

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why is it so hard for man to believe the facts of Jesus' existence and so much easier to believe science's explanation of the beginning of man?
2. Is it easier for men to believe in Jesus now than when He was on this earth in the form of man?
3. What are some of the effects or benefits of the new birth?
4. How is the Word a *living* Word?

SUMMARY:

Even man's best efforts serve only to try to help man's relationship with his fellow man. While this is an admirable goal, man can never be right with his fellows until he is right with his God. He can never be complete until he has within his being the knowledge that he has considered the Creator of us all and has become reconciled with God. As can be proved by history repeated in every generation, his feeble attempts only backfire. Give a person too much and he will lose his self-respect and either hate the giver or be willing to let the giver provide for him and hate himself. Make the law too tough and it only genders a competition that attempts to get away with it. Make the law too lax and there is no respect for law and anarchy results. It is only through the plan of God that man can accept what he needs from God and obtain mercy with respect.

Whatever we may tell ourselves about Christmas, it is never in the right spirit unless we first get right with God.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #12

December 23, 2018

Fourth Quarter

THE LIVING WORD

LESSON TEXT: John 1:1-17

LESSON SETTING: The ministry of John the Baptist.

TIME: Approximately 26 A.D.

I. REVELATION OF THE WORD. John 1:1-4

- A. Jesus, From the Beginning (vs. 1-2) John 17:24
- B. Author of Creation (vs. 3) 1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 3:9
- C. Life in Christ (vs. 4) John 10:10; 1 John 5:12

II. REJECTION OF THE WORD. John 1:5-11

- A. Light Not Seen (vs. 5) Micah 3:6; John 3:19
- B. Christ Not Recognized (vs. 10) John 9:30; Acts 13:27
- C. Christ Rejected (vs. 11) Mark 6:3; John 12:48

III. RECEPTION OF THE WORD. John 1:12-17

- A. Receiving the Word (vs. 12) Matthew 10:40; Luke 8:40
- B. Born of God (vs. 13) Ezekiel 36:26; 1 Peter 1:23
- C. Filled with Christ's Fullness (vs. 16) Ephesians 1:23, 4:13

GOLDEN TEXT: *IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD.* John 1:1

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Micah 3:9-12; 4:1-8

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Isaiah 11:1-9; Luke 1:31-33;
Revelation 20:1-10

QUARTERLY THEME: Kings and Prophets of Judah

TOPIC: MICAH, PROPHET OF THE KINGDOM

INTRODUCTION:

Micah, called one of the Minor Prophets, was active during the reign of three of the kings of Judah, which ended about 110 years before the captivity. The first of these three kings, Jotham, reigned 16 years and was a good king. The second king, Ahaz, reigned 16 years and was a wicked king. The third, Hezekiah reigned 29 years and was one of the best of the kings of Judah.

Even during this generally good period of history for Judah, God's warnings of judgment were sent out. Also came the words of encouragement that God would establish His kingdom forever in Jerusalem.

Today too, we have God's warnings of judgment. How often people would try to stop the mouths of the men of God with this message and rather would desire only the messages of promise! Yet the fulfillment of such messages are contingent today as well as hundreds of years ago upon repentant hearts and attitudes, and a separation from the ways of this world.

If we expect to be partakers in the kingdom of God here in this life and moreover in eternity, we need to "come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing: and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." (2 Corinthians 6:17-18)

CENTRAL TRUTH: The Kingdom of God will ultimately triumph over rebellious mankind.

GOLDEN TEXT: *THY KINGDOM COME. THY WILL BE DONE IN EARTH, AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.*

Matthew 6:10

Millions of people are familiar with these words and many can quote them from memory, being a part of what we refer to as the Lord's Prayer. Yet how many of these millions really know the full meaning of these words?

When we quote them, are we really ready for the Lord to come to establish His kingdom? If He would come today, would we be ready to meet Him? Would we be counted as one of His great company or would we be among those who would come under His iron rule and His judgment? May we take time to examine our speech and our prayers and see if we are really ready for the Lord to answer our prayers.

A father once expressed grave concern for the salvation of a child and besought the Lord to bring conviction to that heart. A brother came with this thought. Are you really ready to pay the price for your child's salvation? This may mean sickness or even death for you so that the child can be awakened.

If we are ready to pay the supreme sacrifice God will answer our prayers. Thus may we be ready and really mean it when we pray "Thy Kingdom come."

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF Dec. 24 – 30

- M. Perverted Leadership. Micah 3:1-8
- T. *Prophet of the Kingdom. Micah 3:9-12; 4:1-8
- W. The Coming of a King. Micah 5:1-15
- T. The Lord's Requirements. Micah 6:1-8
- F. The Place of Renewal. Micah 7:7-9, 18-20
- S. A Parable of the Kingdom. Matthew 21:33-46
- S. The Coming King. Revelation 9:11-16

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