10.2.2 It was their job to witness to a lost world which from time to time they did, but very often reluctantly.

Jon 1:1 Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying,

Jon 1:2 Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.

Jon 1:3 But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

Gen 12:4 So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.

Gen 12:5 And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.

Gen 12:6 And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land.

Gen 12:7 And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.

Gen 26:23 And Isaac went up from thence to Beersheba.

Gen 26:24 And the LORD appeared unto him the same night, and said, I am the God of Abraham thy father: fear not, for I am with thee, and will bless thee, and multiply thy seed for my servant Abraham's sake.

Gen 26:25 And he builded an altar there, and called upon the name of the LORD, and pitched his tent there: and there Isaac's servants digged a well.

Exo 3:2 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.

Exo 3:3 And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.

Exo 3:4 And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I.

1Ki 10:1 And when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the LORD, she came to prove him with hard questions.

1Ki 10:2 And she came to Jerusalem with a very great train, with camels that bare spices, and very much gold, and precious stones: and when she was come to Solomon, she communed with him of all that was in her heart.

1Ki 10:3 And Solomon told her all her questions: there was not anything hid from the king, which he told her not.

1Ki 10:4 And when the queen of Sheba had seen all Solomon's wisdom, and the house that he had built,

1Ki 10:5 And the meat of his table, and the sitting of his servants, and the attendance of his ministers, and their apparel, and his cupbearers, and his ascent by which he went up unto the house of the LORD; there was no more spirit in her.

1Ki 10:6 And she said to the king, It was a true report that I heard in mine own land of thy acts and of thy wisdom.

1Ki 10:7 Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it: and, behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard.

1Ki 10:8 Happy are thy men, happy are these thy servants, which stand continually before thee, and that hear thy wisdom.

1Ki 10:9 Blessed be the LORD thy God, which delighted in thee, to set thee on the throne of Israel: because the LORD loved Israel forever, therefore made he thee king, to do judgment and justice.

10.3 Hypostatic Union--This age is also called the Kingdom Age for it is the age in which Israel is offered the long-awaited Messiah.

10.3.1 Again the family plan was used of God to evangelize the young.

10.3.2 This age was most unique because the Son of God appeared on earth and offered His kingdom to Israel. Salvation in this age was the result of accepting Jesus as the Messiah.

Mat 10:32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me (Christ) 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.

10.3.3 The book of Matthew is a synoptic Gospel and thus its contents have primary application to Israel. Ergo, positional sanctification is a product of accepting Christ as the Jewish Messiah.

10.3.4 The primary application, therefore, is related to the Messiah's offering, and any acceptance of the Messiah, by definition, must be "before men."

10.3.5 The Kingdom Age, as you can see, is a sub-age occurring at the close of the Jewish Age proper when the Second Person of the Trinity agreed to step down from heaven and reject the attributes of His Deity and become the Jewish Messiah.

Mar 7:25 For a certain woman, whose young daughter had an unclean spirit, heard of him, and came and fell at his feet:

Mar 7:26 The woman was a Greek, a Syrophoenician by nation; and she besought him that he would cast forth the devil out of her daughter.

Mar 7:27 But Jesus said unto her, Let the children first be filled: for it is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it unto the dogs.

Mar 7:28 And she answered and said unto him, Yes, Lord: yet the dogs under the table eat of the children's crumbs.

Mar 7:29 And he said unto her, For this saying go thy way; the devil is gone out of thy daughter.

Mar 7:30 And when she was come to her house, she found the devil gone out, and her daughter laid upon the bed.

10.4 Church Age--This age will be studied later for it is our age. Much of that taught earlier will apply either directly or indirectly to the Church Age.

10.5 Age of Israel Tribulation-This unique age is separate but clearly the final seven years owed Israel. The Tribulation is a Jewish age.

10.5.1 It was foretold by Daniel in Dan 9:24-27 and is commonly called the Seventieth Week. Like all ages, personal and family evangelism will be important. The catalyst of all evangelism, however, in the Tribulation will be Israel.

10.5.2 Once again Israel will take the lead in world-wide evangelism. In those seven devastating years, 144,000 Jewish evangelists, the resurrected Moses and Elijah, three angels and a big bird will spread the Gospel throughout the World.

- Jewish Evangelists

Rev 7:4 Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel ... Rev 7:9 After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.

- Elijah and Moses

Rev 11:3 And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth."

Rev 11:4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.

Rev 11:5 If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die.

Rev 11:6 These men have power to shut up the sky so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.

Rev 11:7 Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them.

Rev 11:8 Their bodies will lie in the street of the great city, which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified.

Rev 11:9 For three and a half days men from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial.

Rev 11:10 The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth.

Rev 11:11 But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them.

Rev 11:12 Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on.

- Angelic Witnesses

Rev 14:6 Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth--to every nation, tribe, language and people.

- A Large Bird

Rev 8:13 And I beheld, and heard an eagle [Aetos - a flesh eating bird] flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels [Angelos], which are yet to sound!

10.6 The Millennium—This age is also called the Age of Christ. It is the promised perfect environment on earth in which the four unconditional covenants will be given Israel— Abrahamic, Palestinian, Davidic and New.

Christ will rule from Jerusalem and Israel will again be proudly displayed on earth as His chosen people.

10.6.1 The personal reign of Jesus Christ begins with only believers but there are children with volition born to believers and each generation will need to be evangelized.

10.6.2 The responsibility for evangelism seems to rest with the Lord Jesus for so extensive is the knowledge of Christ, there will no longer be a need for teachers.

Isa 11:9 They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Jer 31:34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

11. As promised we will now concentrate on what the Scriptures teach about witnessing in the Age of the Church.

12. Our job is to accurately present the claims of Christ with a relaxed mental attitude responding to the positive volition of those who are ready for gospel hearing.

1Pe 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

13. The Holy Spirit will do the rest of the work, recall the power is in the Word.

14. People simply believe for salvation as opposed to walking the aisle, raising their hand, signing a card, cleaning up their life etc.

14.1 The view that faith is not enough is blasphemous, arrogant and denies the Doctrine of the Total Depravity of Man. Mankind is “no dang good—he is without hope, without Christ and without eternal life and his works are like filthy rags and deceit and wickedness characterize his being.”

Isa 64:6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Jer 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

15. Let's take a look at a few Scriptures which tell us faith is sufficient without works and one which even tells us "the more you work the greater the debt."

Isa 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Rom 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
Rom 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Joh 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.

Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Eph 2:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Acts 16:31 And they said, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

Rom 4:3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

Rom 4:4 Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.

Rom 4:5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

Joh 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

Joh 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.

Rom 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus.

2Co 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.

Joh 3:17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

Joh 3:18 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.

16. So faith alone in the work of Christ is sufficient for salvation.

17. As ambassadors for Christ, believers are the primary agents of witnessing in the Church Age.

2Co 3:2 Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:
2Co 3:3 Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

2Co 6:3 Giving no offense in anything, that the ministry be not blamed:

18. To give no offense demands knowledge of Doctrine.

19. In witnessing we must avoid false issues and theological questions. We must simply present the claims of Christ.

1Jo 2:2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

20. Witnessing comes in two ways: the example of your life and the word of your lips.

2Co 3:3 Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

21. The reward for witnessing is part of your blessing both for time as well as for eternity.

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

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