

February 11th 2018

Love – Big Deal

Matthew 3:13-17

Introduction:

- God had planned to make His love for mankind a big deal
 1. The b_____ of Jesus marks the beginning of publicly fulfilling this plan.
 2. How big of a deal is God's love to you?

S_____ in the place of sinners (13-15)

- John's baptism was a baptism of r_____
 1. Jesus was s_____ and had nothing to repent of.
 2. John at first refused to baptize Jesus because he was so much g_____ than him.
 3. Jesus told John the reason he had to baptize Him – to fulfill all r_____
- What did Jesus mean by fulfilling ALL righteousness?
 1. The Pharisees claimed to be righteous because of their ability to keep the religious r_____, but John refused to baptize them because inwardly they were sinful (Matt 3:7,8).
 2. No human is righteous in himself except J_____
 - a. Jesus had to be baptized so that He could be branded as a s_____ even though He was sinless (note that He did not defend His character. This showed His willingness to stand in the p_____ of sinners.
 - b. We can only become righteous in God's sight if Jesus s_____ places with us (Our sin for His righteousness – I Cor 1:30; Phil 3:9; Rom 5:1)
 3. Jesus fulfills all righteousness for those who t_____ in Him.

S_____ in the place of sinners (16,17)

- Immediately following Jesus's baptism
 1. The h_____ split open
 2. The S_____ descended on Him as a dove
 3. The F_____ spoke
- The words of the Father were from S_____ which Jesus had memorized. He understood perfectly what God was saying.
 1. *This is My Son, the beloved One*
 - a. God called the people of I_____ His son (Ex 4:22; Hosea 11:1)
 - b. Nowhere in Scripture does God call any individual His son except the person in Psalm 2:7 which is a reference to the

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- future Christ who would reign all nations with a rod of
i _____ (read the rest of the Psalm).
- c. Therefore, God was anointing Jesus as the final k _____
of Israel.
2. *In whom I am well-pleased*
- a. There is only one Scripture where God declares this – Is 42:1 –
which refers to the suffering s _____
- b. Jesus would publicly begin the ministry of this servant by:
- 1) Preaching the g _____ and healing all kinds of ailments (Is 61:1,2)
 - 2) He would complete the ministry of this servant by
s _____ horribly (Is 53)
 - i. P _____ for our transgressions
 - ii. C _____ for our iniquities
 - iii. H _____ by His scourging
 - iv. He would render Himself as a g _____ offering
3. Jesus volunteered to s _____ in the place of sinners
which proves that God's love is a big deal (Phil 2:6-8).

Conclusion:

If Jesus made God's love a big deal, we should make God's love in Christ a big deal.

1. Let us celebrate His love h _____ when we gather together – singing, giving, fellowshiping, learning, serving.
2. Let us share His love h _____ whenever there is opportunity.
3. Let us show His love h _____ by serving everyone's good – spouse, family, co-workers, friends, strangers, and enemies.

GOD'S LOVE IN CHRIST IS A BIG DEAL