

## **“COME TO JESUS”**

“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”

If you could sum the Bible up in one sentence, what would that be? If you could take the overall theme of Scriptures and relate that to someone who has never read a chapter or a verse of God’s holy manuscripts, what truth would you point out to them? I have no doubt in my mind that there are those who would sum up the Word of God as God’s laws for mankind. If you study the Old Testament you will find six-hundred and thirteen laws known as the “Law’s of Moses.” One cannot argue that God’s Word does not contain God’s law...it most certainly does. I’m sure that there would be other’s who would say that the Bible is best summed up as the stories of God’s people, and there is not a doubt that the Scriptures are full of stories. There might be another who would say that the Bible is record of the Church, concealed in the Old Testament and revealed in the New Testament. This is also academically true. But I believe that when Christ was giving His revelation through the angel to John, He closed the final seal on the Holy Book with the greatest summation that could ever be given, for He is the Author of this immutable work. And before the final benediction is given, Christ makes one more plea with mankind. Let us study this plea today and see how it might benefit us.

### **1. The Invitation**

Christ utters forth a final invitation through His Holy Spirit when He breaths the words, “And the Spirit and the bride say, Come.” The purpose of this final invitation is to show how willing Christ is for all to simply “come” just as we are. Albert Barnes in his notes on this passage says, “The design of this whole verse is, evidently, to show the freeness of the offers of the gospel; to condense in a summary manner all the invitations of mercy to mankind; and to leave on the mind at the close of the book a deep impression of the ample provisions which has been made for the salvation of a fallen race. Nothing, it is clear, could be more appropriate at the close of this book, and at the close of the whole volume of revealed truth, than to announce, in the most clear and attracting form, that salvation is free to all, and that whosoever will may be saved.” One of the most mind-boggling, awe-striking, humbling truths in the world is that the God Who created the universe would invite us into His presence, and yet this is what John records in the final verses of the Bible.

Dr. Adrian Rogers often made the point in his preaching that, “Holiness is not the way to Christ, but Christ is the way to holiness.” It seems that it is not just the unrepentant sinner who needs to come to Jesus for salvation, but it is the unrelenting saint who must realize that Jesus is our source for righteousness.

Too often a weary saint stumbles down the road of life, bent on the accomplishment of good deeds. It is like the weary traveler who was picked up by a kind stranger in the stranger buckboard. The kind stranger, on his way into the small western town offered the weary traveler who bore a heavy load on his back a ride. The weary travel gratefully climbed aboard the horse-drawn wagon, but much to the amusement of the kind stranger he left his heavy, wearisome pack on his back. After a mile or so the stranger suggested to the traveler that he would be welcome to remove his pack from his back and place it in the buckboard, to which the traveler replied, "Good sir, it is enough that you are giving me a ride, I will carry my own pack." Too often we as Christians final to realize that the invitation to come to Jesus is a daily invitation for sinner and saint alike!

Not only does Jesus provide us with an invitation to come, but there is also:

## **2. The Declaration**

Specifically in this passage, there are two declaring participants of this invitation. The first is the Spirit. He entreats all to come, and to come just as we are. The Holy Spirit of God does His work through the Word of God in such passages like Isaiah 1:18: "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." He also works on the the consciences of mankind, as is stated in Proverbs 20:27: "The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly." How ironic is it that those who do not believe in a Creator believe in the morality that is instilled upon the conscience of mankind? Friend, it is not coincidence that we all have a little man who follows us home called our conscience, and that when we have wronged someone our conscience will keep us up at night. God has so designed us that His Spirit will convict us of our need for Him. May we be never silence that conviction to the point where we can no longer distinguish His voice in our spirit!

The second declaring participant is to be the bride. The bride of Christ in Scripture is none other than the church. That is, the church is to invite all to come and be saved. The ministers of the church are to make it their vocation. There is no business greater that the minister of God can engage in than the business of declaring that Christ Himself invites the rich and the poor, the educated and the uneducated, the just and the unjust to come to Him. The practices and procedures of the church of our Lord Jesus Christ are to have one common goal in mind...the invitation of the Gospel. Our order of service is to point to preaching of the Gospel, our Bible study lessons are to point to the study of the Gospel, our music is to point to the Giver of the Gospel, our tithes and offerings are to point to the sacrifice we make and our willingness to engage in the furtherance of the Gospel, our missions giving and going is to point to the value that every nation, kindred, and tribe hear the Gospel, our activities are to point to the fact that we are serving for the sake of the Gospel, our fellowship with one another is to point to the unity of the Gospel, our parenting is to point to the family of God by which we enter into because of the Gospel, our forgiveness of one another's faults is to point to the One who forgave us and created the Gospel, our joy in the Lord is to point to the fact that we focus on the Gospel, and our acceptance of one another as part of the beloved in Christ is to point to the reality that we are all saved because of the

Gospel. In these last days would to God that Christians would once again unite as the bride of Christ and tell a lost and dying world, "Come!"

Not only is there the invitation to come and the declaration to come, but there is also:

### **3. The Proclamation**

A unique truth that is mentioned here but is rarely preached is the realization that there are to be proclaimers of the Gospel who may not even understand or accept it for themselves. How free is the Gospel! Jesus says that if anyone even hears, they are to tell others to come! I believe the application is simple and yet profound. Our church should have such a testimony in the community, that if anyone needs help, someone can say that the church at 12501 Champion Forest Drive named Christchurch Baptist Fellowship is the place to go! Our homes should be known as places where the good news is found. God desires for us to be such a lighthouse that any ship that is being tossed about by the seas of life can turn in and find shelter. I love what one country preacher said, "The gospel is simply one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread."

Lastly, we see:

### **4. The Realization**

We do not truly grasp the gospel until we admit that there is not one soul for whom Christ did not die. The Bible is replete with the fulness of the Gospel. II Peter 3:9 unequivocally states that: "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should COME to repentance." The arms of Jesus were held open wide on the cross of Calvary, and as I picture Him hanging there, He who knew no sin, I can only imagine the echoes of Scripture now signified by His open embrace, "Whosoever will may come." The application to the Christian is that no matter how unworthy someone may appear, no matter what his past life may have been, no matter how old or how young, no matter how rich or how poor, no matter how sick or how well, no matter how educated or how ignorant, no matter whether clothed in purple or in rags - riding in state or laid at the gate full of sores, we have the awesome responsibility to tell everyone we come in contact with to come.

Friend, won't you come to Jesus?

- Pastor Caleb