

“John the Baptist: His Message and His Lifestyle” (Part 1)

Luke 1:76-79; 3:1-20

*“Sin must be shocking, inexcusable, forbidden, appalling, and out of line with what we are as Christians. If not, we will make peace with our sin. We need a life of **truceless antagonism** (active hostility and opposition) with our sin.” (John Piper)*

Christianity without intentional sin-killing is like swimming without water. *“Put to death therefore what is earthly in you....on account of these the wrath of God is coming” (Colossians 3:5-6). “For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live” (Romans 8:13). “As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct” (1 Peter 1:14-15; cf. 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8).*

- Luke 1:76-80: The Prophecy About John the Baptist
 - Whose he was: *I’m not my own.*
 - John was the prophet (speaking on behalf of) of the Most High (All-powerful, Sovereign God). John had no message apart from God and had no life apart from God. He was not his own. God’s will was his will. A Christianity where we do what we want is foreign to the Bible (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Galatians 2:20; Romans 14:7-8).
 - What he was to do: *I proclaim His excellencies.*
 - He was to prepare Israel for the coming Messiah by calling them to repentance. John was also prepared by the Lord to live and to preach His message.
 - We need knowledge to understand salvation (Justification, Sanctification, Glorification). This knowledge is found in the Word of God.
 - This knowledge is because of the tender mercy of God. God’s love, mercy, and grace towards us should move us to repentance.
 - What would be the result: *I live according to His Word.*
 - This message gives light (sunrise) to those who sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death (John 3:19-20).
 - This transformation is so amazing that the Bible describes it in radical distinctions:
 - 1) From deafness to hearing (Matthew 13:15).
 - 2) From being blind to seeing (Acts 26:18).
 - 3) From being dead to being alive (Ephesians 2:5).
 - 4) From being in darkness to being in the light.
 - 5) From being lost to being found (Luke 19:10).
 - 6) From having nothing to having everything (1 Corinthians 3:21).
- This transformation leads to a totally different way of life. A life of holiness or sin-killing.

Announcements:

★**MEMBERS MEETING:** We are having a Members Business Meeting ***NEXT*** Sunday, July 23rd, immediately following the worship service. This meeting will be to discuss the *potential* of moving to a Sunday morning worship service. At this meeting we will be sharing the results of the anonymous ballot from the vote in May and opening the floor for Q&A. If you are currently a church member, please mark your calendars and plan to stay for this important meeting.

★**KINGS ISLAND:** Christina Strawn is organizing a group trip to Kings Island on Saturday, August 5th. Group Admission tickets are \$52 each (minimum of 15 people). Please contact Christina if you would like to go or you have any questions! (740-755-6512)

★**DONATIONS:** Throughout the month of July we are collecting monetary donations for Shannon and Vicki Bobb, they are one of the missionary families that we support as a church body. They are currently serving in Cambodia, where they live and serve and meet the physical and spiritual needs of those living in that region. For information about the Bobbs and their work in Cambodia, please see the bulletin board on the back table. There is a container on the back table for your monetary donations. You can also give on Venmo, please make sure to note that it is for the Bobbs.