

BIBLE STUDY: LESSON 7

Scripture of Lesson: John 3: 22~36

1. John the Baptist's ministry for Christ

- a. Baptism by immersion practiced by both John the Baptist and Jesus: v. 23, 26
 - i. Is immersion the only mode of baptism taught or practiced in the Bible?
- b. Jesus as the bridegroom [v. 29]: who is to be the bride? And when will be the wedding?
- c. "He must increase, but I must decrease." [v. 30] A basic tenet of Christian ministry, humility, self-effacing – present Christ, not myself.

2. John's testimony on Father-Son relationship

- a. V. 34: Christ speaks the words of God; God gives His Spirit to His Son without measure.
 - i. Words of Jesus are words of God. Jesus was human yet Holy Spirit was with Him.
- b. V. 35: Father loves the Son; God has given *all things* into the Son's hand.
 - i. Christ had all power of God with Him; yet He chose not to exercise it. Why?

3. John's definition of salvation

- a. V. 36: "He that believes on the Son has everlasting life; and he that does not believe the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abides on him." John knew of the Son of God and God's salvific plan.
 - i. *Everlasting life*: When does it begin in a Christian? Are there phases in the everlasting life? How does our earthly life fit in the everlasting life?
 - ii. 'Not seeing life' equates to death and darkness for eternity: Can a plant that has not seen light and thus has hardly a life in it ever hope to bear fruits and live on? It will only wither and die.
 - iii. Wrath of God: 'Wrath' is opposite of mercy and grace. Wrath is inevitable because God has been extending His mercy and grace to humanity since the beginning, through His Son's life and sacrifice.

4. Why is there so much suffering and violence in the world? – current turmoil in the world

- a. Why does God allow so much evil in the world?
 - i. Although God desired people's faithfulness to Himself and the order he established for human was good, He planned to *permit self-determining persons to be unfaithful to Him*. God did not predetermine our first parents' disobedience to His moral law, but permitted it in His plan for history. [Acts 2:23]
 - ii. Sin entered into the world and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned. [Rom 5:12; II Cor 11:3; James 1:13~15]
 - iii. God also planned physical laws to govern the universe. God gave Adam the privilege to govern His creation. [Gen 1: 28] Human dominion of the world, however, has been quite evil due to our sinfulness and has displeased God. [Gen 6:5-7]
- b. Power of darkness is working against God's Kingdom to keep humanity in increasing sin and confusion
 - i. We have been rescued from the power of darkness into the Kingdom of God's Son. [Col 1:13-14]
 - ii. There are rulers of darkness and spiritual wickedness that work against God's Kingdom. [Eph 6:12]
- c. Christian attitudes towards evil in the world.
 - i. Christians accept the reality in God's providence with gratitude and praise.
 - ii. Christians make decisions in accordance with godly counsel guided by the Holy Spirit; accept responsibility for their attitudes, words and actions.
 - iii. Christians maintain humility and accept what is not within their power.
 - iv. Christians ache in their hearts for the sinfulness of this world and pray/ contribute for God's Kingdom to expand.
 - v. We have a great commission to improve what we can:
 - 1) Stewardship of our own health: physical and spiritual
 - 2) Fidelity and devotion to our families
 - 3) Patriotism under God