

104.16. BIRTH OF THE MINISTRY

Jesus, the son of God, who was born of a virgin, so as to not inherit man's sinful DNA & nature, annually went to Jerusalem for the Passover Feast with His parents, His step father, Joseph & His mother, Mary & when he was 12 yrs. old, He got left behind & His parents searched for Him & found Him in the temple court, sitting with the wise teachers & prophets & all who heard Him were astounded at His knowledge, of God & the laws of goodness. When His parents saw Him; they said, we've been looking for you with heavy hearts & He replied, knew ye not that I must go about my Father's business, Luke 2:49.

After this we don't hear about Jesus for 18 more years, as He increased in wisdom, stature & in favor with God & men, Luke 2:52, for 30 years of living as a mere man & then He would be baptized & receive Gods Holy spirit in His life & start His 3½ year earthly ministry, as the fulfillment of God's promise & gift of salvation, for mankind, which is found in all 4 of the Gospels, beginning the new testament, Mathew, Mark, Luke & John.

The Apostle John, In the book of John, starts out saying; In the beginning was the Word (of God) & the Word (of God) was with God & the Word (of God) was Divine as translated from the Greek, though many translate it as the word was God? (God's word is the full authority of God) & the Word (of God) became flesh, placed in Jesus & Jesus has full authority over the all-powerful words of God & He dwelt among us & we have seen His full glory, full of God's character, Words, Grace & Truth.

The Word was sent by God, through Jesus, to reveal His character & to prove that He alone was worthy of worship & praise, as the one true God fully represented through His son.

Those of Jesus day, understood the Word of God as being very personal, interactive & alive, as Jesus is the living Word of God, in the flesh, God's words activated in His son & just as God's all-powerful spirit & words manifested & came alive in & through His son Jesus, they can manifest & come alive in & through us as well, through Christ, if we trust & believe Him.

Jesus is the vessel, through which the Father brought all physical reality into existence & He is the One Who represents the Father's invisible nature & character, as He was in the beginning with God & is the essence of God, in that His character & words are of God & equal to the Father's, as they come from the Father, with Christ having full authority over all & just as our spirit talks to us; as who truly knows a man's heart, but that man's spirit, so who truly knows God's heart, but God's own spirit? so if our spirit talks to & guides us, wouldn't Gods do the same, for Him? & for His Son Jesus Christ.

So in effect, you can believe in God, without believing in the Son, but you will not be saved, as we have access to the Father, through the Son & by believing in what His son did for the world, John 3:16

Along with the leading of spirit's; God's & man's, we also need to be sure to use the mind that God has given us, realizing that Jesus came for all & even though He mostly referred to Jewish people at the time, as He was Jewish & among the Jewish people, as the Gentile church was not born yet; but His Father, as an all knowing God, saw the Gentile church just as clearly as the Jewish one, right from the beginning of time & He knew that all would be grafted in, as one in His perfect plan & as such, He was making all His words, rules, promises, tribulations & righteousness, to cover all His church, all His people, all His children, from before the

foundation of the world, which is the full body of believers, Jew & Gentile alike, without preference to any one over the other.

This righteousness is given through “the faith of Jesus Christ” to all who believe. There is neither Jew, nor Greek, there is neither bond, nor free, there is neither male, nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus, Galatians 3:28, for all have sinned & fallen short of the glory of God, Romans 3:23 & all are justified freely by His grace, through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of His blood, to be received by faith. For a person is justified by faith, apart from the works of the law, as God is the God of all & there is only one God, who will justify the circumcised by faith & the uncircumcised through that same faith, Romans 3:21-30.

So, Jesus came to die for all mankind’s sins, that the repentant may be declared righteous, to be able to stand in front of a Holy God John 3:16. He came to teach us how to live, as victors, not victims, as He canceled binding religious traditions & taught that we are to love all, including our enemies & to do good, even to those who hate us, Luke 6:27.

He also taught that money is not evil, but the love of money can be, as no one can serve 2 masters, as he will be loyal to the one & despise the other Matt. 6:24. So you cannot serve God & mammon (money), Luke 16:13, as if we love anything, or anyone more than we love God, than we have in effect made that person, or thing a “god” in our heart, which is idolatry & to which Jesus asks, what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world & loses his soul, Matt. 16:26.

So, we have a choice to make, we can choose the world & lose our soul; or choose Jesus & gain eternal life, as we seek to live differently than the world.

He says to enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate that leads to destruction, but narrow is the gate & difficult the way, that leads to life, Matthew 7:13.

Living narrowly is thinking, talking & responding differently i.e., living different than the world, which radiates the sinful rantings of the self-seeking selfish pleasures of the unsaved. In other words, we don't blend in with traditions & worldly ways, but stand out among the crowd, Matthew 6:14.

Jesus also teaches, complete forgiveness in that if we forgive others their trespasses, our heavenly Father will also forgive us ours, but if we do not forgive others, then neither will our Father forgive our sins, against Him, Math. 6:14. Now forgiveness doesn't mean denying, or condoning bad deeds, or pardoning the earthly & heavenly consequences, it just means that we release the stranglehold that hatred can bring on us, by trusting & giving our pain & vengeance to God, so that we may move on in life & peace, knowing that God never forgets & will take care of bad deeds, in His timing, not ours & this way we can concentrate on healing & our relationship with Him, which is where our focus belongs.

So do not say, I'll do to them as they have done to me; I'll pay them back for what they did, Proverbs 24:29, as God says, vengeance is Mine; I will repay, in due time their foot will slip; for their day of disaster is near & their doom is coming, for the Lord will vindicate His people & have compassion on His servants, Deuteronomy 32:35.

Jesus says that to follow Him, one must deny himself & take up his cross, Luke 9:23, for whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life, for My sake, will find it, Math. 16:25. Denying ourselves means we choose God's ways, not ours; we choose what's right, not what's easy. When we deny ourselves, we may lose some worldly things, or friends, in our lives, but in the end, we have eternal joy & peace with Christ.

Jesus said, I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep & my sheep know me, just as the Father knows me & I know Him. My Father loves me, as I lay down my life, for My sheep & take it up again, no one takes it from me, I have authority to lay it down & to take it up. The works I do in my Father's name, testify about me, but you don't believe, as you are not my sheep, My sheep listen to my voice & I give them eternal life & they shall not perish, as My Father, who gave them to me, is greater than all & no one can snatch them out of His hand, John 10:14-30.

In Luke 15:3-7, Jesus told this parable; Suppose one has a hundred sheep & loses one. Doesn't he leave the 99 & go after the lost one? & when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders & goes home. Then he calls his friends & neighbors together & says, rejoice with me, I have found my lost sheep. I tell you in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over 1 sinner who repents, than over 99 righteous persons who don't need to. This is a good reference to the true work of the church, of not just teaching the saved about Christ's goodness, but teaching them how to use it, to find the lost ones.

If you declare with your mouth, Jesus is Lord & believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe & are justified & with your mouth, that you profess your faith & are saved, Roman 10:9-10. There are only 2 choices, either you're

a sheep with a Good Shepherd & a bright future, or a goat who will be lost in eternal darkness & torment in the same pit as the demons?

Unbelief blinds people to the selfishness & pride that allows them to think they can escape judgment & which causes them to not see that Christ came to provide the way to be forgiven & to make us right with God.

Those who were close to Christ knew He was sinless & saw His authority, wisdom & power, proving Him to be of & from God, but when He changed their dead hearts, they refused to believe. Pride caused them to say, He is not of God. Those who heard Him didn't reject Him from lack of evidence, but in spite of the evidence; they did not reject Him, for lack of the truth, but because they rejected the truth. They refused forgiveness, as they loved their sins & they denied the light, because they liked the dark. People reject God, because they think that they prefer their own way, over God's way. The ones who hear the Word & asks for more evidence are just obstinate, as the one who does not accept the light of God, will not believe no matter how much light is given & will find every foolish reason to justify their rejection. They are offended by Christians & so make unimportant learned religious themes, seem relevant for condoning their animosity & unbelief. They have a bag of excuses to not believe the clear claims & promises of Christ & as such they remain lost & condemned, rather than accepting the free gift of Christ.

Some tell us to be careful to not condemn the lost, as we are trying to reach them, but we must remember, they are already condemned, by their own decision.

Now some who are seeking God, may be confused, due to falsely learned, heard, conflicting, or confusing doctrine, which is why God uses us, to test His truths & to show us how some teachers may use “small” forbidden additions & deletions to supposedly make God’s perfect works, more user friendly? But what they have done is turned parts of God’s black & white gospel, into shades of grey, through inferred beliefs & unproven truths, which has divided & separated many, as they are not sure if what they believe is tested.

Understand that God knows about & has allowed manipulation, misinterpretations & false teaching, to test & prove us; as God did not write, or format the bible, man did & though God is the author, He warns us about being careful, where men’s hands have been. We are to teach what God says & what is proven true, not what we believe to be true.

Of 30K Bible verses, I have found few which appear suspicious? so I do fully believe God’s Word’s, but I will do as He says, as I study, test & prove those verses which causes me to ask; Is it worth rocking the boat, of centuries of beliefs, of millions of Christians, in the name of God’s truths; Absolutely, as God’s truth is life & man’s traditions & inferences leads to confusion & possibly death, for not just us, but for all those that we may confuse, right out of trusting God’s word, due to men’s beliefs.

Again you have to ask yourself, do you just want your beliefs validated as “truth” to boost your ego, even if they are false, or do you want to know & teach God’s truth’s, at all costs, even if it means readjusting your pride & seeing that some of your held beliefs, may just be, held beliefs, that aren’t worth taking up room in your head, as there may just be a God tested truth, that trumps your lifelong belief?

I will also remind you again, don't take my word on all that I am writing about, I am allowing God to lead me & to show me how to test & prove things for myself, but remember, He says we are all to test our beliefs, or disbeliefs through Him, for ourselves. Also, whatever we find & learn, remember that we all follow One God, with each of us having the same standing when trying to impress God, which none of us can do. Which means we are not here to argue for God, or to look down on any who thinks, or believes differently, as we are all looking to glorify the same God, that deserves all our glory, together, as when we are loving & lifting each other up, that is when God is working & doing His best, through us, so call me crazy, or whatever you wish, but be assured that I am your loving brother, in Christ.