

John 2021 #10 (6.27.21) #21053

John 5:1-30.

God the Son part 1.

I. The gospel of Christ is knowledge of reality not available in the world. 1 Cor.2:8-10a.

A. The knowledge of God starts with understanding who Jesus Christ actually is.

1. This sort of knowledge is not available naturally, only by revelation. We must hear it from God's Word.

B. All the gospels reveal his identity, but John's account offers increased insight through information not found in the Synoptics.

1. The passage here is stunning.

II. Jesus starts a controversy. Healing at Bethesda. 5:1-18.

A. Jesus picks one un-named man to heal. 1-

1. One among many, all clustered around a superstitious idea.

B. He heals him instantly with a command. 8

1. No show; no drama; just a command that carried the ability to obey.

C. He does it on a Sabbath—on purpose. 9b

1. He later warns the man not to continue in sin. 14

2. The healed man rats Jesus out. 11, 15

3. The Jews persecuted Jesus for healing on the Sabbath. 16

D. *Jesus' answer is that God cannot be charged with breaking Sabbath by working—and neither can the Son. (!) 17*

1. *My Father is working right now and I am working, too. An implicit claim to Deity, co-authority with God.*

E. *The Jews understood he was claiming God's authority, but misunderstood his real identity. 18 "he makes himself equal with God?"*

1. They think he means that he is a separate god, a man claiming deity for himself. *Ditheism.*

2. But this is not the case and the controversy becomes a "teachable moment" for Israel and for us.

III. Jesus describes his identity—God the Son. 19-30. ("Son" used 10 times here). He is not a "separate and equal god" Note: he *describes* his relationship to the Father. He does not *explain* it.

A. As the Son he is the Eternal Expression of God the Father 19-24 (Heb.1:1-3; Jn.14:9)

1. His actions are the Father's actions. 19

a) *Constant communion with the Father resulting in moment-by-moment direction from Him regarding his ministry.*

2. His plans are the Father's plans. 20

a) *And there are more signs planned so that people will marvel at Christ.*

3. His authority to give eternal life is the Father's authority. 21. (Matt.11:25-30).

a) *To whom He wills: Jesus's will to grant salvation is identical to the Father's will. He (they) give to who they will... Jn.6:44, 65*

b) *Giving eternal life.*

4. His judgment is the Father's judgment. 22

a) Jesus is God as Judge.

5. His honor is the Father's honor. 23

a) *To honor God the Father one must come to Christ! 1 Jn.2:22-23.*

6. His gift of eternal life is the Father's gift. 24

a) Believe = faith (pistuo). Emphasis on faith in God through the message of Christ (who He is and what He has done, his greater works)

b) Out of judgment and into life. Already in death, now transferred to life by faith in God the Father through God the Son.

B. As the Son he is both the Savior and the Judge of all humanity. 25-30

1. The King in God's Eternal Kingdom. Son of Man. Dan.7:13

a) He exercises all authority as God—as a Man. The Man...

(1) A messianic/human title.

- b) He certainly is Deity, but now also the Ultimate Human. Amazing. Col.2:8-9.
- c) *Two complete natures in one Person, unique in the universe!!*
- 2. **The Judge of the living and the dead. Acts 17:30-31; Rev.20:11-15.**
 - a) He resurrects all people for either life or death. Matt. 25:41, 46;
 - b) Those characterized by goodness grounded in saving faith.
 - (1) All who believe in God through Christ will have good works to show. John 6:29; Eph.2:10
 - c) Those characterized by unrepentant deeds of all kinds.
 - (1) Judgment is based on deeds.
- 3. **Because he is utterly dependent on God the Father's will. 30 (19)**
 - a) God the Son is the embodiment of God the Father.
 - b) One God, three distinct persons...

IV. Four Questions that help us walk with the Lord.

A. Why did he only heal this one guy? There were many who needed healing.

1. *Maybe because the healing was not the important thing—the identity and authority of Jesus was the important thing. Jn.9:3.*
 - a) *Is God's glory more important than human healing? 2 Cor.12:7-10*
2. *Maybe because he didn't want to draw a crowd in Jerusalem...yet.*
 - a) He could not allow his identity to create a political rebellion (6:15)
 - b) *God has a timing for everything.*
3. *Maybe because God knew something about this man that we don't know. (14)*
 - a) Some sin that only God knew? That had somehow contributed to his condition? That needed forgiveness and healing? Normally, illness is not connected to specific sins. 9:3
 - b) We don't know. But Jesus references the need for this man to walk with God from now on v.14. (Jn.8:11)
4. *We don't know what God is doing in other people's lives, but we can keep short accounts with him in our own lives.*

B. Why did he do this on a Sabbath? Jesus knew full well that this would be controversial.

1. *Maybe because Marveling at Christ is more important than nit-picking traditions. (Matt.23)*
 - a) People disobey the Lord because he gets out of focus in their minds.
2. *Maybe get people's eyes off of their traditions and religion and onto Him. He is "Lord of the Sabbath." (Mk.2:27-28)*
 - a) Human religion/traditions cannot regenerate us. Only the Lord can.

C. Why did he so clearly state his own deity? *This was blasphemy in Jewish thought. He could have said "no, that's not what I meant," but he doesn't.*

1. *Maybe to stop people from thinking that they can come to God without being forgiven by the Lord Jesus.*
 - a) Because this is impossible. Sin must be removed from our record and righteousness bestowed on us or we cannot live with God forever.
 - b) We must come out of death (where we currently are) and into life by believing (faith) in the One the Father has sent. 24 (6:29)
2. *He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.* "In a theistic universe, such a statement belongs to one who is himself to be addressed as God, or to stark insanity. The one who utters such things is to be dismissed with pity or scorn, or worshipped as Lord...Either John is supremely deluded and must be dismissed as a fool, or his witness is true and Jesus is to be ascribed the honors due God alone. There is no rational middle ground." (D. A. Carson Pillar NT Commentary, *The Gospel According to John* [Eerdmans, 1991] p.255)

D. Why did he emphasize the final, resurrected judgment? 25-29

1. *To highlight that human deeds matter in eternity.*
 - a) *All judgment is based on deeds.*
2. *To reveal his amazing saving grace. 24*
 - a) Believing the Father about the Son = trusting the Son. Jn.6:29
3. **Rom.6:23.** Sin receives wages, but eternal life is a free gift to those who turn and trust God the Son.