

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN -- MESSAGE 5A

SOME GOSPEL IMPLICATIONS AND APPLICATIONS FOR THE GOOD OF OUR SOULS BASED ON THE WORDS:

"IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD AND THE WORD WAS GOD. HE WAS IN THE BEGINNING WITH GOD. ALL THINGS WERE MADE THROUGH HIM, AND WITHOUT HIM WAS NOT ANY THING MADE THAT WAS MADE. IN HIM WAS LIFE, AND THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN." JOHN 1:1-4

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VCF

We often think that the gospel
begins w/ us
majors on our need for salvation
in a sense saying God's greatest interest
is us

probably because we begin
most everything with ourselves

but coming into the gospels
that's just not the ultimate priority
Good News always starts w/ Jesus
w/ His supremacy / greatness
and decidedly NOT w/ us

This is not a minor point either
for whenever we begin with us
we don't arrive at the same place
as when we begin with Him

when we are truly converted
we are converted to much more than
an exalted self-interest
where God is our cosmic servant
giving a free ticket to heaven

conversion to Jesus
will embrace who He really is
and embrace His Word totally
His priority totally

and we can't do that unless
we exchange all we are
all we would choose
for Him and what He chooses for us

The rest of the book will draw out
this crucial conclusion . . .
salvation issues from the Word
the Word is the Lord Jesus Christ
who is both with God and is God
Faith in THIS Jesus alone
brings salvation

Not only acceptance of Him
but also resistance to Him
happens along this line
many willing to listen to Him
as a messenger of God
bringing unique blessings
but when He proclaimed Himself as God
they backed away

as long as they are able
to project onto Jesus
their own perceived self-interest
they followed Him
but when He turned / challenged them
to reject themselves and follow Him
they abandoned Him in droves

It's no different today
Many try and strike a bargain with God
As long as He will comply
with our own will and plan
we might choose to follow

God will never strike that bargain
any "following" of God or Christ
any "faith" in God or Christ
that functions on that basis
is bogus

for this very reason the following
that Jesus gathered
contained a mixed crowd of both
true believers
and temporary followers
those who had saving faith
those who had only temporary faith
not worthy to be called faith

Many will only listen to God
or give a listen to Jesus
or consider the Word
when they perceive He's talking
about them
and what they're interested in

that's not the real "listening"
of a disciple, real believer

Be sure of your faith then
What are we to believe about Jesus?
There are no shortcuts.
We are carefully cherish
study, reverence
how God goes about the business
of revealing His Son

We are to start where God starts . . .
and here the Lord begins:

Word is WITH God and IS God:
God is a Tri-personal Being
One Being and Three Persons

Son is another person from the Father
but not another Being from the Father
Though all of this is beyond
our comprehension it is not
beyond some basis of understanding
else it would not be given in Scripture
it is meant to be pondered as
part of living an informed
and godly faith

Jesus is only begotten Son of the Father
not think in physical/biological terms
not in creative terms
eternally begotten
eternally in relationship with the Father

Neither does John begin with
our need of a reconciled relationship
with God

It begins with the exalted
and awesome nature of the
connection between F and S

word "with" in Greek can be take
to mean, "toward"
combine the two
have outstanding understanding
with God but toward God as well
oriented toward the Father

Son is not only eternally "with" F
but is also eternally involved with
all His heart
in moving toward the Father
it's not just a static relationship
but a dynamic relating
John is the window, clearest
into F and S
"I and the Father am one."
"I am in the F and the F is in Me."
John 17

Here is the very good basis for saying
Xnty not 1st to be thought of
as a religion
but as a healthy/growing r

ultimate relationship
pattern for all godly relationships

it is not enough
that h and w
 p and ch
 brother and sister
friend and friend
or that church members
simply hang out "with" each other

there's meant to be in each of these
a deliberate choice made
 to move "toward" each other

to know and share
to enjoy and be responsible for
and to challenge
 one another
 over and over