

The Gospel According to John

2-6-2019

Last week when the clock tolled 7:45 P.M., I completed a study of Joh 1:14 by way of an analysis of the *Doctrine of the Hypostatic Union*.

Before beginning a study of Joh 1:15 I want to give you opportunity to use 1Jo 1:9 as may or may not be necessary.

NIV-Scripture

John 1:15 John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'"

Comments:

1. John, in this case is John the Baptist, he gives testimony about Christ. He clearly makes his witness "**Martureo**" known: John the Baptist makes a statement as one might testify under oath in court.
2. John the Baptist testifies that Christ has always been superior to himself, John the Baptist as we have noted, testified that Christ had no beginning. One of the essences of Christ as a member of the Trinity is Eternal Life.
3. Eternal life - There never was a time when God was not; He always has been. Recall we studied this earlier in the analysis of the first three verses of John's Gospel.

Rev 1:8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

Rev 1:11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

Rev 21:6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

Eph 2:10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Isa 48:16 Come ye near unto me, hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there am I: and now the Lord GOD, and his Spirit, hath sent me.

Isa 48:17 Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.

NIV Scripture

John 1:16 From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another.

Comments:

1. Grace is all that God is free to do for you and for me on the basis of the cross without in any way compromising His integrity.
 2. Blessings or happiness is a product of God's grace.
 3. God is perfect and His character is perfect. Perfect character must possess perfect happiness.
 4. God is eternal and His happiness is eternal.
 5. God is immutable so His happiness never changes.
 6. God is omniscient so His genius devises perfect happiness.
 7. God found a way from His omniscience and His sovereignty to share with mankind His happiness.
 8. It is therefore impossible for God to be unhappy.
 9. God Himself is said to rejoice in the salvation of His people.
- Psa 9:14 That I may shew forth all thy praise in the gates of the daughter of Zion: I will rejoice in thy salvation.
10. We are commanded to rejoice in the Lord.
- Psa 97:12 Rejoice in the LORD, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.
11. The principles of happiness in summary:
 - 11.1 You cannot build your happiness on someone else's unhappiness.

11.2 You cannot build your happiness on the details of life; things or success will only provide short term episodic happiness at best.

11.3 You cannot build your happiness on perfect environment.

11.4 You cannot build your happiness on people.

11.5 You cannot build your happiness on revolution or anti-establishment thinking.

11.6 You cannot build your happiness on carnality or evil.

11.7 Lasting happiness can only be built on the plan of God for your very own life.

11.8 True happiness can only be built on redemption and spiritual growth. Redemption is only found in faith alone in Christ alone and spiritual growth can only come from a mind transformed by metabolized doctrine in your soul.

1.9 You metabolize doctrine by using the two power options. The two power options are: being filled with the Spirit and cycling the word. The first power option is found in Rom 12:1 and the second power option is found in Rom 12:2.

Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. REBOUND

Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. CONSISTENTLY TAKING IN THE WORD

NIV Scripture

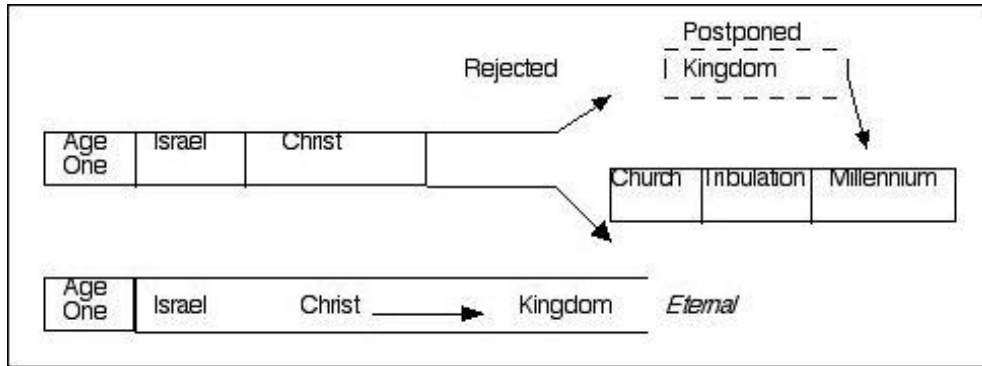
John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Comments:

1. John seems to be preparing his readers for something he will later write concerning the end of the law and its replacement – GRACE.

Luk 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.

2. The function of the law in its Old Testament and early Kingdom Age usage ceased with the coming of John the Baptist.



Mat 11:13 For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.

Mat 11:14 And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come.

3. Christ fulfilled the law completely.

Mat 5:17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.

Mat 5:18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

4. John earlier made clear grace and truth came from the Word being made flesh.

Joh 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Joh 1:15 John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me.

Joh 1:16 And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.

NIV Scripture

John 1:18 No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

Comments:

1. Clearly God made clear in first the Old Testament and then the New Testament that we will not see the face of the Father while in the flesh.
2. Exo 33:21-23 was the inspiration for the song "Rock of Ages."

Exo 33:21 And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock:

Exo 33:22 And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by:

Exo 33:23 And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.

1Pe 1:8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

1Pe 1:9 Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

1Pe 1:10 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:

1Pe 1:11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

NIV Scripture

John 1:19 Now this was John's (John the Baptist) testimony when the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was.

John 1:20 He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Christ."

John 1:21 They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No."

John 1:22 Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

Comments:

1. The context now changes. To avoid confusion I am going to refer to John the Baptist as “the Baptizer.” The Baptizer was asked a question from a delegation of Scribes.

2. Basically the question is “who are you?”

3. We answered this earlier but given the direct question, I will repeat some of that earlier taught in our *Doctrine of John the Baptist*.

4. Who better to answer who was the Baptizer than Jesus the Christ:

5. Jesus declared him to be the promised Elijah of Mal 4:5-6.

Mal 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

Mal 4:6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

Mar 9:13 But I say unto you, That Elias is indeed come, and they have done unto him whatsoever they listed, as it is written of him.

Mat 11:14 And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come.

6. Jesus also declared the Baptizer to be the last and greatest of the prophets.

Luk 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.

7. John’s ministry was said to be the end of divine revelation under the old order: “The law and the prophets were until the Baptizer came: since that time the kingdom of God is preached.”

Mat 11:14 And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come.

NIV Scripture

John 1:23 John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the desert, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

Comments:

1. John the Apostle adds a quote from the Baptizer; a quote of comfort: a promise from God to be announced by Isaiah concerning what the Christ would do.

Isa 40:1 Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.

Isa 40:2 Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins.

Isa 40:3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Isa 40:4 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:

Isa 40:5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

Isa 40:6 The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field:

Isa 40:7 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass.

Isa 40:8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

NIV Scripture

John 1:24 Now some Pharisees who had been sent

John 1:25 questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

John 1:26 "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know.

Comments:

1. The Baptizer makes clear the Scribes have no idea who Jesus is. The same is true today; if you don't know Him as the Son of God you will not understand His Words.

2. The Baptizer knows He is the Messiah and that's because when he baptized Jesus and saw the fulfillment of a promise earlier given by the Holy Spirit "I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit." (Joh 6:33)

NIV

Joh 1:27 He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose.

Comments

1. The 27th verse makes clear Jesus is plus righteous. Jesus is the only One Who has +R. The Baptizer recognizes he only has -R.

2. **Righteousness** - God is absolute Righteousness.

2.1 His Righteousness is independent and incomparable.

2.2 The Righteousness of God cannot be compared with the righteousness of man. The righteousness of man is like "filthy rags" in the eyes of the Lord.

2.3 God recognized this problem in eternity past and made provision for the problem through the sacrifice of Christ on the cross.

2Co 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Rom 3:22 This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. This is called positional righteousness.

Isa 64:6 All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

Psa 116:5 The LORD is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion.

Psa 145:17 The LORD is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made.

NIV Scripture

John 1:28 This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

Comments:

1. John the Apostle teaches of what happened immediately after Jesus baptizing. Jesus left the place of his baptism in the Jordan river and traveled east across the Jordan.

1.1 Jesus went through Bethania which means "the place of the fording" because it was where Joshua led Israel into the promised land.

2. The Baptizer stood with several unknown men near the place where he was baptizing. Looking northward he saw the Lamb of God walking.

2.1 The Baptizer in the hearing of several bystanders proclaims Jesus to be the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. We only know the name of one of the by-standers.

3. Don't you wonder what Jesus thought of Bethany where Joshua first led Israel into their promised land. It was there they were to await the Messiah King Who would establish His kingdom.

4. It will be in that area Jesus will walk, teach, be tempted and remain without sin. It is also the place where Jesus will resolve the sin problem as the Lamb of God.

NIV Scripture

John 1:30 This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.

John 1:31 I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel."

Comments:

1. One reason for the baptism, according to the Baptizer was so he could know Who was the Messiah King.

2 Remember there were many false prophets and false teachers who would claim to be the Messiah.

NIV

Joh 1:32 And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.

Joh 1:33 And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

Joh 1:34 And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

Comments:

1. The Baptizer in verse 32 tells of the sign he received from God the Holy Spirit which such sign would tell him “He had found the Messiah.”

End Lesson

We do not authorize any third party to solicit donations on behalf of the Church.