Quarter Four: Themes in the Gospel of John Jill Morikone Lesson 9—The Source of Life Tuesday: Believing and New Birth November 26, 2024

- Last Week: "Fulfilling Old Testament Prophecies"
 - John 5, 8, 13, 17
 - Jesus' fulfillment as Messiah from the OT Scriptures (prophecies)
 - Yet, some still rejected Him
- This Week: "The Source of Life"
 - o John 1, 6, 10
 - Jesus as the I AM, possessing preexistent life & offering eternal life to all who accept Him by faith

Memory Text: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6, NKJV)

The week in brief:

- 1. **Sunday**: In Him Was Life (John D)
 - John 1, 3, 6, & 7 Jesus possessing eternal, pre-existent life; His substitutionary sacrifice, so we could have eternal life, as well
- 2. Monday: The Words of Eternal Life (James)
 - John 6 Jesus possessing eternal life our faith that receives this gift & claims His blood for cleansing from sin; Jesus as the Bread of Life (His life, death, resurrection are the source of eternal life)
- 3. **Tuesday**: Believing and New Birth (Jill)
 - \circ John 1:12, 13; 20:31 purpose of the gospel = to possess eternal life
 - Process of the new birth: believing / faith & being changed / transformed
- 4. Wednesday: Rejecting the Source of Life (SQ)
 - John 1, Num 13 Christ was rejected because people didn't accept His Word; importance of faith vs doubt
- 5. Thursday: Condemnation (Daniel)
 - John 3; 5; 8; 12; Matt 4 importance of basing beliefs on the authority of the Word of God – not feelings, doubts, or outward experiences

Tuesday: Believing and New Birth

John 1:12, 13; John 20:31; Rom 10:17; John 5:24, 38, 47; John 16:7, 8; Rom 8:16

- What is the purpose of John's gospel? Why was it written?
 - John 20:31, 31 "And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; (31) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."

- Believe / believing = *Pisteuo* = *pist-yoo'-o* verb "believe" occurs 98 times in John (244 times in all of NT)
 - Verb means "those who are continuing to believe"
 - Indicates constant action over time, not a one-time even
- John's gospel = 2-fold purpose:
 - Believe that Jesus = the Christ, the Son of God
 - Experience eternal life
- How does faith play a role in our lives as Christians?
 - Faith in the Christian experience
 - Approach the Word from the perspective of faith or doubt?
 - Can knowledge of our salvation ever bring assurance?
 - What role do we play and what role does God play in our salvation?

• 6 Steps of Conversion / new birth experience from John's gospel

• 1. Respond to the drawing power of God

- John 6:44 "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day."
 - Draws = "to draw; to drag"
 - Indicates one-sided work God is drawing & we are responding to His drawing; more passive on our part
 - Rom 2:4 "it is the goodness of God that leads to repentance"
- John 12:32 "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself."
 - Any desire for change, for good, for God, comes from God

• 2. Recognize Jesus is your Substitute

- John 1:29 "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, 'Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"
 - Christ = the substitutionary Sacrifice
 - \circ The Lamb of God
 - His death takes away sin
 - Sacrificial lamb in the sanctuary service
- 1 John 1:7 "it is the blood of Jesus that cleanses us from all sin"
- Eph 1:7 "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace."

3. Receive Him by faith

- John 1:12 "But as many as **received** Him, to them He gave the **right** to become children of God, to those who **believe** in His name."
 - Received = Gk, "actively lay hold of; accept with initiative"
 Our part we reach out and lay hold of Him; accept Him by faith
 - Right = Gk, excousia = "authority"
 - Believe = Gk, *pist-yoo* '-o = verb of believe / faith
 - Those who continue to believe

- John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."
 - Believes = those who continue to believe
 - Indicates constant action over time
 - Receive His sacrifice / substitutionary work on the cross by faith
 - His cleansing blood, frees me from condemnation & gives me eternal life
 - **Purpose statement**: best statement in the gospel of John about "why" Jesus came to this world
 - God's love is so wondrous that He gave His best: His only Son
 - God's love is so immense it embraces all humanity nobody is excluded
 - God's love is so powerful it's effects will last forever life will last forever
 - God's love is not compulsory can be enjoyed **only** when we respond with faith in Jesus
 - Eternal life = a gift; but we can choose to accept or reject it
- Eph 2:8 "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God."
- 2 Cor 5:21 "God made Him who knew no sin to be sin for me, that we might receive the righteousness of God."
- Receive the gift of His Word
 - The Word of God
 - The Words Jesus spoke
 - John 5:24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life..."
 - John 5:47 "But if you do not believe his writings (Moses), how will you believe My words?"
 - Importance of believing His Word

• 4. Repent and be baptized

- John 1:26 "John answered them, saying, 'I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. (27) It is He who coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose."
- John 3:22 "And after these things Jesus and His disciples came into the land of Judea, and there He remained with them and baptized."
 - John 4:2 "Jesus didn't baptize, but His disciples did
 - Argument over who baptized more
- Matt 3:2 "…'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!'"
 - From John the Baptist

• Matt 4:17 – "From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.""

• 5. Experience His regenerating power in your heart

- John 1:12, 13 "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name, (13) who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."
 - Right = Gk, excousia = "authority"
 - He gives us authority or power to become God's children
 - If we are "born of God" we receive His power
 - He alone has power to regenerate our hearts

Nicodemus' experience (John 3)

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- Must be born again (Gk, "from above")
 - Moral purification & inner transformation by the power of the Holy Spirit
- Jesus questions' Nicodemus' core beliefs
 - Jews believed the Gentiles needed to be converted, not the Jews
 - Jews heritage back to Abraham
 - Jews believed
 - They were the chosen people
 - They were not in bondage
 - They were not sinners
 - They did not need conversion

• 6. Rest in the assurance of His salvation

- John 5:24 "Most assuredly I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life."
 - *Assurance now "Cover with His life, whiter than snow"
 - Believe constant action over time
 - Judgment means "condemnation"
- Humanistic approach
 - Find a foundation, the criteria for faith, & then believe
- By contrast, faith is the foundation, a gift from God
 - We start with the foundation, and then grow in understanding & grace

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