

## RIGHTLY RELATING TO JESUS

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John 1:19-34

1. As we continue our study of the life, ministry, and teaching of Jesus we are not going to deal with the events surrounding His birth and childhood.
2. We have already established that Jesus was and is God, that He became a man, and that He explains God.
3. Secondly, we have examined the evidence of that claim cited by the Apostle John in John 1:1-18.
4. Last week we paused to examine the importance and purpose of our personal testimony.
- 5 This week and next we will focus on the ministry of John the Baptist and what we can learn from his life and teaching.
6. Just prior to Jesus beginning His earthly ministry John the Baptist burst on the scene.
  - a. He proclaimed himself to be the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy which stated, "I am a voice of one crying in the wilderness, make straight the way of the Lord."
  - b. According to Mark 1:6 he was clothed with camel's hair, wore a leather belt around his waist, and his diet was locusts and wild honey.
  - c. He preached a simple message, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."  
Matthew 3:2
  - d. He was effective. Matthew 3:5-6  
Then Jerusalem was going out to him, and all Judea and all the district around the Jordan; 6 and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins.
  - e. His baptism was preparatory in its purpose.
    - (1) Mark 1:4  
John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
    - (2) Acts 18:24-26  
Now a Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus; and he was mighty in the Scriptures. 25 This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus, being acquainted only with the baptism of John; 26 and he began to speak out boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.
    - (3) Acts 19:1-7  
It happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus, and found some disciples. 2 He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said to him, "No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." 3 And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" And they said, "Into John's baptism." 4 **Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus."** 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying. 7 There were in all about twelve men.
7. John's example and message can teach us much about how to rightly relate to Jesus Christ.

## I. We need to know who Jesus is.

A. John testified, "He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me." 1:15

NOTE: John was not talking about Jesus' physical age because from this world's perspective John was six months older than Jesus.

B. John declared, "I myself have seen (the evidence), and have testified that this is the Son of God." 1:34

NOTE: Like John, our knowledge of Christ comes from God. John 6:44-48

"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day. 45 "It is written in the prophets, 'AND THEY SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT OF GOD.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me. 46 "Not that anyone has seen the Father, except the One who is from God; He has seen the Father. 47 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life."

C. John also introduced Jesus by saying, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!" 1:29

## II. We need to repent.

A. John called on people to repent in preparation for the Messiah's arrival. Matthew 3:2  
"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

B. Jesus validated John's message. Mark 1:14-15

Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

C. Jesus made it clear that repentance was to be a central part of the church's message. Luke 24:44-49

Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." 45 Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, 47 and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 "You are witnesses of these things."

D. The Apostles were faithful to preach repentance.

1. Peter on the day of Pentecost. Acts 2:37-38

Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" 38 Peter said to them, "**Repent**, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

2. Peter after healing the lame man at the Temple gate. Acts 3:17-20

"And now, brethren, I know that you acted in ignorance, just as your rulers did also. 18 "But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. 19 "Therefore **repent** and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;

3. Paul speaking to the Athenians. Acts 17:30-31

"Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should **repent**, 31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."

E. The Apostle Paul defined repentance in his defense before King Agrippa. Acts 26:12-20  
"While so engaged as I was journeying to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests, 13 at midday, O King, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining all around me and those who were journeying with me. 14 "And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew dialect, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' 15 "And I said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. 16 'But get up and stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you; 17 rescuing you from the Jewish people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you, 18 **to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God**, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me."

19 "So, King Agrippa, I did not prove disobedient to the heavenly vision, 20 but kept declaring both to those of Damascus first, and also at Jerusalem and then throughout all the region of Judea, and even to the Gentiles, that they should **repent and turn to God**, performing deeds appropriate to repentance.

1. Some teach that repentance is simply a change of mind.
2. Repentance involves a change of mind, but it also involves a total change of direction for one's life.
  - a. We turn from darkness to light.
  - b. We turn from the dominion of Satan to God.
  - c. We turn from one lifestyle to a new lifestyle.

NOTE: Paul stated, "I kept declaring...that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to (that go along with) repentance."

## **APPLICATION**

1. It is one thing to know about Jesus, but it is a completely different thing to actually know Him.
2. Many people profess to know who Jesus is, yet their lives appear to be unaffected by what they say they know.
3. A true follower of the Lord Jesus Christ lives an appropriate lifestyle; a lifestyle that gives credibility to his or her testimony related to repentance and faith.