

Whoever Believes in the Son has Eternal Life

John 3:22-36

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I. INTRODUCTION

The world always thinks that there is a gray area or another way other than God's way.

God created us with the will to make free choices. Because we have the choice to choose, it does not change God's plan of salvation. Man can choose to serve or not to serve God. Man can choose to believe in Jesus Christ as God's only Son. To do so means you have eternal life. To choose not to believe in Jesus which means you do not have life but is subject to the wrath of God. There is no gray area.

Whoever believes in the Son has Eternal Life. Whoever means everyone have the opportunity to have eternal life through Jesus, God's only Son. It does not matter your background, your educational level, your financial situation, whether you raised by a single parent or a family with a mother and father present. It does not matter whether you have a GED or no high school education. It does matter whether you live in an apartment or mansion or work at McDonald's or Capitol One. It does not matter whether you are a person of color or no color, Jew or Gentile. It does not matter whether you are incarcerated or free. God sent His only Son that everyone might know how much He loves us and have made a way for us to be eternally connected to Him and be given life that is everlasting not in the by and by but right now. "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him." John 3:16 & 17

There is no gray area with God. 1 John 5:11, "And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and life is in His Son." Choose the Son of God, you have eternal life. Reject the Son of God and you will experience the wrath of God.

II. The Lesson

1.vv22-24 After being in Jerusalem and teaching Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council, the difference between physical birth and spiritual birth, Jesus and His disciples traveled to the countryside of Judean. It is here that Jesus spends some time with His disciples. It is important to emphasize that Jesus spent time with them. Jesus knew the significance of spending time with His heavenly Father. (Matthew 14:23 & Luke 5:16). If Jesus took time to be in the presence of the heavenly Father, how much more important is it for us to make sure we spend quality with the Holy One? Discipling, teaching, preaching, studying, and meditating all are good and necessary but most importantly, we need to daily set aside a time to be alone in the presence of our heavenly Father.

As Jesus' disciples were baptizing so were John and his disciples at Aenon near Salim. It is noted that there were plenty of water there. All this was taking place prior to John's imprisonment.

We see that John's ministry is winding down and Jesus' ministry is increasing.

2. vv 25 & 26 With good works going on there arose a dispute between some of John's disciples and an unnamed Jew over ceremonial washing. We are not told why the dispute only the what. They went to John but the conversation is not over ceremonial washing but the comparison of John's baptism to that of Jesus.

Instead of being joyful for the works of the Lord that being done, they were jealous and competitive. Instead of being thankful that the Lord was still using them for kingdom work, they were envious that Jesus' crowds were larger than theirs. Ministry is not a competition. Bring unsaved folks to the Lord is not a competition. It is very apparent that they only had listened to part of John's testimony that he gave at the beginning of his ministry. John had testified not about himself but the One who was coming after Him. The One who was greater than him.

3. vv 27 – 30 John testified again that he was not the Messiah but was sent ahead of him to prepare the way for Him. He was the voice crying in the wilderness, make straight the way for the Lord. (John 1: 19-23)

Then John uses an illustration of marriage in describing his relationship with Jesus. The friend of the bridegroom waits and listens for him. The friend is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. John states that the joy is his and is now complete. John ministry was coming to an end and Jesus' ministry was ever increasing. (John 1:29-30)

4. vv 31-36 John showed that Jesus is superior not only to him but to all earthy beings because Jesus is from heaven, knows heavenly things, and He speaks the words of God. John is of the earth as is all mankind, and therefore, we speaks of earthly things. Jesus is from God because He is the only begotten Son of God and He is unlimited in all that He can do.

The Father has placed everything in His hands. Eternal life is in Jesus and Jesus only; therefore, whoever believes in Him has eternal life but if one chooses to reject Him, God's wrath remains on them.