

John 2021 #7 (6.6.21) #21047

John 3:22-35

From John to Jesus

I. Do you remember beginning to understand who Jesus really is? On a personal and eternal level?

II. So far, John has shown Jesus to be transcendent over.

A. The creation itself. 1:1-18

1. He is God the Son, Word, Creator
2. He is God's light entering a dark world.

B. The ministry of John the Baptist. 1:19-51

1. John is a prophet, but Jesus is the Lamb of God

C. The Jewish purification rituals. (A sign) 2:1-11

1. Purification Water to New Covenant Wine. Jewish purification to new and pure life in the Spirit.

D. The Jewish Temple. 2:12-25

1. Jesus is the temple now.

E. The Religious elite. 3:1-21

1. Nicodemus represents all the best in religion.
 - a) Religious, Respected, Renowned
 2. *But without rebirth from above, he will not even see the kingdom of God.*

III. Context: John summarizes the meaning of Christ's incarnation 3:16-21

A. God loves his fallen world and is saving it singlehandedly. 16-17

1. If we could save ourselves, he would have just given advice.

B. Because it desperately needs rescued from condemnation. 18-21

1. Our deeds show where our hearts are.

IV. Now, the transition from John the Baptist to Jesus the Messiah. John 3:22-35.

A. Jesus takes over the ministry of baptism. 22-24, 4:1-3

1. For a few months, before John was arrested, their baptism ministries overlapped.

B. Because He alone supplies true purification. John the Baptist talks with his friends. 3:25-30

1. A discussion regarding purification, Jewish, John's, vs Jesus?

- a) Purification = being clean before God. A crucial idea.

2. Which leads to a question about the relationship between John and Jesus' baptisms.

- a) He is baptizing and people are going there.

3. John uses it as a teachable moment for his disciples.

- a) *I have received my ministry from Him. As a gift.*

(1) I just work here.

- b) *I am not the Christ—He is!*

(1) My baptism was authorized by His.

- c) *The people are going to Him because they should!*

(1) He is the groom and they are his bride

4. He must increase, but I must decrease.

- a) The last words of John the Baptist in this gospel.

C. Because He alone is the True Lord. 31-36. (Heb.1:1-3) John the Apostle explains the contrast between the Baptist and the Lord.

1. He is from above and is above all. 31
 - a) Infinitely above any other message.
2. His Word is the Ultimate Word. 32-33
 - a) He's telling the truth about Ultimate Reality
3. Because God has given Him the Spirit fully and the World completely. 34-35
 - a) Messiah has the Spirit in totality.
 - b) God has given the entire world Matt.28:18-20
4. So that we can receive life instead of death. Jn.6:29; 10:27-30)
 - a) Becoming children of God. 1:12-13; 3:3
5. *Note: obedience is first believing. Jn.6:29.*
 - a) And trusting Christ is the first step in a life that desires to obey.

V. What do we learn about reality in this fallen and dark world?

A. As a Church, we are following the Bridegroom, not his friends. 30

1. Jesus, not our churches or our leaders, is the center of our attention.
2. *Any unity not centered on Jesus will ultimately kill the church.*

B. As individuals, we have been rescued graciously, not grudgingly. Eph.2:1-10

1. The wrath is real, but God loves sinners and the fallen world.
2. Because God has loved us even in our sins. Eph.2:4-10

C. Which means that as Christians we can rest and not fear. Baptism. 4:1-2

1. Baptism is by Jesus, even though done through other Christians. 3:22; 4:1-3. God himself, the Second Person, is doing this in you and for you.
2. Think of your own baptism and know that it was Jesus who was baptizing you, immersing you in his own trinitarian life, eternal life. Cleansing, regenerating, purifying, promising glory...
3. Jesus was gently immersing you, praying over you, washing you, giving you his own eternal life. Think about that.