

“He came by water and blood” Sunday, September 15, 2019 Elder Dan Gaither

Introduction-Prayer

Commentaries- all over map, challenged, “I want to know what you think”

- “Many Facets to God’s Truth”

Choicest Diamond-lets light in from all directions, consistent with scripture (Infinite Facets)

History, Apostle John, last living witness of Christ, probably in his nineties, possibly the last book written chronologically. History shows that John was most likely in Ephesus which was in the Asia Minor the center of the world’s “intellectual teachings.” False teachers began to invade the church. Two major heresies.

- Gnosticism—(Knowledge) matter evil-spirit good, some form of deity to Christ, denied his humanity to preserve Him from evil. Mystical knowledge higher than scripture. Body didn’t matter therefore immorality OK
- Docetism—(to appear) Christ’s spirit descended on Him at His baptism, left him before his crucifixion.

Heresies not unlike some of our heresies today. Trying to destroy the truth of the scriptures that Christ was fully God and fully Man. He must be both. He actually put on human flesh and actually suffered and died on the cross. God’s perfect gospel, God’s perfect and completed work, God’s perfect man who fulfilled the Law-the unblemished Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world, God’s substitutionary sacrifice for our sin, acceptable, validated by His resurrection. Praise God.

Understanding the heresies helps us to understand this passage. Here is our passage for today.

- Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only but with the water and the blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.
I John 5:5-8

Here is what we need to learn from this passage:

- Jesus is the Son of God (Fully God)
Jesus is the Son of man (Fully Man)
Confirmed by the Spirit

First of all what does it mean to overcome the world? Scripture says it best

- Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation. Or distress, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written, “FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED.” But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. Romans 8:35-37
- “We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us” KJV
- “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.” Phil. 4:13

Are we conquering the world today? Do we understand we are a forgiven child of God? Are we living to honor God’s name? Our study of I John is to equip us to live confidently in the world today, living by the truth of who God is and who we are as His people.

Jesus is the Son of God, He was fully God. As Pastor Craig and the Word has said, Jesus is the “Only begotten” making Him from God and equal to God. The Pharisee’s understood this truth and didn’t like it

- 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 to God. John 5:18

A common and constant attack on this truth that Jesus is God. There are those today that don't like this truth and make their own translation of the scriptures to say Jesus is only a god. But the scriptures confirm this precious truth.

- 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. Isaiah 9:6
- There the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold the virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel. Is. 7:14
- "She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins. Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME, IMMANUEL, which means "God with us." Matthew 1:22-23
- In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God....And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. John 1:1, 14

(The one below put on a slide by its self) Colossians 1:13-20, Hebrews 1:1-4)

- If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him. Philip said to Him "Lord show us the Father and it is enough for us. Jesus said, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip?" Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me." John 14: 8-10

Jesus is Son of God-fully God. One final verse and testimony. JW answer man, confronted with this verse and question "when did God die"

- Do not be afraid: I am the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore.....Rev. 1:17-18

Jesus is the Son of Man-Fully Man. God put on human flesh.

- This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only but with the water and the blood. I John 5:6

First of all it says He came, where did He come from. Again, the scriptures reaffirm the preexistence of Christ, once again showing He was and is God.

- Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly I say to you before Abraham was born, I Am" John 8:54
- Now, Father, glorify Me together with yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. John 17:5

Here is a great quote by Spurgeon that captures the heart of God for His people:

- "He loved you with such a love that He would not remain in heaven without you. He would sooner die than have you perish, and He cannot endure that anything should stand between your heart's love and Himself." Charles Spurgeon
- I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. John 10:10

It says He came by water and blood. In regard to the water, this is where some great teachers go in many different directions, I will say in many different facets, because they all speak truth consistent with the rest of scripture. Some teachers teach the water references Christ Baptism, where the Spirit was manifested by a dove landing on Christ when He came out of the water.

- After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and lighting on Him, and a voice out of the heavens said, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am will pleased. Matthew 3:16-17

J. Vernon McGee taught the water is the Word of God.

- “Water speaks of what? It speaks of the Word of God. The water is the living Word applied by the Spirit of God.” J. Vernon McGee

Matthew Henry references the water as purification, other scriptures use the water the same way

- “This water and blood include all that is necessary for our salvation. By the water, our souls are washed and purified for heaven and the habitation of saints in light. By the blood, we are justified, reconciled, and presented righteous to God.” Matthew Henry

When it comes to the blood, teachers come to agreement- Jesus Died- We are Justified, and reconciled to God.(by faith)

It is fascinating to note that John was the only Gospel writer that made note that at the death of Christ both water and blood flowed from his side

- But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. John 19:34

Matthew Henry comments

- “The water, as well as the blood, came out of the side of the sacrificed Redeemer. He loved the church, and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word; that He might present it to Himself a glorious Church.”
- “.....Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory. “ Ephesians 5:25-27

After all that now I want to share what I see in this passage. James 3 tells us “Let not many of you become teachers, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment.” Saying this I may find myself in the teacher discipline line while others are enjoying the first day in heaven, but here I go. Looking at the overall context of the passage and knowing the heresies that John was battling, I believe the water and blood represented a physical birth and a physical death. Jesus was born as a man and died as a man. Yes He was the Son of God, fully God, yet He was also Son of man, fully man. He could calm the sea, yet He became hungry. He could heal the blind, yet He became thirsty, He could turn water into wine, yet He needed rest, He could preach with authority, yet He pulled aside to spend time with the Father, He could have blinked the Pharisees into oblivion, yet He chose to Die that we might live. Evidence of His death-refutes swoon theory, that he only collapsed and was revived in the coolness of tomb. Some other truths to examine. Check out the genealogies of Jesus in Matthew and Luke. Matthew has the genealogy of Jesus on Joseph side going back to Abraham (Man), Luke has the genealogy of Mary going all the way back to Adam the son of God (God) Jesus is God in the flesh. We see by the genealogy that Jesus was in the line of David as told by the prophets. Jesus asked a question that the Jews could not answer, should we not now know how to answer what he said to the Pharisees:

- What do you think about the Christ, whose son is He? They said to Him, “The Son of David.” Then how does David in the Spirit call Him Lord, saying: “THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I PUT YOUR ENEMIES BENEATH YOUR FEET. If David then calls Him “Lord”, how is He his son? Matthew 22:42-45

The water and the blood testify of this profound truth. That brings us to the final point of the lesson and of the passage.

- It is the Spirit that testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. I John 5:7

The Spirit confirms that Jesus is fully God and fully Man. Do you understand today that the reason you believe these truths about Christ is because the Spirit of God lives within and confirms with your heart that this is true. The Spirit is missing in those that reject these truths. The Spirit is missing in people change the scriptures or add another gospel or only believe Christ was a good teacher. James Montgomery Boice wrote a very practical and readable Theology called Foundations of the Christian Faith. I always remember the ending sentence of his chapter called "God in Three Persons. It has always stuck with me. I hope it speaks to you as well:

- "We believe the doctrine of the Trinity, not because we understand it, but because the Bible teaches it and because the Spirit Himself witnesses within our heart that it is so." James Montgomery Boice

Yes, the Spirit witnesses to our heart, applies the Word with our heart, The One Jesus left with us, The Helper. The Spirit showed us our condition, our sin and brokenness and the Spirit pointed us to Jesus who came as a man, tempted in every way we are, yet without sin, therefore, He could be the precious and unblemished Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the World. (Some focus on Spirit-Spirit focus is Christ) 3 testify-Spirit, water and the blood.

- The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God. Romans 8:16

As a side note, there is some controversy on this passage, the following was added as verse 7 and is included in the Authorized Version, KJV.

- For there are three that bear witness in heaven, the Father, The Word, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one. I John 5:7 KJV

The controversy is that this was not in the earlier manuscripts. There should be no controversy that Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one.

Has the Spirit of God testified to your heart today of these truths:

- Jesus is the Son of God (Fully God), Jesus is the Son of man (Fully Man)
- Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life. John 5:24

Do you believe He loved you enough to leave heaven to put on human flesh, to come as a man, to suffer and die, to pay a debt we could never pay, to grant us a life we could never earn. To redeem us, to reconcile us to Himself, and to be one with Him forever. Do you believe that? In not, why not. Why not come to the One who came to you, why not come to the One who loves you and gave Himself for you? He calls you today, I pray you answer His call.

Closing Prayer.

Benediction:

- Now may the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word." 2 Thess. 2:16