

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

Pastor Howard Daniel, Jr.

4357 US Hwy 59 South

P.O. Box 343

Livingston, Texas 77351

936-327-8870



MINISTRY OF THE WORD

GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS THAT A MAN LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL, JR

SUNDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 8, 2020

VETERANS DAY

SCRIPTURE READING: **JOHN 15:9-27**

John 15:13-14, Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. 14: *Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.*

1. BACKGROUND

- a. Our text today is from the **Gospel of John**. I take the position that John is the author of this book because all the other apostles were dead.
- b. It was possibly written close to A. D. 100.
- c. The **Gospel of John** was written primarily for believers. This book appears to be simple, yet it is very profound.
- d. John emphasizes both the Deity and the humanity of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **John 1:11-12** tells us, **He came unto His own, and his own received Him not. 12: But as many as received Him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believed on His name.**
- e. John uses some unique expressions. As an example, in **John 14:20** he says, **At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.** We know the term, **"ye in me" means salvation;** and **"I in you" means sanctification.**
- f. There is no question that John writes a spiritual Gospel, and he leaves no stones unturned. John does not take us to Bethlehem, but to the beginning.
- g. The **Book of John** opens by saying **John 1:1, In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**
- h. **"In the beginning"** goes back as far as our minds can go and we will find Jesus there in eternity past.
- i. **There is no question that the Lord Jesus was both human and Divine.** John tells us in **John 1:3** that **All things were made by Him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.**
- j. In **John 1:14**, he tells us, **And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.** John was speaking of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself coming to save mankind.
- k. The **Book of John** covers the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ more extensively than any other gospel writer.
- l. John gives us seven appearances of our Lord Jesus after His resurrection.

1. The first and most dramatic appearance was to Mary Magdalene in the garden.
 2. The second appearance was to the disciples in the upper room, *Thomas being absent.*
 3. The third appearance was again to the disciples in the upper room when *Thomas was present.*
 4. The fourth appearance was by the Sea of Galilee.
 5. There were three other appearances by our Saviour as He showed Himself *alive for forty days after His resurrection by many infallible proofs. Acts 1:3, To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:*
- m. *It was on the fortieth day that Jesus ascended into heaven and took His seat at the right hand of the Father. Acts 1:11, Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven. Acts 2:33, Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.*
- n. He commissioned and prepared Simon Peter in his discourse in **John 21:15-17** as He quizzed him about his love for Him. *So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. 16: He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. 17: He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.*
- o. Peter got the message. On the Day of Pentecost, he preached, and 3000 souls were saved.
- p. The Lord Jesus said in **John 8:12**, *Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. In John 14:6, Jesus said, Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. In John 6:35, Jesus speaks again, And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.*
- q. John gives us the purpose of the writing of this particular book in **John 20:30-31** *when he says, And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: 31: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.*
- r. The **Gospel of John** leaves no stones unturned. *We already know it is not by works of righteousness that we are saved.* He emphatically tells Nicodemus it is not about religion. **John 3:3**, *Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

- s. John tells us in no uncertain terms that Jesus is the way. Jesus is the one who went to the cross and died for our sins according to the Scriptures.
- t. The Deity of Christ is emphasized in this Gospel. It is considered the foreground; however, John has not lost sight of the humanity of Christ.
- u. It tells us our Lord was weary of His journey as He went through Samaria. It also tells us He wept which points out the fact of His humanity. **John 4:6, Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour. John 11:35, Jesus wept.**
- v. The last thing I want to emphasize from this remarkable book is that **John 16:28** says, I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father.
- w. God became a man. This is a simple statement and a fact of the **Gospel of John. John 1:14, And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.**
- x. A short brief on the themes in the **Book of John** are:
 1. **God loves each of us so much that he gave us His son so that anyone believing in Jesus should not perish but shall have eternal life. John 3:16, For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**
 2. Miracles are given not only to heal, but also as a sign pointing to Jesus. **Mark 16:20, And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.**
 3. **God expects us to love not only Him, but our neighbors also.**
 4. **Christ understands our hurts. He paid the supreme sacrifice to heal them.** This healing involves the sin-sick soul. **Isaiah 53:5-6, But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. 6: All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. John 15:3, Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. 1 Peter 2:24, Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.**
 5. **The Holy Spirit gives us an eternal peace which the world cannot understand, cannot manufacture, and cannot purchase. Romans 5:1, Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:**

2. INTRODUCTION

Refer to the Morning Message November 8, 2020

3. TEN POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

h. As the Father hath loved me,...

1. **John 15:9-11, As the Father hath loved me,** so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. **10:** If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. **11:** These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.
2. The Lord wants us to have a good time. He wants us to enjoy His salvation. He has provided for us that we might have the abundant life here on Earth. **John**

10:10, The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

3. Few believers ever reach into the depths of God's abundant living. The idea is we cannot live the Christian life, we must allow the Holy Spirit to live the Christian life through us.
4. When we do, it is a lot of fun as we go through life.
5. Working for the Lord should not be stressful. We should not allow Satan to steal our joy. **John 15:9, As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. Nehemiah 8:10, Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.**
6. We should abide in His love. It gives us joy. **1 Peter 1:8, Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: James 1:2, My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;**
 - i. **This is my commandment,...**
 1. **John 15:12, This is my commandment. That ye love one another, as I have loved you.**
 2. The Lord Jesus Christ does not like to see Christians with a sad countenance, bad attitudes and in a stressed-out condition. **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Rejoice evermore. 17: Pray without ceasing. 18: In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.**
 3. He wants us to be obedient and stay within His perfect will for our lives.
 4. The love we express for the Lord Jesus Christ should also be love we express for our fellow believers.
 5. I am amazed at how many believers do not love other believers. **1 Peter 1:22, Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:**
 - j. **Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.**
 1. **John 15:13-14, Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. 14: Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.**
 2. Jesus not only laid down His life for His friends, but He also laid it down for the Pharisees who did not like Him and the Sadducees who did not understand Him.
 3. Jesus laid down His life for those of us who were unsaved and have now come to a saving knowledge of God's Son.
 4. It is amazing what He has done for us.
 5. Once we come to know Him as personal Saviour, we can then go to work in His vineyard and do a work for Him.
 6. On this Veterans Day we remember those who have paid the supreme sacrifice so that we can enjoy the many blessings in our great country. Truly they have laid down their lives for their friends.
 - k. **Henceforth I call you not servants;...**
 1. **John 15:15-16, Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard**

of my Father I have made known unto you. **16:** Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

2. Again, Jesus emphasizes that the context of this entire passage has to do with fruit bearing.
3. Jesus is our friend; He knows all about us. We can know for a fact that once we accept Him as personal Saviour that we will have a home in Heaven. **1 John 5:13, These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. 1 Peter 1:4, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,**
4. It is based on God's promises and covenant that He cannot break. Our salvation has never been based on what we do or fail to do. **Jonah 2:9, But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.**
5. **2 Peter 1:4, Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.**
6. Do not miss - *Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you,* - It is very necessary we understand this.
7. He also tells us in **John 10:27-28, My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.**
8. He then sets up the condition again that when we are in His will, in Him for salvation, what we ask He will give it to us because we are not asking amiss. **James 4:3, Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.**

i. These things I command you,...

1. **John 15:17, These things I command you,** *that ye love one another.*
2. One of the things we are short on is love for the brethren. **1 John 3:11, For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. 1 John 3:14, We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. 1 John 4:20, If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?**
3. We sing about it, we talk about it, but we display little of it. As a matter of fact, there is even a lack of love in the church.
4. We are to restore the weak brother or sister. **Galatians 6:1, Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.**
5. We are to indicate that Jesus expressed that love for us as He laid down His life on the cross for us. We must be willing to display that love one to another.

m. If the world hate you,...

1. **John 15:18-19, If the world hate you,** *ye know that it hated me before it hated you. 19: If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye*

are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

2. Notice Jesus tells us we are chosen "out of the world."
 3. The ministry of the Holy Spirit is found in **John 16:8**, **And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:**
 4. We must be willing to not be popular when it comes to the doctrines of Jesus Christ specifically as it involves the Preserved Word of God, the Deity of Christ and justification by faith.
 5. We are not to compromise, nor seek popularity, self-glorification or be prideful. We are to bring glory to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in every aspect.
 6. *If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.* – Do not worry about the world. **John 16:33**, **These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.**
- n. Remember the word that I said unto you,...**
1. **John 15:20**, **Remember the word that I said unto you.** *The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. 21: But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me. 22: If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin.*
 2. God the Father, the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit has judged sin.
 3. It was necessary for the Lord Jesus Christ to come and die on the cross for the sins of mankind. He could not have drowned in the Sea of Galilee and it had done the same thing. The emphasis here is "how" Christ died for our sins. **1 Corinthians 15:3-4**, **For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4: And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: Hebrews 9:22, And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.**
 4. He died on Calvary. He died on Calvary for your sin and mine. He did not die on the skull – He died on Calvary. **Luke 23:33**, **And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left.**
 5. *If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin.* – Jesus has pulled the cloak off sin.
- o. He that hateth me hateth my Father also.**
1. **John 15:23**, **He that hateth me hateth my Father also.**
 2. Jesus emphatically tells us in **John 10:30**, *I and my Father are one.*
 3. Jesus was not afraid to declare unto us that He is God. He is the mediator between God and man. **1 Timothy 2:5**, **For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 1 Timothy 3:16**, **And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory. Hebrews 1:8, But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.**

4. *He that hateth me hateth my Father also.* – There are some who cavalierly report that they can get to God without going through Jesus. That is not possible my friend. **John 14:6**, *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*
- p. **If I had not done among them the works...**
1. **John 15:24-25**, *If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father. 25: But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause.*
 2. There was no cause for men and women to hate the Lord Jesus Christ. **Psalms 35:19**, *Let not them that are mine enemies wrongfully rejoice over me: neither let them wink with the eye that hate me without a cause. Psalms 69:4*, *They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head: they that would destroy me, being mine enemies wrongfully, are mighty: then I restored that which I took not away.*
 3. They hate Him because He was conceived by the Holy Spirit. He was not a created being. You cannot put the Lord Jesus Christ in a test tube and shake Him up and come out with the results you are looking for. **Matthew 1:20**, *But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.*
 4. He is the Saviour of the World. He is the ONE who will sit on the throne of David and rule and reign in righteousness for a thousand years. **Proverbs 29:2**, *When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.*
 5. Now, He comforts them one more time with the next verse.
- q. **But when the Comforter is come,...**
1. **John 15:26-27**, *But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: 27: And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.*
 2. The Comforter is the Holy Spirit – the Spirit of Truth.
 3. *he shall testify of me:* - He will testify of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 4. *ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.* – The disciples are to bear witness.
 5. The Spirit of Truth came on the Day of Pentecost. There were **seven things** that the Holy Spirit was to do. **John 16:13**, *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. 14: He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.*
 6. When we allow the Holy Spirit to live the Christian life through us, it is amazing what we can do.
 7. What a great comfort on this Veterans Day from the Preserved Word of God as it has been laid out in **John 15:13**, *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*

8. Jesus not only laid down His life for those who have come to know Him as Saviour, but He shed enough blood on the cross for the entire world to be saved. **Matthew 11:28-30**, *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29: Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30: For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

4. CONCLUSION

- a. Do you know the Saviour? If you do not know Jesus Christ as personal Saviour today needs to be your day of salvation.
- b. We thank God for the salvation plan.
- c. **Romans 3:23**, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
- d. **Romans 3:10**, *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*
- e. **Romans 10:9-10**, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*
- f. **John 15:13**, *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*
- g. Thank God for those who have laid down their lives so we can continue to have freedom in America! The beautiful array of American and state flags on our church lawn demonstrates to the world the freedom that we have in America.
- h. Would you please stand?

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