

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

**HE SAID, I AM THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS,
MAKE STRAIGHT THE WAY OF THE LORD**

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL, JR

EASTER SUNDAY MORNING, APRIL 1, 2018

SCRIPTURE READING: **JOHN 1:19-25**

John 1:23, He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord. as said the prophet Esaias.

1. BACKGROUND

- a. Please refer to the April 1, 2018 Evening Message for the Background.

2. INTRODUCTION

- a. Today we will study the **Book of John** and **since there appears to be some confusion in the land concerning who Jesus Christ really is, let's see what the Word of God has to say about Him.**
- b. Our beloved choir has done such a marvelous job with respect to the subject, "Behold The Lamb of God." It is only appropriate that we begin this message with the powerful, completely factual, eyewitness testimony from John the Baptist which leaves no room for doubt as to who Jesus Christ really is. **John 1:29-36, The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. 30: This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. 31: And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water. 32: And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. 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. 34: And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God. 35: Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples; 36: And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!**
- c. **John 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.** In order to not misinterpret this phrase we must go to **Luke 3:16** which states *John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:* From this passage "baptize you with the Holy Ghost" speaks of

salvation and *"with fire"* speaks of Judgement. **Romans 6:3-5**, *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. 5: For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Galatians 3:27, For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*

- d. The **Gospel of John** starts off with three emphatic factual statements in **John 1:1**, *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*
 1. In the beginning was the Word.
 - a. When we think of the Word of God in the beginning our minds go back and we ask, "When was the beginning?"
 - b. Although there are volumes written about when the beginning was, there is no man that has the knowledge to tell us when the beginning was.
 - c. The Bible says God is the beginning and end. **Revelation 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. Revelation 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. Revelation 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. Revelation 22:13, I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.*
 - d. **Genesis 1:1**, *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*
 - e. We must accept the fact that the Bible is speaking about eternity past.
 - f. When we open the **Book of John**, it speaks to us about the happenings in the beginning.
 - g. The Bible does not say in the beginning is the Word; it says in the beginning was the Word.
 - h. The Lord Jesus Christ created everything, and everything was created by Him. **Colossians 1:16**, *For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:*
 - i. Today the Deity of Christ is being questioned; however, there is no way we can get around it.
 - j. When Jesus Christ walked the face of the Earth, He was both human and Divine.
 - k. Clothed in a human form He was still Divine, furthermore, Jesus never used His Deity and His humanity at the same time.
 2. The Word was with God.
 - a. He is not God the Father; He is separate and distinct from God the Father. **John 14:9**, *Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?*

- b. You cannot identify Him as God the Father because the Bible says in **John 1:2**, *The same was in the beginning with God.*
- c. He is God's representative to mankind. **1 Timothy 2:5**, *For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;*
- 3. The Word was God.
 - a. This is a very clear statement, that Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour is God. **John 10:30**, *I and my Father are one.* **Psalms 45:6**, *Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre.*
 - b. **The Word** is the highest and most profound title that one could express concerning the Lord Jesus Christ. **John 1:1**, *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* **John 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.* **Psalms 138:2**, *I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.*
 - c. As He is seated at the right hand of the Father, He is the Living Word.
 - d. He has preserved and left for us His written Word. **Psalms 12:6-7**, *The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. 7: Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.*
 - e. He is Deity and there is no way to get around it.
 - f. We want to drive the point home, Jesus Christ is the One who represented God to mankind. **1 Timothy 2:5**, *For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;*
- e. Our emphasis today is **"Behold the Lamb of God."**
- f. Jesus Christ has declared God the Father unto us. **John 14:9**, *Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?*
- g. As far as the Glorified Christ who is seated at the right hand of the Father is concerned, John, in the **Book of Revelation** has given us a glimpse. **Revelation 1:2**, *Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.*
- h. With that Introduction, let's see what we can glean from the mighty Word of God today.

3. SIX POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

a. And this is the record of John.

1. **John 1:19**, **"And this is the record of John,"** *when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou?*
2. The first order of business is to find out who John is.
3. This is a question being asked by the priests and the Levites.
4. Lest we be confused, we must understand this is not the John who wrote the **Book of John.**
5. This is John the Baptist.
6. John, the writer of this book does not choose to give us any details about John the Baptist.

7. God's Word is true and complete, infallible and is perfect.
8. It is in fact the Preserved Word of God.
9. We need to turn to the **Book of Luke** to find out about John the Baptist which records his miraculous birth.
10. To keep this message short let's just get various segments concerning John the Baptist.
11. **Luke 1:5**, *There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth.*
12. The Bible goes on to say that they were both righteous before God and walked in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.
13. They had no child because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both stricken in age.
14. **Luke 1:13-17**, *But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. 14: And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth. 15: For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb. 16: And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. 17: And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.*
15. The Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask, "Who art thou?"
16. This is a chance for John the Baptist to give a glowing report of himself.
17. However, as every true servant of the Lord Jesus Christ, he wants to bring glory the Lord.
18. Jesus Christ is the Chief Shepherd who gave His life for His sheep. He is supreme in every category. **1 Peter 5:4**, *And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. John 10:11, I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. Hebrews 13:20, Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,*
19. If we love Him, we want His mission on earth executed to excellence.
20. John takes the opportunity to teach us a valuable lesson.
21. Notice **John 3:30**, *He must increase, but I must decrease.*
22. This should be the attitude of every believer.
23. **Does Christ occupy first priority in your life? Have you gotten to the point that you are ready to move self out of the way and allow Him to increase?**
24. He must increase in our lives and then automatically it will rub off on the lives of others. **Romans 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.*
25. The religious rulers were seeking an answer and John gave it to them.

b. I am not the Christ.

1. **John 1:20**, *And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ.*

2. John is very careful to let them know that he is not the Messiah.
3. There is no Messianic hope in John.
4. As a matter of fact, he drives home the point that they are looking at the wrong individual.
5. If he is not the Christ, then what great person is he?
6. The **Book of Luke** told us that he would be great and filled with the Holy Ghost from his mother's womb.
7. He will be a forerunner of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
8. This delegation continues to probe.

c. Art thou that prophet?

1. **John 1:21**, *And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No.*
2. John teaches us a valuable lesson here that Christians need to be able to go straight to heart of the matter.
3. He is very careful in his answers and he is very brief.
4. As far as Elias; they knew that Elias must come. This delegation was very familiar with the Old Testament Scriptures. **Matthew 11:14**, *And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come.*
5. If he is not Elias, he must be that prophet. The Prophet they are referring to is a prophet like unto Moses.
6. I have stated before, I believe very emphatically that the two witnesses in the **Book of Revelation** will be Moses and Elijah.
7. That prophet is talked about in **Deuteronomy 18:15**, *The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;*
8. John is emphatic in his answer "no." That prophet was none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. The Scriptures are very clear that the Lord Jesus Christ was a Jew and further identifies Him with the nation of Israel.

d. Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us.

1. **John 1:22**, *Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself?*
2. These folks are very persistent.
3. They do not want to go back and report without a complete answer.
4. John is continuing on the basis of their persistence and identifies himself.

e. He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord,

1. **John 1:23**, *He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.*
2. Notice that the Word of God says that John the Baptist was a voice.
3. We must be very careful to be only a voice of the Lord Jesus Christ. **1 Peter 4:11**, *If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*

4. Christ is the Living Word. The Preserved Word of God is His Written Word. **Psalms 12:6-7**, *The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. 7: Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.*
5. We have no authority to alter or change the message. We are just a voice. **Deuteronomy 4:2**, *Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.*
6. *"He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord,"* - get ready for the coming of the Lord.
7. This reminds me of **Amos 4:12**, *Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel.*
8. **Are you prepared to meet thy God?**
9. There is no way you can straighten out anything in your life. We must come to God as we are, and He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. **Hebrews 11:6**, *But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*
10. Come to the side of the Crucified Christ and let His blood cleanse you from all sin. **1 John 1:7**, *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*
11. The Bible says in order to have fellowship with Him we must first have a relationship with Him. **John 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:*
12. **1 John 1:6**, *If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:*
13. If we are to have fellowship with Him, we need to see ourselves as Jesus sees us. **Jeremiah 17:9**, *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*
14. We need to realize what **John 1:8-9** says, *He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 9: That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.*
15. John is saying "prepare ye the way of the Lord." **Luke 3:4**, *As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.*
16. This is a quote from **Isaiah 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.*

f. Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ.

1. **John 1:24-25**, *And they which were sent were of the Pharisees. 25: And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet?*
2. These people are really pressing for an answer.
3. They are driving home a very technical question.
4. If you are not a prophet or Elias, then why are you baptizing?
5. John is about to answer them. We will examine John's answer in the evening

message.

4. CONCLUSION

- a. My Friend do you know the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour?
- b. If you do not know Him; today is the day of salvation. **2 Corinthians 6:2**, *(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)*
- c. Jesus is the only way to Heaven. **John 14:6**, *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*
- d. **John 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.*
- e. In order to know Jesus Christ, we must come to a personal relationship with Him. **Philippians 3:10**, *That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;* **2 Corinthians 13:5**, *Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?*
- f. **Romans 3:23**, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
- g. **Romans 3:10**, *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*
- h. **Romans 10:9-10**, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*
- i. Please stand.

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