

Lighthouse Bible Church

July 22nd, 2012

John 1: 6 – 13

‘The True Light: Reject or Receive Him’

Stand – Read – Pray

You remember in his introduction to this book that the Apostle John has been setting the foundation for who Jesus is: the Eternal Word of God, Creator and Life and Light of men.

We saw in great detail over the last two weeks that John is fulfilling his purpose in writing this book. You remember that he stated it in **John 20: 31** when he said **these things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God and that believing you may have life in His name.**

So far John has presented Jesus as being the Word of God that was God, being in the beginning with God, being creator God and provider of eternal life and light to mankind.

This morning we are introduced to a man sent from God to bear witness about who Jesus is and that man is John. Remember this is not the John who wrote the book of John, because the John who wrote the Book of John never identifies himself by name but only as ‘the disciple whom Jesus loved’.

This John, whom the Apostle John is writing about in our passage, is commonly known and referred to in Matthew Mark and Luke as **John the Baptist** or John the baptizer. He is the one, as we shall see, who is preparing the way for Jesus by bearing witness about Jesus and who He is.

Look at **Verse 6**

Let's look at a little history of John the Baptist to help us understand who this man is and why he was sent from God as a witness about Jesus.

The first thing we see about him in **Verse 6** is that he was **sent from God**. God had prepared this man for a time such as this, to be the forerunner, to prepare the way of Jesus. The life and ministry of John the Baptist had been prophesied and fulfilled when he came and began his ministry of bearing witness about Jesus.

In **Isaiah 40: 3** it says **the voice of one crying in the wilderness; prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.**

Now turn to **Matthew 3: 1 – 6** *Read*

His message was one of repentance from sin and turning to the Messiah

Matthew writes that John is the fulfillment of **Isaiah 40: 3**

Notice how he was clothed: **camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist**

Notice all the people from all over went out to him. Why? What was so special about him? Well, look at the last book of the Old Testament, Malachi, **Malachi 3: 1: Read, then to Malachi 4: 5 - 6 behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.**

In **2nd Kings 1: 8** it describes Elisha as **wearing a robe of hair with a leather belt around his waist.** In **Zechariah 13: 4** it describes the clothing of a prophet as **a robe of coarse hair.**

After Malachi was written, there was over 400 years of silence between the Old Testament and the New Testament where God did not speak through His prophets.

Now, all of a sudden, this man named John, dressed like Elijah, comes on the scene and all of Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria are coming out to him. And he is telling them, according to **John 1: 23** that **he is the voice of one crying in the wilderness preparing the way of the Lord** as the prophet Isaiah had said.

So when the Apostle John says **there was a man sent from God whose name was John**, it was John the Baptist whom God sent and John the Baptist knew his calling from God.

By the way we know that John the Baptist was sent from God also **because of his miraculous calling before he was ever born**, do you remember that. You can read about it in **Luke Chapter 1**.

Zacharias was a priest and his wife Elizabeth were **well advanced in years**.
1: 7

They had no children and had prayed to have some = **1: 13**

The angel Gabriel comes to Zacharias while he is ministering in the temple
1: 11

Gabriel tells him he will have a son and to call his name John “ “

Luke 1: 16 – 17 says **he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God and he will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah 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.**

Because Zacharias does not believe the angels message, he is unable to speak until 8 days after John is born and then he is able to speak and exalts God through the Spirit in an incredible benediction in **Luke 1: 67 – 79**.

So we know that John was sent from God and **one of the other reasons why he was sent** is told to us in Verse 7 of John 1.

Verse 7: this man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe.

John's calling was to **bear witness of the Light**, he was to bear witness about Jesus, because Jesus is the Light. John's calling was to tell everyone he could about the coming Messiah, Jesus the Christ so that they, through his testimony and witness, could believe in Jesus. John was the **agent** of belief but Christ was the **object** of belief.

Jesus Himself said in **John 5: 32 – 33: there is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness which He witnesses of Me is true. You have sent to John and he has borne witness to the truth.**

And it was through the witness and testimony of John that people could believe in Jesus as the Messiah, as the Son of God, as the Creator, Eternal God, in human form.

In **Acts 19: 4** Paul says **John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is on Christ Jesus.**

The problem sometimes is though, when you are in a prominent place like John the Baptist was, and with all the anticipation he was creating about the coming Messiah and he himself possibly being the Elijah promised in the O.T., people sometimes think that you are the light, you are the promised One, like they apparently did with John. So John has to say in Verse 8

Verse 8: he was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

He will tell them later in the chapter that He is not the **Christ** or **Elijah** or one of the **prophets**, he is just a voice crying in the wilderness making straight the way of the Lord. Then John says in Verses 9 - 10

Verse 9: that was the true light which gives light to every man coming into the world. Some versions have Verse 9 as **that was the true light which came into the world and gives light to every man.** Either one would be correct.

Jesus is Light and in Him is no darkness and He is the light of men, of all mankind. What John is saying is that Jesus has revealed Himself, the Light in a dark world, to EVERY person and he does it through their conscious understanding of God. People are born with a God consciousness, eternity in the soul.

In **Ecclesiastes 3: 11** it says **He has put eternity in our hearts.** That is why nothing worldly can satisfy or fulfill what only Christ alone can in our relationship with Him.

Look with me at **Romans 1: 18 – 21** *Read*

Every person has the Light of life within them, and because of sin that light has been darkened. It is darkened by Satan **2nd Corinthians 4: 3 - 4** says **but if our gospel is veiled it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.**

It is darkened because of the willful rejection and suppression of the truth that we do have **so that our thoughts become futile and our foolish hearts are darkened** as **Romans 1: 21** says.

Or like what **Ephesians 4: 18** says **having our understanding darkened being alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their hearts.**

The said reality is, even though all men have this light, because of sin, **John 3: 19** says **Light has come into the world and men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil.** Then John says in Verse 10

Verses 10 - 11: He was in the world and the world was made through Him and the world did not know Him. He came to His own and His own did not receive Him.

John says Jesus came into the world, the world He created as we saw last time, as a man, God in human form, fully God and fully man. Remember what **Philippians 2: 5 – 8** said **Christ, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant and coming in the likeness of men....**

Jesus came into the world as the Life and Light of men, as the author and means of eternal life, the Savior of the world but, John says, **the world did not know Him.** They did not know Him as the Savior, just like many don't know Him that way today. They know Him, they know who He is, but not as the author and finisher of their faith. Because of their sin and spiritual blindness and spiritual deadness because of sin, they did not know Him.

His own people, the nation of Israel, the Jewish people, for the most part did not even know Him **or receive Him.** That has always been the way since He chose the nation of Israel as His special people. You read all through the Old Testament how many times they rejected God after the many ways He revealed Himself to the people.

As a matter of fact John will write later in **John 5: 39 - 40** **you search the Scriptures for in them you think you have eternal life and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.**

It was the same way in the New Testament; the Jewish people did not receive Him, as a matter of fact they hated Him and eventually had Him falsely arrested, falsely accused, crucified and killed.

It is no different today, people know who Jesus is, they know about Jesus because He has made Himself known through creation and their conscience, but they too reject Him and would crucify Him again today if they could. But, John says in verse 12

Verse 12: as many as received Him, to them he gave the right to become the children of God, to those who believe in His name...

John says there are those who will **receive Him** and **believe in His name** and will **become children of God**. John will present later Andrew, Simon Peter, Philip, Nathanael, Nicodemus, the woman at the well, many Samaritans and Galileans, the Nobleman and his whole house, and many, many more.

He said **as many as receive Him** as many as reach out for Him, take hold of Him, and the way you do that is **to those who believe in His name**. It is never enough to just know Jesus or know about Jesus intellectually, but receiving Him by faith in believing who He is and what He has done. That's what it means to believe in His name.

It is to receive Jesus as both Savior and Lord and all that He is as is presented in the scriptures and to believe anything less or different is to not believe and receive the Christ of the Bible.

We receive Jesus in faith, by believing in His death, burial and resurrection, by believing in His redemptive work of salvation for our sins by being punished in our place, by shedding His precious blood and dying to pay the penalty for our sins.

When we do that, then by His sovereign decree from before the foundation of the world, we **become children of God. Galatians 3: 26: says for you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.** Apart from the sovereign hand of God in His plan for salvation, no one could come to Christ or to the Father on their own merit or works. We are saved by grace through faith, right.

John will say later in **John 6: 44 & 65 no one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws Him** and that **it has been granted by the Father.** That is why John says in Verse 13

Verse 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

John says only those **who were born** or born again as he says later in **John 3: 3** when he says **unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God** can be the children of God.

It is not by **blood** or your blood line or lineage, like the Jews thought or because you were born into a Christian home.

It is not **by the will of the flesh** or anything you could do in yourself to be born again. It is not even **by the will of man** or any man made system that can help you to be born again.

And those are the very areas today where people claim that they are children of God because of. I am a Christian because I was raised in a Christian home and went to church all the time. I am a Christian because I have done many good things in my life, both religious and non-religious, that make me a Christian. I am a Christian because I follow these rules set down in my church or my synagogue or my temple or my parish or by my priest or my pastor or my pope or my elder or my whoever...

John says it is through none of those that one is born again but only by the will of **God**. We are saved by grace through faith and that not of yourselves, it is a gift of (what) God.

Remember when the rich young ruler in **Matthew 19: 16 - 16** came to Jesus and he went away sorrowful because his riches were his God and Jesus said **it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven** and then the disciples said **who then can be saved** and Jesus said **with men this is (what) impossible but with God all things are possible**.

It is impossible for any guilty unbelieving sinner to become a born again believer apart from God doing that miraculous work in their heart to bring them to the place of faith and repentance from sin and belief in the finished work of Jesus on the cross.

What about you, have you been born again or are you just a religious person who knows a lot about Jesus and believes you're a Christian because of what YOU have done.

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Malachi 4: 5 – 6, 2nd Kings 1: 8, Zechariah 13: 4
John 1: 23, Luke 1: 16 – 17, 67 – 79

Verse 7: He came as a Witness of the Light

John 5: 32 – 33, Acts 19: 4

Verses 8 – 9: The True Light

Ecclesiastes 3: 11, Romans 1: 18 – 21
2nd Corinthians 4: 3 – 4, Ephesians 4: 18
John 3: 19

Verses 10 – 11: The World did not know Him

Philippians 2: 5 – 8, John 5: 39 – 40

Verse 12: As many as Received Him

Galatians 3: 26, John 6: 44 & 65

Verse 13: Born of God not...

John 3: 3, Matthew 19: 16 – 26

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