

INTRODUCTION

- * As we have been studying The Gospel of Jesus Christ according to John, we have noted that the major purpose of the book is the presentation of the proof that Jesus is the Son of God.
- * Last week, we examined Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus contained in the first part of chapter 3. In that passage, we saw that Nicodemus came to Jesus seeking to find answers to his questions. Jesus gave him the ultimate answer ... how to enter the Kingdom of God. In order to enter the Kingdom of God, one must be born again. You must be born of the flesh and of the spirit. That spiritual birth comes through believing that Jesus is who He claimed to be ... the Son of God who became the Lamb of God to take away the sins of the world!
- * John continues this discussion by transitioning to an event that occurred at the Jordan River - at Aenon, near Salim - where John the Baptist declares the Supremacy of Christ in multiple ways to those who are questioning him.
- * First, we must make a quick detour into the doctrine of baptism, which was the initial subject of the conversation.
 - A. The Situation ... Jesus came into the region of Judah and began baptizing people. We are then told that John was "baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there."
 - B. The Significance ...
 1. THE MEANING OF THE WORD - Baptizo; Bapto ...
 - * In The New Testament (Matthew 26:23; Mark 14:20; Luke 16:24; John 13:26; Revelation 19:13)
 - * In The Old Testament (Exodus 12:22; Leviticus 4:6, 17; 9:9; 11:32; 14:6,16,51; Numbers 19:18; Deuteronomy 33:24; Joshua 3:15; Ruth 2:14; 1 Samuel 14:27; 2 Kings 5:14; 8:15; Job 9:31)
 2. THE MEANING OF THE IMAGERY - The debate was concerning purification
 - * cf. Mark 1:44; Luke 2:22; 5:14; John 2:6; Hebrews 1:3; 2 Peter 1:9
 - * cf. Matt 8:2,3; 10:8; 11:5; 23:25,26; Luke 17:14,17
 - * cf. Gen 7:2,3,8; 20:6; 44:10; Exodus 25:11,17; Lev 8:15

INSTRUCTION**I. REVEALED IN THE DECLARATIONS OF _____ (v. 22-34)**

- A. Christ is the _____ (v. 27, 34; cf. Ephesians 4:7ff; 1 Corinthians 4:7; James 1:17)
- B. Christ is the _____ (v. 28)
- C. Christ is the _____ (v. 29; Eph 5:22-27; Rev 19:7-9; 21:2,9; Matt 11:11)
- D. Christ Must _____ (v. 30; 1 Cor 4:1-2; 2 Cor 4:5-7)
- E. Christ Is _____ (v. 31; Acts 10:36; Rom 14:8-9; Col 1:18; Hebrews 1:1-3:6)

II. REVEALED IN THE DECLARATION OF _____ (v. 35-36)

- A. Christ Has Been Given _____ By The Father (v. 35; cf. John 13:3; 17:2; Mat 11:27; Eph 1:22)
- B. Christ is the Key to _____ (v. 36; cf. John 1:12; 3:15-17; 5:24; 6:47-54; Revelation 1:18)

INTROSPECTION

- * WHO IS JESUS TO YOU?
- * ARE YOU SEEKING TO ALLOW CHRIST TO INCREASE IN YOUR LIFE ... WHILE HUMBLING YOURSELF?
- * **WHAT NEXT STEP** ARE YOU WILLING TO TAKE IN ORDER TO ALLOW CHRIST TO INCREASE IN YOUR LIFE?
- * HAVE YOU TRULY BELIEVED ON JESUS AS THE MESSIAH ... UNTO SALVATION? HAS HE CHANGED YOUR LIFE?
- * IS THERE A NEED TO CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK ... AND, THEREFORE, THE WAY YOU ACT?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * The Book of Hebrews is primarily written to show the supremacy of Christ (and the New Covenant confirmed by Him) over the Old Covenant. Discuss the specific areas of the Old Covenant in which the book of Hebrews shows this supremacy of Christ. (For example: In chapter 1, Christ is shown to be above the prophets and the angels.)