

1st John Lesson 17 – The Importance Of Repentance & Baptism

Most of the commentaries say that the phrase "he who came by water" is referring to Jesus being baptized by John in the river Jordan. What about His baptism? Was it important? Was it involved in the redemption process? Absolutely.

God gave the first Adam dominion over all the works of His hands. It was through the deception of Eve, and the sin of Adam, that the "kingdoms of this world" were delivered unto Satan. John says later in this chapter "the whole world lieth in the power of the wicked one." Until the first Adam dies [and that means the whole species of the first Adam], God is not free to appoint a different "Adam" as Lord over all the works of His hands. Again ... from the previous lesson 16 – He That Came By Water And Blood ... Satan thought he had outsmarted God, that he had mankind locked up in a box because a Savior could not come through a spiritually dead gene pool.

Even John the Baptist did not understand why Jesus wanted to be baptized. For sure it was not the baptism of repentance from sin. Jesus had no sin to be repented of. But Jesus knew it was vital to His mission for Him to be baptized by John. Here is why:

This baptism was a visual vow before the Father God. Even though Jesus would not literally die on the cross for about three more years, when John lays Jesus down in the water, it is a type of the grave and that is Jesus declaring before the Father, *"I know why you sent me. This day I am vowing to you, I will do what you sent me to do. I am vowing to go all the way to death, even the death of the cross."*

When John raised Jesus up out of the water, that was a type of the resurrection and His visual vow also where Jesus is telling the Father, *"I believe the promise of your Word. I am trusting You. You will not leave my soul in hell, neither shall my body see corruption. I am trusting you to resurrect me from death to life."*

God looks on the heart. Do you remember when Abraham obeyed God and raised the knife to plunge into his son's heart? God looked on Abraham's heart ... and God saw it was done ... and God accepted it as being done ... based on the heart alone.

God was looking on the heart of the man Jesus the day He was baptized by John. God saw that in His heart ... Jesus was going to die in the place of Adam ... in the place of the whole species of Adam ... it was done in His heart ... and God accepted it as being done ... based on the heart alone. In the heavenly court of Justice, the gavel came down and the Judge proclaimed ... *"It is finished. The first Adam, My first son is dead. I am free to appoint the Second Man, the last Adam, as Lord and Christ. This my beloved Son in*

whom I am well pleased." It was the coronation of the last Adam, and at that moment, the Holy Spirit came to anoint Jesus with dominion ... and the kingdom of God was made available [at hand] to man on earth.

The Radical Grace preachers of today say, *"Jesus was preaching law to the Jews. The words of Jesus before the resurrection do not apply to born again Christians today."* But Jesus said,

Luke 16:16 The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.

Matthew 28:19-20 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: (20) Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Jesus was preaching the kingdom of God prophetically to all of us who would be born again as children of God, who would serve in our Lord's kingdom until He comes again! Jesus told His apostles to teach new disciples everything He had taught them. That is precisely what the apostles taught then, and what John is teaching in this epistle. Any preacher that says to a Christian that the words of Jesus in the gospels do not apply to them ... is an ANTICHRIST! John said there are MANY of them who have gone out from us, but they are NOT of us.

How serious is baptism? It is as serious as your heart. The three thousand who got saved in Acts chapter two after Peter's first sermon said they were "pricked in their heart." They saw how desperate their situation was. They saw clearly that they were doomed to hell unless they repented and believed the gospel. It caused such a fear of God in them, such an urgency in them, they all wanted to repent and be baptized ... TODAY ... not tomorrow ... TODAY!

Romans 6:1-4 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? (2) God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? (3) Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? (4) Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

At water baptism, God is looking on your heart the same way He was looking on Jesus' heart. Baptism is your visual vow, before God and man, that you repent of your old life in

Adam, that you are dying to that sinful life, that you are following Jesus out of spiritual death through the door covered with His blood, to be reborn as a new creature who will walk in newness of life. Shall you continue in sin? God forbid! You died to sin and now you walk in newness of life.

Or are you looking for fire insurance only? Many in the churches today think they are saved from hell without ever repenting of sin. They have received "another gospel" that somehow believes just mouthing a simple prayer years ago assures them of heaven even though they continue to live in iniquity. I will keep repeating these verses in every lesson if necessary trying to reach those who are living in that lie,

A confession without repentance from sin is not salvation:

Matthew 7:21-23 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. (22) Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? (23) And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

The following verse is foundational to being a Christian:

2 Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

This is the grace of God:

Titus 2:11-12 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, (12) Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

Water baptism without repentance is useless. Let us follow the scriptural pattern,

Acts 2:38-41 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. (39) For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call. (40) And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward [Greek = twisted, bent, perverse] generation. (41) Then they that gladly received

his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

The Greek definition of the word translated "repent" involves a complete change of mind, as in turning around and going in the opposite direction. God gives us "Jane see the ball" illustrations that cannot be misunderstood. When it comes to true repentance, the Prodigal Son is so clear everybody can easily see what repentance is. The Prodigal was living his life in sin. While he was living in sin, he was not in his father's house. He was not in fellowship with the father. Most people in that condition today would think the Prodigal was still "okay" with the father, just a son having trouble with his flesh. But listen carefully to what the father said after the son repented and returned to home,

Luke 15:24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

There was no way back to the father's house without true repentance. Repentance is not just being sorry about the sin while continuing in it. No! Repentance is to completely change your mind, to stop doing the sin, and return to your father's house. Remember, the father saw that son coming home a long way off. The father always loved him and wanted to restore him. But the son first had to repent.

God is looking at your heart today, just as He did with the Prodigal. In your heart, have you repented of sin? Make that decision today to die to your old life in Adam and rise to your new life in Christ? If you have not repented of sin, do so TODAY ... not tomorrow ... TODAY! Say this prayer with me, *"Lord Jesus, I repent of sin. This day I make my vow to You. I die with You to sin. I am dead to sin. I am following You through the door into eternal life. I repent, and I believe the gospel. From this day forward, you are my Savior and you are my Lord. I do what you say. I am now a child of God. I am now a child of light. I will walk as a child of light."*

1 John 5:6 This is he that came by water and blood, *even* Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.

John 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, *even* the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

Romans 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

1 John 5:7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

The Father at the baptism of John-

Matthew 3:16-17 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: (17) And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

The Father at the Mount of Transfiguration-

Matthew 17:1-5 And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, (2) And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. (3) And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. (4) Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. (5) While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

The Father by doing the works –

John 10:37-38 *If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. (38) But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.*

The WORD throughout scripture – It is interesting that in this verse John refers back to the second member of the Godhead as He is described before being made flesh and dwelling among us.

John 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (2) The same was in the beginning with God. (3) All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.

Pastor Dave always says, *"In the beginning, before anything had a beginning, there was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."* All of the WORD, all of scripture, and all of the prophets point to and testify of Jesus. To even begin showing the

many places where the Word of God bears witness to Jesus being the Christ, would require volumes of books.

The Holy Spirit at the conception of Jesus –

Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

The Holy Spirit at the baptism of Jesus –

Luke 3:22 And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.

The Holy Spirit enforcing dominion over evil spirits –

Matthew 12:28 But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.

The Holy Spirit enforcing the name of Jesus by manifesting gifts and power through Jesus, and through those who believe:

Mark 16:17-18 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; (18) They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

1 John 5:7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

We must always remember, even though the infinite God thought it best for us to relate to Him in three parts, scripture is clear ... there is only one God. These three are ONE.

1 John 5:8 And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

Even though there is one God, He has chosen to reveal Himself to us in three parts. The Father is in heaven. The Son is seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. It is clear that the Father and the Son are in heaven, not on the earth. Shortly before Jesus left to be

with the Father He said,

John 14:16-17 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; (17) *Even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

John 15:26-27 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, *even* the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: (27) And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.

The Holy Spirit is omnipresent. He is both in heaven and in earth. He is the One on earth with us now who bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God.

Romans 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.

... **the water and the blood.** John has extensively taught us how Jesus came by water and by blood. I see no need to repeat those truths again in this lesson, but I do want to point out something that is so unique I do not believe it is coincidence. John is giving even more evidence that reveals "Jesus Christ is come in the flesh." Of all the apostles, only John was at the crucifixion of Jesus. Only John was actually there ... an eyewitness ... and only John, out of the four gospels, records this event:

John 19:33-35 But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: (34) But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. (35) And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe.

"He that saw it" ... is John himself. John was the only apostle who was an eyewitness to this event, and he bare record of it because it is important. John says ... it is true ... I know it is true because I was there ... and I am declaring that truth, so you might believe.

This event of the spear piercing the heart is proof positive that Jesus truly died on the cross. **All of Christianity hinges on the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.** If Jesus did not truly die, then He was not truly resurrected from the dead. If Jesus was not resurrected from the dead, our gospel is false, and we are still in our sins.

1 Corinthians 15:12-17 Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? (13) But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: (14) And if Christ be not risen, then *is* our preaching vain, and your faith *is* also vain. (15) Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. (16) For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: (17) And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

The sword thrust from the Roman soldier penetrated to the heart. Surrounding the heart is a membrane called the pericardium. This membrane contains liquid which is mostly water, which prevents the surface of the heart from becoming dry by its continual motion (Webster Dictionary). It was this membrane that was pierced by the Roman sword, from which the water flowed. The spear also penetrated the heart itself, allowing the still warm blood to flow out with the water. John is being the faithful witness, as always. John is saying, *"I was there. I was an eyewitness. I saw the blood and the water flow out of Jesus. The water and the blood do testify that ... Jesus the man, truly died on that cross. I recorded it as an eyewitness, so you would believe the truth."*

... and these three agree in one. [Greek = These agree in one testimony] ... that Jesus is come in the flesh as a man. That Jesus is the son of God. That Jesus died on the cross in truth. Even the centurion who was stationed at the cross, and the soldiers who were with him, witnessed all of these events and more (like the darkness and the earthquake) gave their testimony also,

Matthew 27:54 Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.