

# The **Good News** that John Wrote

***...that you may believe that  
Jesus is the Christ, the Son of  
God, and that believing you  
may have life in his name.***

**John 20.31**

***Life in the Spirit***

# Objectives of the Class

- To behold in our hearts the glory of Christ
- To participate more deeply in life in the Spirit
- To become more conformed to His image
- To pray for and encourage one another

# Prayer Before Reading Scripture

Shine within our hearts, loving Master, the pure light of Your divine knowledge and open the eyes of our minds that we may comprehend the message of Your Gospel. Instill in us also reverence for Your blessed commandments, so that having conquered all sinful desires, we may pursue a spiritual life, thinking and doing all those things that are pleasing to You. For You, Christ our God, are the light of our souls and bodies, and to You we give glory together with Your Father who is without beginning and Your all holy, good, and life giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

# Study

John 6.44 and 6.65

**Free Will and the Grace of God:  
the Battle for Our Hearts**

## Consider...

1. People cannot come to me unless the Father who sent me *draws* them to me; (John 6.44)
2. ...no people can come to me unless the Father *makes it possible* for them to do so. (John 6.63)
3. ...no one goes to the Father *except by me*. (John 14.6)

# Questions

1. Does God pick and choose which people He will give the ability to come to Jesus?
2. Does God predestine some people for eternal life and others for eternal separation from Him?
3. Does salvation only depend on God's effort?

**No!!!**

# God Wants All People to Be Saved

- For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life. **John 3.16**
- The Lord...does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants all to turn away from their sins. **2 Peter 3.9**













# **Except by God's Grace We are All Enslaved to Sin**

...Jesus said to those who believed in him,  
“If you obey my teaching, you are really my  
disciples; you will know the truth, and the  
truth will set you free.”

**John 8.32**

# **Except by God's Grace We are All Enslaved to Sin**

**“We are the descendants of Abraham,”  
they answered, “and we have never been  
anybody’s slaves. What do you mean, then,  
by saying, ‘You will be free’?” **John 8.34****

# **Except by God's Grace We are All Enslaved to Sin**

Jesus said to them, “I am telling you the truth: everyone who sins is a slave of sin. A slave does not belong to a family permanently, but a son belongs there forever. If the Son sets you free, then you will be really free. **John 8.34-36**

## **The Battlefield in the Fight for Salvation is the Heart**

**“How terrible for you, teachers of the Law and Pharisees! You hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look fine on the outside but are full of bones and decaying corpses on the inside. **Matthew 23.27****



# **The Battlefield in the Fight for Salvation is the Heart**

**My son, give me your heart; And let  
your eyes keep in my ways.**

**Proverbs 23.26**

# **The Battlefield for the Fight for Salvation is the Heart**

...where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is evil, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! **Matthew 6.21-23**

# **The Battlefield in the Fight for Salvation is the Heart**

Do not love the world or anything that belongs to the world. If you love the world, you do not love the Father. Everything that belongs to the world —what the sinful self desires, what people see and want, and everything in this world that people are so proud of—none of this comes from the Father; it all comes from the world.

# **The Battlefield in the Fight for Salvation is the Heart**

The world and everything in it that people desire is passing away; but those who do the will of God live forever.

**1 John 2.15-17**

# How We Are Enslaved to Sin

- The 5 P's:
  - Physical well-being
  - Possessions
  - Pleasure
  - Power
  - Prestige
- When love / desire / lust for these comes first in our lives it results in enslavement to them.

## **The Desire to Cling to the Passions Blinds Us**

**This is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their works were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the light, and doesn't come to the light, lest his works would be exposed.**

**John 3.19-21**

# **The Desire to Cling to the Passions Blinds Us**

**Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires..**

**John 8.43**

# The Spiritually Blind are Unable to Come to Christ

1. People cannot come to me unless the Father who sent me *draws* them to me;  
(John 6.44)
2. ...no people can come to me unless the Father *makes it possible* for them to do so. (John 6.63)



## To Will to Be Freed is Necessary but Insufficient

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2. ...no people can come to me unless the Father *makes it possible* for them to do so. (John 6.63)

# **To Will to Be Freed is Necessary but Insufficient**

...work out your salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God who works in you both to will and to work, for his good pleasure.

**Philippians 2.12-13**



Listen! I stand at the door and knock; if any hear my voice and open the door, I will come into their house and eat with them, and they will eat with me. To those who win the victory I will give the right to sit beside me on my throne, just as I have been victorious and now sit by my Father on his throne.

**Rev. 3.20-21**

# The Law of the Spirit of Life

[God's] divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and virtue; by which he has granted to us his **precious** and exceedingly great **promises**; that through these you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world by lust.

**St. Peter, 2 Peter 1.3-4**

# **The Law of the Spirit of Life**

...walk by the Spirit, and you won't fulfill the lust of the flesh. Those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and lusts.

**St. Paul, Galatians 5.16; 24**

# **The Law of the Spirit of Life**

**There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who don't walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.**

# **The Law of the Spirit of Life**

**For what the law couldn't do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God did, sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh;**

# **The Law of the Spirit of Life**

that the ordinance of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

**St. Paul, Romans 8.1-4**





...they have  
conquered him by  
the blood of the  
Lamb and by the  
word of their  
testimony, for they  
loved not their  
lives even unto  
death. **Rev. 2.11**

# Summary

1. God is not willing that any should be lost.
2. Our hearts become attached to what we love.

# Summary

3. Our hearts should be attached to God.
4. Because of the Fall of Adam and Eve, we tend to love ourselves more than God and our neighbor.

## Summary

5. Self-love attaches our hearts to love / desire / lust for possessions, pleasure, power and prestige.
6. We can become enslaved to what our heart is attached to, even to the point of breaking the law of love of God and love of our neighbor.

# Summary

7. The Church Fathers call the things we are enslaved to the “passions.”
8. For some, enslavement to the love of possessions, pleasure, and prestige blinds them to their condition.

# Summary

9. Others who recognize the problem and want to be freed discover that they are unable to do so—they are enslaved.
10. To “will” to be freed is necessary but insufficient.

# Summary

11. To be freed takes the intervention of an outside power—God.
12. Being freed from the passions is a synergistic effort between God and man.
13. Christ became a man to have a human nature and as the Second Adam heal the fallen human nature.

# Summary

14. The battle for the salvation of people takes place in their hearts.

15. These are the reasons why:

1. No one can come to Jesus unless the Father draws/enables him/her.
2. No one can go to the Father except through the Son.



**Questions?**  
**Comments?**

# Prayer for God's Help

Almighty God, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, come to our help and deliver us from the difficulties that beset us. We believe Lord, that all trials of life are under Your care and that all things work for the good of those who love You. Do whatever is profitable for our souls. Take away from us fear, anxiety and distress. Help us to face and endure our difficulties with faith, courage and wisdom. Grant that these trials may bring us closer to You for You are our rock and refuge, our comfort and hope, our delight and joy. We trust in Your love and compassion. Forgive us every transgression, voluntary and involuntary. O Lord who loves mankind, deliver us from the Coronavirus. Send Your angel to watch over us and protect us. Grant health and recovery to those suffering from this virus. Guide the hands of physicians and nurses, and preserve those who are healthy that we may continue to serve our suffering brothers and sisters in peace, that together we may glorify thy most honorable and majestic name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.