

MAINTAIN OUR FOCUS ON JESUS
Harvest Missionary Baptist Church Sunday AM, March 12, 2006

□ **JOHN 1:1-18 JESUS IS THE FATHER'S ANSWER TO OUR NEEDS**

- ◆ For purposes of this message → God = The Father
 - Of course both Jesus and Holy Spirit = God
 - The world is in denial about Jesus but still clinging to “God”
- ◆ This lesson reminds us where our focus needs to be
 - Jesus, the Word, is God & was with God
 - Jesus created all things (Not a commonly known fact)
 - But the world does not know Him
 - Jesus' life is the light of all mankind
 - Darkness (world) does not understand this
 - Jesus, the true Light, lights every person in the world
 - Accountability brings light
 - Jesus became flesh
 - Jesus came to His own people (Israel), who did not receive Him
 - Jesus has the power to save by the will of God
 - Jesus brought grace & truth
 - No person has seen God, ever, but Jesus declares God
- ◆ **Luke 10:22** All we know about God we learned through Jesus
- ◆ **CONCL: TAKING FOCUS OFF JESUS IS TO LOSE FOCUS ON GOD**
 - Ex: Fed Court telling Ind Statehouse to remove references to Jesus
 - Ex: President putting all faiths on equal footing
 - Ex: The postmodernist world not able to condemn anything as wrong
 - Except narrow-minded Christians who say “Only Jesus”
 - “God” has become generic in the world
 - Really, it's an all out attack on Jesus to undermine truth of God

□ **EMPHASIS IN BIBLE IS CLEARLY ON JESUS**

- ◆ Sure, the Bible speaks of the Trinity
- ◆ **John 3:34-35** God the Father has given all things into Jesus' hand
 - **John 5:26-27** To have life in Himself & authority to judge
 - Jesus said on one occasion → Power to forgive sins
 - All in context of “Son of man”
 - Remember Jesus made lower than angels but still both God & man
 - **I Cor 15:24-28** At end Jesus gives all back & God becomes “all in all”
 - God has lifted Jesus up & given Him a name above all names
- ◆ (John 15:26) Holy Spirit testifies of Jesus
 - Which is why I'm critical of those who want to lift up Holy Spirit
- ◆ (John 5:39) Word of God (Bible) testifies of Jesus
 - Recognize when Jesus said this → Old Testament
- ◆ Jesus spoke of Himself as the focus of our faith
 - (I Cor 11:24-25) Lord's Supper to be done in remembrance of Him
 - (John 10:9) “I am the door”
 - (John 14:6) “I am the way, the truth and the life”

○ “No man can come to the Father except by Me”

- ◆ The Bible, Our faith & our life → All about focusing on Jesus
- **WE NEED TO EMPHASIZE THIS IN EVERY GENERATION**
 - ◆ (Matthew 5:14) Jesus told us that we are the light of the world
 - Of course that light is Jesus, who lights all men
 - But we are the candles holding the flame
 - ◆ Without effort of God's people/churches, the world is in darkness
 - **Romans 10:3-4** Jews ignorant establish their own righteousness
 - Christ's righteousness is what they need to see
 - **Ephesians 4:18-20** Gentiles follow in darkness → Past feeling
 - But Jesus' example is different
 - ◆ **Judges 2:10** Each generation has a responsibility
 - Otherwise the light goes out and our children won't see
 - Children don't automatically have the same values/beliefs as parents
- **BUT IT ISN'T JUST A FAMILY ISSUE**
 - ◆ As I stated → We (Lord's churches) are the light of the world
 - This was the context of Jesus' statement on the Sermon on the Mount
 - ◆ Harvest MBC is the light of this community
 - This community is in darkness
 - Our mission is to bring Jesus' light to it
 - A building won't do it
 - Waiting for some to drop-in won't do it very well
 - Advertising will help
 - But only advertising that focuses them on Jesus & His Word
 - One-on-one visits, face-to-face discussion is the best
 - Counseling is an extension of this with one added benefit
 - Typically the counselee is open to hearing
 - But don't just invite them out to our new building
 - Talk to them about Jesus
 - **Acts 5:28** Fill this area with doctrine about Jesus

SONG # 315 – I'll Tell the World