

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Selfish Contentions

John 3:22-36

II Timothy 3:16, All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness...

including **John 3:22-36**

- How should what happened then, **impact our lives now?**

Like **I Corinthians 1:1-13** are the lenses we understood that book through,

John 1:1-18, Are the lenses for understanding this book:

- John revealing **Jesus** & Jesus revealing **God**
- This is about **relationship**, not about history

Vs. 22-24, After these things Jesus and His disciples came into the land of Judea, and there He remained with them and baptized. Now **John also was baptizing** in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there. And they came and were baptized. For John had not yet been thrown into prison.

***4:1-2**, the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John (though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples)

Now, the apostle John is revealing **John the Baptist revealing Jesus as Messiah/God**

Vs. 25, Then **there arose a dispute**

between some of John's disciples and **the Jews** about purification.

- ("The Jews", **ESV** - a Jew, **NIV** - a certain Jew)
- **NKJV** must have assumed he represented more than himself

What are the most applicable issues identified for us here?

- Unfortunately, **dispute among God's people** is the first thing
- Followed by the affirmation that **Christ is Everything**, and... **Everything is for Him**

Dispute is a **constant human vulnerability** since sin entered

- **Adam & Eve**, It's her fault, and You gave her to me
- **Cain & Abel**, I'll do it my own way. I'm not going to be dependent on my brother
- **Abe & Lot**, Prosperity divides us, & Lot chooses selfishly

John 17:20-23 & 13:34-35

- How much dispute & contention are **of Christ?**
- **God unites us as one**. The world, the flesh & the devil divide for self

People attempt to assume Christ's rightful position
(Matt. 12:30)

- Though they are **unintentional** in their ignorance...
- Ignorance doesn't mitigate **the guilt of presumption**

What was the dispute about? **Baptism & Purification**

- I'm/we are right... so, you are wrong!
- Which is followed by **an even worst error**

Baptism isn't about **how** you do it.

- It's about **why** you do it

Anyone feeling superior for baptizing "correctly"...

- Is doing it with a self-centered spirit

Vs. 26-29, And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified—behold, He is baptizing, and **all are coming to Him!**" John answered and said, "**A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven. (I Cor. 4:7)** You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent before Him.' **He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom**, who stands and hears him, **rejoices greatly** because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore **this joy of mine is fulfilled.**"

We're losing our crowd to the new guy!

- **We're supposed to.** They're His, not ours
- And I couldn't be happier about it!

Baptism didn't yet represent the death, burial & resurrection of Jesus (**Romans 6:3-5**)

- That hadn't happened yet
- Baptism was for the repentance of sin

Vs. 30, "He must increase, but I must decrease."

- **The best testimony anyone ever had!**

Vs. 31-32, "He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth. **He who comes from heaven is above all.** And **what He has seen and heard, that He testifies**; and no one receives His testimony."

- **6:38**, "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."

Vs. 33-34, "He who has received His testimony has certified that God is true. For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure."

- **Receiving Christ's Word**, we are absolutely convinced He is true.
- God's Spirit gives us **the full conviction of righteousness**

Vs. 1:12, But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name

Vs. 35-36, "The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand. **He who believes in the Son has everlasting life**; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

- **Matthew 28:18**, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

Romans 1:18-22, The wrath of God is allowing people to receive the just consequences of their rejection of Him.

- God will condemn no one, but **people condemn themselves** in exalting themselves above Him

Vs. 3:16-17, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whoever believes in Him** should not perish but have everlasting life. For **God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.**"

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Acts 16:30-31, *The Philippian jailer asked Paul & Silas, "What must I do to be saved?" So they said to him, "**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved**, you and your household."*

- *Believe in Christ, and have faith for your family*
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II Peter 3:9, The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. Instead He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

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If you have not yet given up the throne of your life, to the One who loves you and gave His life for you...

- **Do it now!** *There is no reason to live another day stranded & abandoned for eternity.*