

John #64

12:20-26

06.22.08

“If Anyone Serves Me, Let Him Follow Me”

Intro: As we journey through the _____ of John each new chapter and verse unfolds before us a most beautiful truth whereby we are drawn closer and closer to _____, even as He draws closer to the _____.

A. In the paragraph of Holy Writ before us today, yet another petal of the gospel opens for as we’ve read that the Lord _____ will _____ for the sins of His brethren (the believing Jews), today we will come to understand that He will also die for the sins of the world (_____ believing _____ also), and of His invitation to follow Him.

I. In a progressive unfolding of the _____ John turns our attention away from the Jewish peoples by introducing “certain _____.”

A. The “certain _____” “came to Philip” “and began to ask him, saying, ‘Sir, we wish to _____.’”

1. _____ first came and told _____ and then together they came and told _____.

II. “Jesus answered [the Greeks], saying, ‘The _____ has come for the _____ of Man to be _____.’”

A. This is the first time that we hear our Lord say that His _____

B. The title “Son of Man” is an unmistakable reference to the _____ which comes to us from the messianic prophecy of Daniel 7:13-14.

C. After calling the people to listen very intently, Jesus began to _____ that the Son of Man would be glorified by His _____ and resurrection, and the gaining of many _____!

1. The good news is that _____ Jesus’ _____ and resurrection He would bear much fruit; fruit from among the nations! Let the nations be glad for through His death and _____ Jesus brings His other (Greek/Gentile) sheep into the fold (the household of God)! Through His death and resurrection Jesus “_____ (s) together into one the _____ of God who are scattered abroad.”

2. We rejoice that “unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains by itself alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit” for _____! He died that we who were not the beloved might be called “the beloved children of God,” being the fruit of His sacrificial labor.

D. As the Lord's analogy of the seed pointed to Himself and what He would do for the salvation of men, He then pointed to the _____ of men to _____ in Him.

1. If a man is saved (believes in Christ) he will _____ his plan and _____ in the plan of God. Such a man who hates "his life in this world shall keep it to life eternal."
2. Jesus announced the proper and _____ response of those who would deny themselves in love for Him. If anyone will serve Him, they must _____ Him.

E. The Lord _____ everlasting _____ to all (Jew and Gentile alike) who serve Him. And this is the promise of Christ: that where [He] is, there shall [His] servants also be ..." Those who serve Christ will live with Christ. Jesus said, John 14:3, "... I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and _____ you to _____; that where I am, there you may be also."

1. And the promise continues for Jesus said, "if anyone serves Me, the _____ will _____ him."
 - a. No wonder the Apostle said, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the _____ that is to be _____ to us" (Romans 8:18).
 - b. As the lyrics of the song "A Mighty Fortress" says, "_____ goods and kindred _____, this mortal life also; The body they may kill: _____ truth abideth still, His kingdom is _____."

Conclusion: In receiving Christ for who He is, as Savior and Lord, it matters not who you are for He has promised salvation to all who follow Him for "there is no distinction between Greek and Jew ... but _____ and in all (Col. 3:11). Therefore, the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel (Eph. 3:6).

Here is the necessary response of salvation: Jesus said, "If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me." Good news! " _____ in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved ..." (Acts 16:31).

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