

Jan 29

Title: The Birthright of the Godly
Text: John 1:9-13

Take your Bibles, please, and turn with me to the Gospel of John.

The gospel of John chapter 1 beginning at vs. 9. We are looking at the Deity of Jesus Christ in this great section of John's Gospel.

These are exciting verses. (Last time together we looked at (1B) the

Person, Power, and Purpose of Jesus, Today, I want to (2B) ^{look at the} ~~see the~~

RESPONSES that ^{were} ~~people~~ made to the claims of Jesus. ^{and the response is: he had} ~~Our response.~~ ^{with four signs}

John chapter 1 beginning at vs.9. Would you please stand for the reading of God's Word?

(Read John 1:9-13)

(Prayer)

(2B) Now, in verses 9 through 13, notice the response we must make to the claims of Jesus. This section tells us how an individual can respond to Jesus and know without a shadow of doubt that he or she has come into a personal relationship with the Lord. There are several things here that I want to understand.

(1a)

(1c)

(1d) First of all, Vs 9, notice the effects of the light upon all people. The Bible says, "there was the true light which, coming into the world enlightens every man." Now, John is not talking about salvation, here. Every person has not been saved, according to Vs 9. The verse is saying that every person has received the light. O.K. WHAT LIGHT?

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Look back at Vs 4. It says: "IN HIM" Meaning: "In Jesus is life." "And that life is the light of all men." The same thing is being said in Vs 9: Jesus is the light which enlightens every person who is coming into the world. The "light" is referring to the knowledge of God. And so the verse is teaching that Jesus is God, manifested in human flesh. Therefore, all people have received "Christ's light" because they have received "THE LIGHT", the knowledge, the understanding of the existence of God. Tremendous principle.

You say, "Well, Pastor, do you mean that everyone who has been born into the world has knowledge of God?"

ABSOLUTELY. The Bible teaches, for example, in Romans chapter 1 that first of all we have knowledge by creation. That by the things that are made we can know the invisible things of God. At least, His eternal nature. That is, that He had to exist before the world was made.

And secondly, that He has power. Somebody bigger than you and I had to make the world. Right?

So, all of mankind has a knowledge of God in creation. Also, Romans chapter 2 teaches that all men have that knowledge through conscience. That folks know in their minds and in their hearts that God exist. That is why some writers have written of the "God shaped vacuum" in every person's life that can only be filled by the God who made them. This is very important because the Bible teaches that all people have received the knowledge and the light of the existence of God. And that ought to encourage you in your witnessing.

But, the point of the passage is simple: if you will look at Jesus you will discovery the details of that knowledge. Because Jesus is God. And that wonderful light and knowledge of God, the details which you are seeking and trying to understand, are all tied into God who became man. And that man is Jesus Christ.

20 Now, secondly, in Vs 10 and 11, I would like you to notice the attitude of the world towards Jesus. We see two examples here.

10 First of all, we see the attitude of the world in general. Vs 10 says: "He was in the world." Meaning: He was there. People heard Him. They saw Jesus. They saw what He did and heard what He said. He was in the world. "And the world was made by Him."

That is referring to His power. He created the world. "And the world knew Him not." It did not ~~know~~ ^{respond to} him.

Now, please think about that? Because, you see, the world did see ~~Him~~ ^{Jesus}. They did hear what He said. They saw His miracles. And yet, the Bible says that the world in general did not know Jesus. It's sad, but true.

Even today it is true. You can know about Jesus and not really know Him. That is strange, but true. Dear friends, it is possible to know a great deal about Christ. And people in the days of Jesus certainly knew a great deal about Him. They knew more than we know today in terms of the physical, in terms of what He said and did. And yet, the Bible is clear. They did not ~~know~~ ^{respond to} him.

~~And that is true today.~~ ^{But let's make it personal} You may be seating here with quite a bit of knowledge about Jesus. But, it is very important to understand that there is a difference in the knowledge of an individual and in knowing that individual personally. Some folks know about Jesus. Others know him, personally. Oh, I trust you know Jesus personally this morning.

) (3a)

(2F) In Vs 11, we find the second example of an attitude of people towards Jesus. And that is the attitude of the Jews. The Bible says that “he came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive him.”

Now, Jesus was a Jew. His mother was a Jew. She was in the line of David through Nathan. His Father, who adopted him after he was born, Joseph, was in the line of David through Solomon. So, Jesus was definitely a Jew

"And He came unto His own." To the Jewish people. They heard what He said. They saw His miracles. But, ~~they~~ ^{many} did not accept Him. (SAD)

I think ~~that~~ it is interesting that we in our generation debate as to who Jesus is. But, not so with the Jews in the days of Jesus. Let me tell you. They knew who He was. They knew exactly what He was claiming and who He claimed to be. OH, it was true. They rejected His claim. But, they knew exactly what He claimed. They knew He claimed to be God. That is why they rejected Him. That is why they put Him on the cross. Oh, dear friends, have you really faced the claims of Jesus? *He is God!*

(30) Now, let's come to John 1:12, 13. The third thing I want you to see is the acceptance of ~~the Word~~ ^{Jesus} by ~~many~~ ^{many}.

There are those who really did receive Jesus. They really did take Jesus as saviour. I just love verses 12 and 13. You know, in spite of the fact that He came unto His own and His own received him not, in spite of the fact that the world did not know Him. Yet, PRAISE GOD, there are those who did receive him. There are those who were saved. *Isn't that exciting? Aren't you glad you came to Christ?*

Now, I would like you to notice several things about this acceptance. Here, we have the plan of salvation in a nut shell.

(10) First of all, in Vs 12, notice the relationship that is experienced when you really accept Christ. What happens to you? What relationship do you receive? Vs 12 says, "BUT AS MANY AS RECEIVED HIM, TO THEM HE GAVE THE RIGHT" meaning....."POWER AND AUTHORITY"....."TO BECOME CHILDREN OF GOD."

The Bible is teaching that the relationship that happens when you accept Christ is that you come into a family...a spiritual family. You are, now, a child of God. You are born into the family of God according to Vs 13. YOU are born into this family just as surely as you are born into a physical family. So, the relationship that Christians enjoy is being in a new family. The wonderful family of God. You are children of God, because of your faith in Jesus Christ.

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The second thing I would like you to notice is the requirement that is demanded here in Vs 12. The requirement that is demanded if you are to become part of the family of God. Vs 12 says "as many as received him," And the last phrases says "even to those who believe in His name."

Literally it says, "to the ones believing into his name."

In Acts 4:12 we read: "there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given by which we must be saved."

In other words, you must believe into the name of Jesus. O.K. what does that mean?...

In Matthew 1:22 when the angel revealed the name of Jesus to Joseph and Mary he said: "his name shall be called, Jesus, for He shall save his people from their sins." The word "Jesus" means "JEHOVAH SAVES."

Call his name "JEHOVAH SAVES", for He will save his people from their sins.

You see, when you believe in Jesus , that is "into his name" you are believing that Jesus, alone, can save you from your sins.

Also, in Matthew 1:23, it says "that His name shall be called IMMANUEL, which translated means "GOD WITH US."

So, If you are believing ^{into} His name, His name is Immanuel, meaning: God is with us in human flesh, if you are believing in His name, you are agreeing to the fact of the deity of Jesus Christ. You are believing that He is God.... The soveriegn God. That He is able to save you from your sins.

Oh friends, believing in the name of Jesus is very important.

Philippians chapter 2 says, "that one day, every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus is Lord to the glory of God the Father."

The question is not "WELL YOU CONFESS HIM AS LORD, BUT WHEN WILL YOU CONFESS HIM." Because one day, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is all that He claim to be....

am

Handwritten notes in blue ink at the bottom of the page, including phrases like "that they were sent to hell" and "in a few days".

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Now, the third thing I would like you to notice, from Vs 13, is the reasons behind this spiritual birth. How does it actually happen? How is it caused?

In Vs 13, you will find three negatives and one positive. Three ways that spiritual birth is not caused; and one way that it is caused.

(1) Vs 13 says, "WHO WERE BORN NOT OF BLOOD." This means that salvation is not by family descent. Because your parents were Christians, does not make you a Christian. Because the church where you attend is Christian does not make you a Christian. You do not become a Christian by means of family descent.

(2) Secondly, in Vs 13, salvation is not by personal desire. Salvation is not out-off the will of the flesh. You cannot save yourself. You might decide, here today, I am going to turn over a new leaf. I am going to become a Christian.

Well, I ~~want~~ ^{want} to tell you that if you become one, you will become your kind of Christian...not God's kind. ~~you become the kind that we see so much of today. People who are trying to score points with God. Trying to do what they think God wants them to do. But, they have never been born of the Spirit of God. There is nothing new in their life at all.~~ ^{story of Diogenes & Plato}

The Bible teaches that if any person be in Christ he is a new creature. Old things pass away and all things become new. You are born spiritually. And salvation is not out-off the will of the flesh.

And I hope you understand. Because it is so important.

(3) Now, third, Vs 13, also, tells us that no one else can save you. It says, "not by the will of man." Not one single person can save you. Have you ever noticed how people will follow other people? And they believe that that person can save you. Oh, listen, no person can save you.

(4) The only person who can save you, and this is the fourth principle, is God. We are born out-off God. It is a spiritual birth,

People often ask: "How do I know when it happens?" "How can I know if I am really saved?" Now, I want you to follow me very clearly. Because there are a lot of good folks who have no security in their salvation. *It is sad!*
I hope that is not true of anyone here today. If it is, listen clearly.

The Bible does not teach ^{that!} ~~that~~ at the moment you are born spiritually, you will all of a sudden feel something. No where does the bible teach that! Oh, you might feel something. PRAISE GOD IF YOU DO. A lot of people when they get saved, have peace within their soul. And some folks when they get saved it was like lightening bolts flashing from the sky.

But, there are, also, people who are not even sure of the time or the day. But, they know beyond a shadow of doubt that they are saved. And they love Jesus and they have committed themselves to Him. Do you understand? The Bible never teaches that you are going to feel something in order to prove that you are saved.

Listen, dear friends, the issue is not feeling something. The issue is believing the Word of God. The reason I know that I am saved is because I believe the Bible. I know Jesus lives because the Bible says He lives. And I know that I am saved because the Bible says that if I believe in Jesus and receive Him as my Lord and savior, I am saved. And God rewards my faith by giving me confidence and assurance in His precious word.

Dear friends, if I trusted my feelings, WOW! Let me tell you. I would be down in the dumps half the time. I would be on a roller coaster. Up and down. No stability.

How do you know that you have become a child of God? Because you have believed what the Bible says is necessary to believe. You have accepted it and you have trusted it. The reliability, you see, is not on your feelings. The reliability, the truth of all of this, is resting upon the WORD OF GOD. And I am trusting what the Bible teaches. My dear friends, if you have never discovered that simple truth, I urge you, right now, to put your faith and trust and confidence in this book and what it says about Jesus Christ. To believe and to ^{trust} ~~trust~~ what the Bible actual says, about Jesus. We are born of the spirit OF God.

Dear friends, that simple trust will bring freedom to your life. That trust will bring confidence to your walk. That trust will bring assurance to your soul.

What is the object of your trust? Feelings? I hope not. Feelings come and go. I hope that the object of your trust is the inspired, reliable, Word of God.

Believe ^{to} in the name of Jesus and you will be saved. Will you make that decision this morning? I trust you will

You, who have an ear, let him hear what the Word of God says!

SHALL WE CLOSE IN PRAYER