**Round Top Church Christian Fellowship**

Ekklesia Sermon Series

***I and the Father are One ~ John 10:30***

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March 22nd In the Year of Our Lord 2020

(Unless otherwise noted, NAS is quoted.)

 Due to today’s ongoing pandemic, I am emailing these sermon notes. Consider these notes an introduction to the remainder of the sermon. We will continue next Sunday in the same email ministry.

 The title of this sermon is the factual theological center of today’s sermon. We will review and build-up to the application of John 10:30.

 There are Biblical Truths that are non-negotiable. It is understood that there are differing lists of the non-negotiables. There is the assumption that since Christianity is called Christianity that there is something about the name that is foundational. We all know that the Greek name for the Messiah is “Christ” derived from the Greek name “Christos.” Jesus in Greek in “Iesous” from the Hebrew name Joshua.

 Strong’s **<2424> Ἰησοῦς** *Iesous*

**Meaning:** *Jesus* or *Joshua,* the name of the Messiah, also three other Isr.

**Origin:** of Hebrew or 3091

**Usage:** Jesus(904), Jesus'(7), Joshua(3).

**Notes:**

1 Lit *book*

2 Heb *Yeshua* (*Joshua*), meaning *The LORD saves*

3 Gr *Christos* (*Christ*), Gr for *Messiah*, which means *Anointed One*

a 2Sa 7:12-16; Psa 89:3f; Psa 132:11; Isa 9:6f; Isa 11:1; Mat 9:27; Luk 1:32, Luk 1:69; Joh 7:42; Act 13:23; Rom 1:3; Rev 22:16

b Mat 1:1-6: *Luk 3:32-34; Gen 22:18; Gal 3:16*

We know that the Bible is made-up of the Old and New Testaments. In sixty-six books (Old-39/New-27) God reveals His plan, intent and will for His creation. Of course, this is the Bible most of the Protestant Christians use. The State-Church added the Apocryphal books that were eventually rejected during the Reformation by the. . .

you got it. . . “The Reformers”.

 About A.D. 90, Jewish Rabbis conducted what is called the Jamnia (Hebrew – Yavneh) counsel in Israel. There they recognized what they had historically approved as the Hebrew Scriptures containing what we recognize as 39 books. They refer to these writings as the TaNaKh, an acronym representing the names of three divisions: Torah (Instruction, Law, or Pentateuch), Neviʾim (Prophets), and Ketuvim (Writings). Within these Jewish Scriptures, the Messiah is prophesied to come. These were written down between 1500 B.C. and no later than 400 B.C. From Genesis 12 when Abram is called by God until the birth of Christ accounts for about 2000 years. This is important because the Messiah’s genealogy will come through Abram. Prior to Abram, we see in Genesis 3 (The Fall) that we have a prophetic text stating that the seed of the woman will crush the head of the serpent.

 Prior to Genesis 3, we read in the first sentence of the Bible, in Genesis 1:1, that the English word for God in Hebrew is Elohim (Strong’s 0430 אֱלֹהִים Elohim).

It is in the plural form. This directly identifies that our English word for God in Genesis 1:1 represents the plurality of God as in God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. In Genesis 1:2, we see the “Spirit of God” moving over the surface of the waters.

We read in John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word,

and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

 2 He was in the beginning with God.

 3 All things came into being through Him,

and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

 4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.

 5 The Light shines in the darkness,

and the darkness did not comprehend it.

 These Scriptures identify that there isn’t any separation from God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They are one in the same. Theologians through the centuries explain that there is one nature of God in three persons. For us simple minded humans, the reality of God at work as the Creator, Spirit and Savior is enough for us to understand. Thousands of letters (sermons) have dissected the word “Trinity” through the centuries. It comes down to a simple faith that God is sovereign, and He can work through, manifest himself through, talk through, live through and become whatever He deems to fulfil His will.

 Fallen man attempts to assign a materialistic/naturalist worldview to everything. Even before the age of Darwinian Evolution (mid 1800’s), there were the State-Church councils, beginning in 325 A.D. at Nicaea, then Constantinople (381), Ephesus (431), and Chalcedon (451 A.D.), to name of few, that have attempted to formalize God. The State-Church then, by force of the sword, compelled adherence to their teachings. These efforts brought death and destruction. We will never be able to materialistically explain God. History demonstrates that people fail when they assign naturalistic definitions to God.

 Paul writes to the Believers in Philippi teaching what God wanted them to know regarding Jesus. Remember that God instructed Paul, who was a Pharisee of Pharisees, the most knowledgeable man regarding the “TaKaKh.” Paul is conveying to them God’s teaching about Christ Jesus. Paul anticipated the Messiah, God’s incarnation, and this is the teaching Paul accepted and passed to others in Philippians 2:5-8.

 Verse 5 identifies that Paul wants the Believers to apply this teaching to themselves. Christ Jesus came to model the life we are called to live. We can never be God or aspire to be God. This is the sin of Adam and Eve. They chose to want to be like God (Genesis 3:5). The attitude God desires for us is humility (bond-servant) to Him. The first Beatitude Jesus proclaims is a call for us to be “poor in spirit” and we will inherit the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5:3). We are to empty ourselves. We are to surrender to God’s Holy Spirit conviction, and we will live to our full potential in this life and live eternally with Him.

Philippians 2:5-8

5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,

6 who, although He existed in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,

7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant,

and being made in the likeness of men.

8 Being found in appearance as a man,

He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death,

even death on a cross.

We can experience the “spiritual” love of the Lord and the “spiritual” freedom of living in His teachings of Truth. This is why Jesus said He was the Way to the Truth to life (John 14:6).

We will never be able to fully explain, through materialism or naturalism, how God incarnated Himself to be Christ Jesus. Surrendering and humbling ourselves to God is the most important reality to which we are called. Through this, we are saved and live life in His victory.

It is correct to repeatedly refer to those Jews in Acts 2 who came to the reality that they were spiritually bankrupt and guilty of crucifying Jesus. The reason they were saved is because of their surrendered hearts to the Holy Spirit conviction spoken through Peter. They didn’t have any explanation of how God incarnated Himself as Jesus. At that point, they had no need of providing an explanation about the miracles of Jesus or His teaching. They did know, without a doubt in their being, they desperately needed to be saved from their sins. As the saying goes

“there ain’t no atheist in a fox-hole.”

 These Jews, like Paul, knew of the coming Messiah. They had deep knowledge of God’s prophets. However, they had missed the point about being delivered from their sins. They were looking for a temporal political Messiah and an earthly kingdom. Their greater need was presented to them through the Holy Spirit preaching of Peter. Remember, Jesus said that His kingdom was not of this world (John 18:36; Daniel 2:44, 7:14). Here are three prophetic Old Testament passages. These are numerous in the TaNaKh.

**Isaiah 9:6** For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

**Micah 5:2** "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity."

**Daniel 9:24** "Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place.

 From reading God’s Word, there isn’t any doubt that Jesus came to usher in the eternal kingdom of heaven. Jesus preaches the qualifications of kingdom citizens in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5). In this mission of reconciling lost people to Himself, God is One from the beginning (John 10:30). There can be no other authority/power to accomplish propitiation (Romans 3:25; Hebrews 2:17; 1 John 2:2, 4:10).

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature;

the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

18 Now all these things are from God,

who reconciled us to Himself through Christ

and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,

19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself,

not counting their trespasses against them,

and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ,

as though God were making an appeal through us;

we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf,

so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Jesus never said He was separated from the Father. The mission of God’s incarnation was started by God, carried through by God and finished by God. In fact, Jesus said He could do nothing without the Father. That means every thought and deed. This demonstrates that the Trinity is spiritual and cannot be explained by human reasoning. We see the reality of the Trinity in the body of Jesus Christ. We experience the reality of the work of the Trinity in the love we feel and the forgiveness we receive.

John 5:17-19

17 But He answered them,

"My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working."

 18 For this reason therefore

the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him,

because He not only was breaking the Sabbath,

but also, was calling God His own Father,

making Himself equal with God.

 19 Therefore

 Jesus answered and was saying to them,

"Truly, truly, I say to you,

the Son can do nothing of Himself,

unless it is something, He sees the Father doing;

for whatever the Father does,

these things the Son also does in like manner.

John 5:30 "I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

John 6:38 "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

John 8:28 So Jesus said,

"When you lift up the Son of Man,

then you will know that I am He,

and I do nothing on My own initiative,

but I speak these things as the Father taught Me.

John 12:49 "For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak.

 John 6:38 "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

Remember Jesus’ words (John 8:28) when He is on the Cross, (When you lift up the Son of Man), He can do nothing on His own. This means that the Father (God) never leaves Jesus. God never leaves His embodiment in the flesh. For the accomplishing the “one-time-paid-for-sin-act” God is there the whole time. The presence of God is required to defeat sin and death. There is no other law powerful enough to defeat sin and death. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death (Romans 8:2).

AMEN . . . . Continue next Week. I praise God for all of you. Matthew