

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We trust the reality that God is love (1 John 4:8). Love is other-centered, not self-seeking. The full representation of the love of God came in human flesh through the person of Jesus Christ, who created all things in the universe by the word of His mouth, lived a life of service to humanity and saved us from our sins, our rebellion, our own desire to live without Him. By His death and resurrection we have assurance of a future without pain, hurt and selfishness.

We also trust the ancient scriptures hold the evidence for the story of this passionate God, how He intended the world to be, what happened to get the world in the mess that it is in and if this mess is ever going to end.

Throughout these studies from the books of the bible we will see enough evidence that can give us assurance God loves us deeply, has won the hearts of most of the universe, except for this little planet, but His light is shining on the heart of humanity brighter and brighter each day. As restored followers of Christ, we will also show outwardly how to live a life of other-centered love, helping others in physical, material, emotional and spiritual need.

INTRO

Chapter 9 of John tells of Christ's encounter with a man who was born blind. When the disciples saw the man, they asked Jesus, 9:2 "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?", their question came from an old belief that if someone had some physical defect or if tragedies happened to people, it was because they had sinned, because they were sinners. Jesus' actions and words that follow serve to answer their questions.

In chapter 10 we see Jesus explaining the central theology of the Bible in a way so simple but so objective, that leaves us with little doubt of what we actually need to do in this life, v. 9, "whoever enters through me will be saved." There is no other way.

1) THE HEALING OF THE MAN BORN BLIND

John 9:1-41

Jesus answered immediately the mistaken theology of his disciples with the words, v. 4-5, "As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." While Jesus was on earth, he would do the works of the Father who sent Him, as He himself says in Luke 4:16-20.

Immediately after the cure of the blind man, which fell on a Sabbath, the Pharisees wanted to accuse Jesus and the blind man, indignant because Jesus healed on the Sabbath. Culminating with the Pharisees and the blind man debating about the character of God.

The blind man finally declares, v. 25, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" The power of Christ touched the blind man's conscience, but he still had to understand that Jesus was the Messiah.

When Jesus met him again, after a conversation with Christ, the blind man finally says about Christ being the Messiah, v. 38, "Lord, I believe, and he worshiped him."

2) JESUS IS THE DOOR, THE GOOD SHEPHERD

John 10:1-21

Jesus always found a way to share his divine messages eloquently. He used the most simple analogies and was using what was common for people at that time, therefore, equating the kingdom of God to a shepherd and his sheep was a form of teaching aimed at convincing the simplest, most humble citizens of Israel, many of these analogies still serve very well for us today.

notes:

3) "I AND THE FATHER ARE ONE"

John 10:24-42

Not only was Jesus making the Pharisees angry for not following their exaggerated rules about the Sabbath by doing good on that day, the theology of Christ also offended the Jewish people themselves. These analogies about Jesus being the good shepherd, the door, only intensified the anger that people had, after all, they believed that a human being could never compare himself to God.

When Jesus said that He and the Father were one, He wanted to emphasize that He was equal with God, therefore in the same way, God is like Jesus. He is just as kind, compassionate, forgiving and concerned about our well being as Christ. This theology angered the people so much that they picked up stones to kill him (v. 31). Do we believe in this truth presented by Jesus, that He is equal with the Father, that the Father is like Him? Both love and give us infinite value, both do not condemn us, both sacrifice themselves to save you and me. Do you believe?

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