

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. How was John prepared for his life's work?
2. Why did he preach in desert places?
3. Why was Christ baptized?
4. What is baptism unto repentance?
5. Could someone like John be effective in this day and age?
(Hebrews 13:21)
6. Why was it God's will that John baptize Jesus first?
(Luke 1:76 and Isaiah 40:3)

SUMMARY:

John began the work of man's ministry of preaching here on earth. His purpose was to make straight the path of the Lord or to the Lord. This remains the task of born-again believers yet today. To make straight the paths involves the removing of obstacles much as the building of our great highways of today. This can be done in a number of ways which includes witnessing and living a consistent sanctified life.

John began the work. Christ accomplished His purpose here on earth and left a work for us. It behooves us now to turn our lives over to God and to His leading and to allow Him to fulfill our individual purpose here on earth.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #2

October 14, 2007

Fourth Quarter

JOHN ANNOUNCES CHRIST

LESSON TEXT: *Matthew 3:1-17*

LESSON SETTING: Wilderness of Judea

TIME: Approximately 30 AD

- I. PREPARATION OF THE WAY.** Matthew 3:1-4
 - A. The Act—Repent (vs. 2) Joel 2:12; Acts 3:19
 - B. Why—Now is the Time (vs. 2) Psalm 95:7-8; 2 Corinthians 6:2
 - C. The Messenger—Prophesied (vs. 3) Isaiah 7:14; Malachi 3:1; Matthew 11:10
- II. PROCLAMATION OF THE MESSAGE.** Matthew 3:5-12
 - A. Bring Forth Fruits (vs. 8) Matthew 7:16; Luke 3:8
 - B. Pre-eminence of Christ (vs. 11) Colossians 1:18; Hebrews 1:4
 - C. Promise of the Spirit (vs. 11) Joel 2:28; Acts 2:38
 - D. Separation of Good and Bad (vs. 12) Matthew 13:30, 49
- III. PRESENTATION OF THE KING.** Matthew 3:13-17
 - A. John's Witness. John 1:29, 36
 - B. Witness of the Spirit (vs. 16) Luke 3:22; John 1:32
 - C. Divine Witness (vs. 17) Mark 1:11; 1 John 5:9

GOLDEN TEXT: *BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD, WHICH TAKETH AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD.*
John 1:29

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Matthew 4:1-11

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Genesis 3:1-15; Mark 1:1-3;
Luke 4:1-13

QUARTERLY THEME: Christ - King and Savior

TOPIC: VICTORY IN TEMPTATION

INTRODUCTION:

All sin can be placed in three categories as listed for us in 1 John 2:16. They are: (1) the lust of the flesh, (2) the lust of the eyes, (3) the pride of life. The temptations that Jesus experienced when Satan tempted Him in the wilderness included each of these types as our lesson explains. In each of these, Jesus was victorious. The Word tells us He was tempted like as we are, yet without sin. (Hebrews 4:15) By His victories He has set a pattern for us and has provided a way whereby we can be victorious too. It is very interesting to note that Jesus used the scriptures in overcoming temptation. It is essential that we too are so familiar with the scriptures that we can likewise use them. When we are so prepared with the Word of God and are filled with the Spirit then we too can have victory. We belittle the Lord and degrade the Holy Spirit if we say, "we are still in the flesh and have weaknesses so we cannot have complete victory." Instead we should live our lives so close to the Lord that we can say with the apostle Paul, "Thanks be to God who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 15:57) **Let us live lives that are a testimony of victory, not of weakness!**

CENTRAL TRUTH: The true Christian message must exalt the miraculous Christ as King and Savior.

GOLDEN TEXT: *THOU SHALT WORSHIP THE LORD THY GOD,
AND HIM ONLY SHALT THOU SERVE.*

Matthew 4:10

One of Jesus' temptations was a promise of earthly gain if Jesus would serve Satan. It was on this occasion that Jesus quoted our Golden Text in His answer to Satan, which is also part of the Ten Commandments. Perhaps this is the most deceptive way that Satan has for tempting people. He doesn't ask directly that we serve him, but how he does tempt with all forms of earthly gain, things that will consume time, talent, money and whatever else we have that should be dedicated to the Lord. These things overtake mankind in such a subtle way that they often are not detected. Satan knows that if he can get us to place such emphasis on these things he then has us in his power and we, in effect, are worshipping him. The struggle for earthly gain is seldom content with that which supplies our needs. Instead man always wants more and more. If we might only learn that we ought to serve God and Him only, trusting that He will supply all our needs in Christ Jesus!

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF October 15 - 21

- M. The Temptation of Adam and Eve. Genesis 3:1-15
- T. The Temptation of Job. Job 1:13-22
- W. *The Temptation of Christ. Matthew 4:1-11
- T. The Temptation of Judas. Luke 22:1-16
- F. The Temptation of Peter. Luke 22:54-62
- S. Temptation to be Guarded Against. Ephesians 6:10-18
- S. Temptation to be Overcome. James 1:2-12