

OWN THE VISION . . . *EXALT JESUS*

John 1:1-9, 19-34

- **Celebration's Mission** - To lead people to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ and difference-makers in the world.
- **Celebration's Vision - We pray God will use the Celebration family to: 1) Exalt Jesus** (Ephesians 3:21), **2) Transform Lives** (Titus 3:3-7), **3) Strengthen Families** (Acts 16:19-34), **4) Improve Communities** (Acts 8:5-8) **and 5) Impact our World** (Matthew 28:19-20).
- **John the Baptist was an unusual man who taught about restoration with God (Matthew 3:1-2), but also introduced Jesus Christ to people in his day.**
- John the Baptist about Jesus - *"Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! He is the one I was talking about when I said, 'A man is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for He existed long before me.'"* (John 1:29-30)
- **John the Baptist's mission was to help people see that Jesus is God's Son and Humankind's Savior - and that's our mission as well.**
- ***What can we learn from John the Baptist's message about Jesus that will help us to proclaim Him to the people around us in our world?***

We Learn From John The Baptist About The:

ETERNAL NATURE OF JESUS CHRIST

- John the Baptist - *"A man is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for He existed long before me."* (John 1:30)
- **Jesus has existed from before time began as part of the Triune God.**
- *"In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God."* (John 1:1-2)
- **Jesus has existed from the beginning as the *Creator Of All Things*.**
    - *"God created everything through Him, and nothing was created except through Him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and His life brought light to everyone."* (John 1:3-4)

- **Jesus has existed from the beginning as the *Revealer Of God's Truth.***
    - John the Baptist - *"He (Jesus) has come from above and is greater than anyone else. We are of the earth, and we speak of earthly things, but He has come from heaven and is greater than anyone else. He testifies about what He has seen and heard . . . Anyone who accepts His testimony can affirm that God is true. For He is sent by God. He speaks God's words . . ."* (John 3:31-34)
    - **Jesus' words and life give us a clear understanding of God's desires and direction for our lives.**

We Learn From John The Baptist About The:

<u>TRANSACTIONAL</u> WORK OF JESUS CHRIST

- John the Baptist - *"Look! T<u>he Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!</u> "* (John 1:29)
- **We are all sinners (Romans 3:10, 23), and our sins separate us from God in this life, and can keep us separated from God in the next life.**
- *"The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."* (Romans 6:23)
- **When Jesus becomes our Savior *God Forgives Our Sins*.**
    - *"God . . . purchased our freedom with the blood of His Son and forgave our sins."* (Ephesians 1:7)
    - **When our sins are forgiven we're reconciled with God and we enter into a new and different relationship with Him.**
- **When Jesus becomes our Savior *God Begins To Free Us From Our Strongholds.***
    - **Jesus came to bring us salvation, consolation, emancipation, illumination and liberation (Luke 4:18).**
    - Jesus - *"Whoever the Son sets free is truly free."* (John 8:36)
- **When Jesus becomes our Savior *God Guarantees Us A Future In Heaven*.**
    - John the Baptist - *"The Father loves His Son and has put everything into His hands. And anyone who believes in God's Son has eternal life. Anyone who doesn't obey the Son will never experience eternal life . . ."* (John 3:35-36)
- **Jesus is the only One who can bring us the forgiveness, freedom and future that we're looking for (John 14:6).**

We Learn From John The Baptist About The:

<u>TRANSFORMATIONAL</u> MINISTRY OF JESUS CHRIST

- John the Baptist - *"When God sent me to baptize with water, He told me, 'The One on whom you see the Spirit descend and rest is the One who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.'"* (John 1:33)
- **God's Spirit enters our lives when Jesus becomes our Savior.**
    - Peter - *"You must repent of your sins, turn to God, and be baptized to show that you have received forgiveness for your sins. <u>Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit</u>."* (Acts 2:38)
- **When God's Spirit Comes Into Our Lives *He Brings Us Direction*.**
    - Jesus - *"When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth."* (John 16:13)
- **When God's Spirit Comes Into Our Lives *He Brings Us Transformation*.**
    - *"The Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."* (Galatians 5:22-23)
    - *"The Lord - who is the Spirit - makes us more and more like Jesus . . ."* (2 Corinthians 3:18)
- ***In what ways has God's Son and God's Spirit transformed my life?***

- **Just like John the Baptist pointed people towards Jesus, we are to be pointing people towards Jesus because He remains the hope for our world.**
- **We can point people to Jesus by: 1) Living a godly life (Romans 12:1-2, 1 Peter 2:12), 2) Sharing our faith story with others (Acts 1:8), 3) Inviting people to Church activities (John 1:40-42), 4) Working to bring people to the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:18-20).**
- Paul - *"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."* (Galatians 2:20)
- **If we really want to exalt Jesus in and through our lives, we must be committed to loving Him, living for Him, serving Him and proclaiming Him.**
- *"After His baptism (by John the Baptist), as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on Him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy.'"* (Matthew 3:16-17)
- ***What steps do I need to take today to respond to today's message about Jesus?***