

Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

May 13, 2020

Notes on John 3:31-36

31 He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all.

32 And what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth; and no man receiveth his testimony.

33 He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true.

34 For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.

35 The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.

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.

Pastor Tom got our minds thinking with these two questions as we study:

1. What do you believe your purpose in life is right now, in these circumstances?
2. Are you willing to change yourself to meet God's purpose if He asks you to?

Verse 31

"He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all."

*God's purpose is revealed in the 3 persons of the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit). Each of His identities has a specific purpose.

*Each of us has a purpose.

*The Bible has a purpose as well- to put the spotlight on Jesus

The Bible also has perks, such as, if you obey God's Word, you will be blessed. (This may be where the mainline church has drifted from in recent years.)

* Verse 31 speaks to God/Jesus and His sovereignty (recall from last week that sovereignty means supreme power above all)

So, using common sense, since Jesus came from heaven (which is above all) and is above earthly things, then Jesus is above all things.

Matthew 1:18 - 21

"18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.

20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins."

*Verse 20 says Joseph **thought on these things**. He studied all the consequences; much like we are doing now when deciding when to open church again.

*The last verse speaks of Jesus' purpose for coming to earth: to save his people from their sins.

*Earth is earthly. This is us and we cannot understand Godly things. But Jesus is above all earth so we can have HOPE!

Psalm 71:5

"5 For thou art my hope, O Lord God: thou art my trust from my youth."

**Even beyond hope, Jesus has a promise and purpose for us.*

Jeremiah 29: 11 - 13

“11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

12 Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.

13 And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.”

**God is making this promise to His people who will soon be taken into captivity for 70 years, calling them into repentance. If they do seek God, He will have a future, a hope and a plan for them that is heavenly.*

Verse 32

“And what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth; and no man receiveth his testimony.”

*Here, John, the Gospel writer, is saying what John the Baptist witnessed and testified to that witness. But no one believed, even though it is quite plain, evident and clear.

*Time after time, we've experienced how God has heard and answered our prayers. God does listen and act! But it is frustrating when people hear the Good News of Jesus Christ and even see the good things God does, and do not believe. Similar to when people search and pray at the beginning of a crisis (9/11 or the COVID -19 crisis) but then the “edge wears off” and they go back to their old ways.

Verse 33

“He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true.”

*Those of us who have seen miracles, know it changes us. We know God is real and true. And if so, then we've been sealed by God. It does not mean we are perfect, just under the blood.

Philipians 1:6

“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:”

*This is a promise verse that can be used as a response to the devil when you are under attack. If you are walking with the Lord, trusting Him, then He will see you through.

Verse 34

“For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.”

John 1:16

“16 And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.”

*We are given just the right amount of grace for whatever situation we are in, perfectly measured out, extra when needed and certainly more than we deserve.

*How many times have you said, “I don’t know how I made it through that situation. It had to have been by the grace of God” And was just enough!

Verse 35

“The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.”

*God’s love is agape love, unconditional, a love that is bound. And so He has given all things to Jesus, His Son.

Verse 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.”

This verse holds a promise and a warning:

If we believe in Jesus, then we are promised eternal life.

If we do not believe in Jesus, then we are warned that we will not see everlasting life but we will see the wrath of God!

Discussion opened to answer the two questions from the beginning:

1. What do you believe your purpose in life is right now, in these circumstances?

It evolves with age - as our roles change as we raise our children.

Sometimes a purpose is taken away but a new one is added.

What is your purpose during this pandemic?

To survive

To encourage

Sometimes it changes daily

To wait till it is over

And as a Christian:

To pray and uplift all involved

To trust in the Lord

To get into the Word

To be there for people however we can

To be able to discern the voice of God and tune the babble on media

2. Are you willing to change yourself, to move out of your comfort zone, to meet God's purpose if He asks you to?

As a pastor, Tom has had to lead this church in a whole new and scary way. We, as parishioners, have had to be led in a different way that we are not accustomed to. But we are learning and changing and are certainly out of our comfort zones as we use technology to maintain our study and fellowship with one another.

*May the Lord watch between me and thee,
While we are absent one from the other.*

