Let's Worship God

4th-9th January 2021 John



Monday - John 7:37-39 - Thirst

The thirst Jesus is talking about is a spiritual thirst. It means worrying about our soul, being convicted of our sin, wanting to be forgiven, longing to have a peaceful conscience. When a man or woman feels how sinful they are and want forgiveness, when they realise that their soul needs and longs for help - then they are thirsty. Sadly many people thirst after everything except salvation. Money, pleasure, honour, power, popularity - these are the things most people want. They don't care about their souls. But those whose hearts have been changed by the Holy Spirit begin to realise that they are guilty, empty, needy sinners. Until we know that we are lost, we are not on the way to being saved. The very first step toward heaven is to be thoroughly convinced that we deserve hell.

Jesus declares that He is the true fountain of life and the supplier of all we need. He invites all who feel a heavy burden of sin to come to Him for help. Peace with God is found in Christ, by trusting in Him as our mediator and substitute, by believing. To come to Christ is to believe on Him. This is saving Christianity. We feel our guilt and emptiness and want deliverance. We hear of a full supply of forgiveness, mercy, and grace in Christ. We put aside all confidence in our own goodness and come to Christ by faith as sinners and find life.

All who come to Christ by faith shall find in Him abundant satisfaction. But believers will not only have enough for the needs of their own souls, they will become fountains of blessings to others. By word or action, directly or indirectly, they are always leaving their mark on others. We may not see it now, but we will one day when Christ reveals how He has used us for His glory.

Questions

- 1. What kind of thirst is Jesus talking about?
- 2. How can you be a blessing to others?

Prayer Points

- 1. Give thanks for the blessing other Christians have been to you.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"I am the vine; you are the branches." John 15:5a Praise: Psalm 107 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Tuesday - John 7:40-53 - Unbelief and Small Faith

Some of the people listening to Jesus clearly know where Christ is to be born. They talk about the Bible as though they are familiar with it. But they are blind to the truth. Their own Messiah stands before them, and they don't accept Him, believe Him, or obey Him. It's not enough to know the facts and teachings of Christianity if our hearts and lives aren't affected by what we know. The devil and his demons know the Bible, but they're still evil. It's possible to have a lot of Bible knowledge and still be dead in sin. We must have a heart knowledge that hates sin and runs to Jesus to be saved, and this knowledge is a gift of God - study will never give it to us.

Our Lord Jesus Christ is an amazing speaker. Even his enemies testify to this. He speaks with authority. He speaks of deep truths and simple things a child can understand. He is bold in speaking against sin and wise and discreet in dealing with people. He is faithful and direct in warning, loving and tender in inviting. For a combination of power and simplicity, of courage and prudence, of faithfulness and tenderness, there is no equal.

These verses teach us that, though our hearts are changed instantly, the realisation of this in our lives is often a gradual process. The Holy Spirit leads men to the Saviour, but not all in the same way and not all at the same speed. Nicodemus stands up and mildly pleads that Christ get a fair hearing. This is the same man who eighteen months before comes to Jesus by night with questions. He knows so little then, that he is afraid to come to Jesus by day. But now he has got on so well that he dares to say something on Jesus' side. It is little, but it is better than nothing. And a day is yet to come when he goes farther still.

Questions

1. Is head knowledge enough to save us?

2. How has Nicodemus' faith grown?

Prayer Points

- 1. Pray that you and your family will grow in your faith.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"I am the vine; you are the branches." John 15:5a

Praise: Psalm 108 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Wednesday - John 8:1-11 - Repentance

Jesus does not say that the woman has not sinned. He doesn't say that her sin is unimportant or trivial. He simply reminds her accusers that they are not the persons to bring a charge against her. In the Old Testament law of Moses, the accusers have to be innocent of the crime they are accusing someone of. But these men clearly aren't. Their own consciences convict them that their motives and lives are not pure. They have not come to this case with clean hands. What they really want is not to keep God's law, but to attack Jesus.

Jesus does not say that this woman does not deserve punishment. But His role at this time is not to be a judge. One day He will come in judgement, but not this day. And, in the absence of all witnesses or accusers, there is no case before Him. She leaves as one whose guilt is "not proven" and is told to sin no more.

Conscience is a powerful thing. Wicked and hardened as our Lord's enemies are, they feel something within that makes them leave. Conscience can't save us. It can't lead us to Christ. But it is the restraining grace of God in our lives and may be used by Him to keep us from sin.

These verses also teach what true repentance is like. Jesus does not just say, "Go home and repent." He points out that she must stop sinning. Repentance which is nothing more than feeling, talking, wishing, meaning, hoping, and determining, is worthless in God's sight. Action is the life of repentance. Until we stop doing what's wrong and turn from our sins, we haven't really repented.

Questions

- 1. Why does this woman's accuser's leave?
- 2. Why does Jesus not condemn her?
- 3. What is a necessary part of repentance?

Prayer Points

- 1. Pray that you would persevere in forsaking sin.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"I am the vine; you are the branches." John 15:5a

Praise: Psalm 109 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Thursday - John 8:12-20 - Light and Dark

The world is dark and needs light. The vast majority of men and women do not understand or see their own sinfulness, they do not see what God is really like, and they have no true conception of the world to come. Our Lord Jesus Christ is the only solution to this darkness. He has risen to give life and light and peace and salvation in the middle of a dark world. He invites all who want salvation to turn to Him and believe on Him. Jesus alone is the true light who comes into the world to save sinners, who dies as our substitute on the cross, and sits at God's right hand to be our Friend.

To follow Christ is to commit ourselves wholly and entirely to Him as our only leader and Saviour, and to obey Him in everything. Following is the same as believing. Christ promises that whoever follows Him will not be left in darkness. They will not grope in doubt and uncertainty, but shall see the way to heaven and know where they are going. The light that Christ gives to everyone who follows Him will not fail.

Jesus tells the Pharisees that, with all their pretended wisdom, they are ignorant of God. Thousands can talk about religion, and yet know nothing about God. They may admit that God exists. But His character shown in Scripture, His holiness, His purity, His justice, His perfect knowledge, His unchangeableness, are things they know very little about. The whole idea of God's character makes them uncomfortable, and they don't like to talk about it. But the secret of knowing God is to draw near to Him through Jesus Christ. Then there is nothing to make us afraid. Through Christ we find mercy, grace, and peace. Christ is the door by which we come to the Father. If we know Christ, we know the Father. If we want nothing to do with Christ, we reject God as well. Do you know Christ?

Questions

- 1. Who is the light of the world?
- 2. How do we come to God?

Prayer Points

- 1. Give thanks that Christ is the true light we need.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"I am the vine; you are the branches." John 15:5a

Praise: Psalm 110 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Friday - John 8:21-30 - Solemn Warning

It is possible to seek Christ in vain. A man or woman may have many feelings about Christ, without any salvation. Sickness, sudden trouble, the fear of death, the loss of security - all these can bring out a certain amount of "religiousness" in people. Under the pressure of these things people may pray and speak strongly about their love of Christ and their changed life. But all this time their heart may never be changed. Take away the trouble, take away the grief, take away the fear, and they may return at once to the old ways. They seek Christ in vain because they seek Him from false motives and not with their whole heart. But there is another way as well of seeking Christ in vain. Men and women may reject God and reject God and reject God until God rejects them. They become so hard in their unbelief that God leaves them alone. But seeking Christ with a true heart and calling on Him honestly is never useless. He that really comes to Christ will not be sent away.

There should be a big difference between Christians and unbelievers. Unbelievers think about and care most about the things of the world; Christians, though they live in the world, set their minds on the things of God. This makes Christians strange, peculiar in the eyes of those around them, it may even bring attacks and ridicule upon them, but this is the way Jesus is treated. As His disciples, can we expect better?

We must settle in our mind, as a truth of our faith, that there is a hell. Don't fall into the trap of thinking that it is unloving to speak of hell. Instead, it's the most loving thing you can do to warn your family, your friends, and your neighbours of the great danger they are in and the great blessing to be found in Christ.

Questions

1. How do we know if we are truly seeking Christ?

2. What is the difference between believers and unbelievers?

Prayer Points

- 1. Pray for the salvation of family and friends.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"I am the vine; you are the branches." John 15:5a Praise: Psalm 111 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Saturday - John 8:31-36 - Freedom

It's so important to persevere as a Christian. To start as a Christian is relatively easy. In fact you may begin with mixed motives like wanting to show how good you are. You put aside your bad habits, begin good ones, and get on well for awhile. But when the newness of being a Christian rubs off, when the feelings fade, when the world and the devil start pulling hard at you, when the weakness of your own heart appears - then you find out the real difficulty of Christianity. It is not beginning but continuing that is the test of true grace. Patient faithfulness in doing what's right is the only sure evidence of grace.

The Jews like to boast that they are politically free, slaves to no foreign power. Our Lord reminds them that there is another slavery they have forgotten about - the slavery of sin. There are so many people like these Jews who think they are free but are slaves to sin. Ambition, the love of money, the passion for drink, the craving for pleasure and excitement, gambling, greed, sexual immorality - all these rule like tyrants among men and women. There is no slavery like this. Sin is the hardest of task masters. Misery and disappointment along the way, despair and hell in the end - these are the only wages sin pays to its servants. To deliver men from this slavery is the great goal of the Gospel. The only perfectly free people are those whom the Son of God makes free. What is this freedom? They are free from the guilt and consequences of sin by the blood of Christ. They are free from the power of sin by the grace of the Holy Spirit. Freedom like this belongs to all true Christians in the day that they run to Christ by faith. It is theirs forever. Death can't stop it. Those whom Christ makes free are free to all eternity.

Questions

- 1. Why is perseverance so important?
- 2. What is the worst slavery there is?

Prayer Points

- 1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"I am the vine; you are the branches." John 15:5a Praise: Psalm 112 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps. The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

God tells us that Ezra read from the book of the Law day after day and that the people of God were filled with joy!

Let's Worship God is produced by the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

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