

John 1-21 – Review (Part 2)

In 6:67-68, when Jesus asked the disciples if they also wanted to go away, Peter said “Lord, to whom shall we go?” “You have the words of eternal life.” The Gospel of John talks about eternal life, inheriting the Kingdom of God and being children of God. In 1:12-13 we learned that the children of God are those who believe and receive Jesus. They are born not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man but of God.

In chapter 3, Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be born from above in order to enter the Kingdom of God. Jesus used terms of physical life in order to communicate truths about eternal life. Just as someone is born physically, so someone needs to be born spiritually in order to have eternal life. This birth has a divine origin. It is spiritual and from above.

In chapter 4, just as water sustains our physical life, Jesus spoke about the living water which he could give. This living water lasted forever. Jesus is the source and sustainer of our eternal life.

In chapter 5, just as the sick man looked for healing in the wrong place, the Pharisees were looking for eternal life in the wrong place. Jesus healed the man who was sick for 38 years. The pool played no part in the man’s healing. The Pharisees were looking for eternal life by trying to obey all the laws of the Old Testament. Jesus said “you search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life and it is they that bear witness to me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.” (5:39-40) The Pharisees, and all people, can only receive eternal life through Jesus. There is no other way. Trying to be “good” doesn’t work!

In chapter 6, just as bread sustains our physical life, Jesus said that he is the bread of life. He is the source and sustainer of spiritual life. There is no eternal life apart from Jesus. In verse 37 we learned that God gives certain people to his Son. These people, given to Jesus by the Father, all come to Jesus. Jesus receives all the people whom the Father has given to him and he loses none of them. He raises them all at the last day.

In chapter 7, Jesus invited the thirsty to come to him and drink. Verse 38 says, “whoever believes in me, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” John explained that Jesus was talking about the Holy Spirit. All who believe in Jesus Christ receive the Holy Spirit as John the Baptist had said earlier and as Jesus later told his disciples at the Last Supper.

In chapter 8, Jesus said that he is the Light of the World. Whoever follows Jesus will not walk in darkness. Just as we need light to live our lives, so Jesus is our spiritual Light to keep us from walking in the darkness of this world. Jesus backed up this claim when he gave sight to the man born blind in chapter 9.

In chapter 10, Jesus explained the close relationship that he has with those who believe in him. By using the figure of a shepherd and his sheep, he said that he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. His sheep know his voice and they follow him. Jesus, as the Good Shepherd, laid down his life for his sheep. Because Jesus died, we have eternal life.

In chapter 11, Jesus said that he is the resurrection and the life. To verify his words, he raised Lazarus from the dead after he had been in the tomb for four days. This also verified his statement that he can give life to whomever he wishes.

In John 14:6, Jesus said that he is the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through him. There are NOT many ways to God. Apart from Jesus Christ, there is no eternal life. There is no relationship with the Father. There is no entrance into the Kingdom of God.

Praise be to God for his marvelous gift of grace. Jesus truly was full of grace and truth.