

Meet the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 4:30 Sunday AM, December 3, 2023

Prelude – Scripture: Ephesians 4:20-32

(NASB95) But you did not learn Christ in this way, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, 22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. 25 Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE OF YOU WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another. 26 BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and do not give the devil an opportunity. 28 He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need. 29 Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear. 30 Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Life and change mark true believers, direct results of the gracious work of God to use individuals to display His disposition to love the unlovely and power to change the unchangeable. Christians under the Headship of Christ are not unstable and distracted, tossed . . . by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming, following different voices with different goals. They are not dependent on the futility of their own minds and therefore darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the hardness of their hearts. Instead, they are purposeful in their work among the people of God, speaking into each other's souls with the goal of each growing in ALL aspects into Christ. While the growth WILL be noticed, the saving difference of this change will be internal as God works so His people know Him in a way where change stems from worship for God's greatness and provision. And there is no greater sign of God's love, provision, and power to carry out His good will toward us than what we celebrate now at advent. Church, proclaim the glory of God seen through the incarnation.

*Hymn #93 (Red): Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Genuine worship based on a growing understanding of the character and works of God leads to treasuring His words and choices in line with His values. Obedience increasingly stems not from our amazing character, but from us desiring One as worthy as God to see His will done on earth as it is in heaven. Born again fellowship with God leads to you not only having an essential role to fill in the people of God growing together to the fullness of Christ, but the results of that goal will change your tongue, your anger, your work ethic, and last week, your heart's response. This week, we see more of the personal nature of God's work behind that change. 30 Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. We do not grow up in all aspects into Christ apart from the work of God, and today, we focus on God the Holy Spirit. One God, three persons—distinct, yet one. A unity that blows our minds, but a unity to which we are called to join. Do you want God to change you? Then look to the personal nature of the Holy Spirit as you follow Christ who promised to redeem you.

*Hymn (Powerpoint): Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God

*Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn

Choir: O Come O Come Emmanuel

Scripture: John 1:14–34

(NASB95) And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 John testified about Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.'" 16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. 17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him. 19 This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent to him priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" 20 And he confessed and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." 21 They asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." 22 Then they said to him, "Who are you, so that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?" 23 He said, "I am A VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, 'MAKE STRAIGHT THE WAY OF THE LORD,' as Isaiah the prophet said." 24 Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. 25 They asked him, and said to him, "Why then are you baptizing, if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" 26 John answered them saying, "I baptize in water, but among you stands One whom you do not know. 27 'It is He who comes after me, the thing of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.'" 28 These things took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing. 29 The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! 30 'This is He on behalf of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.' 31 'I did not recognize Him, but so that He might be manifested to Israel, I came baptizing in water.'" 32 John testified saying, "I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him. 33 'I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.' 34 'I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God.'"

Offering: *Doxology:

However the Holy Spirit worked to bring people to saving faith in the OT, it was concealed. Even John the Baptist in some sense did not recognize Jesus as the Christ, the Anointed One. "I did not recognize Him, but so that He might be manifest to Israel, I came baptizing in water." But that all changed when John was told, "He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit." This One on whom the Spirit remained was the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" This redemptive work of Christ began a new era. There would be a new people of God known not by nationality, but by the same indwelling Spirit. You cannot change as we've been challenged in chapter 4 apart from the work of the Spirit of God. You cannot continue acting as you were outside of Christ without grieving the Spirit of God. It IS personal. You WANT God to care for you personally, and He does. Then you must recognize it IS personal when you don't submit to the Spirit to help you willingly obey and live for Christ's agenda. Feel the weight of your need to submit to the Spirit, but also be thankful for the Spirit's work which convicts, guides, and leads you to focus on heaven's treasure—the day of redemption! Worship the work of the Triune God on your behalf and pray it would continue.

*Hymn #267: Come, Thou Almighty King

Message: Meet the Holy Spirit Ephesians 4:30

*Hymn #362: I Love Thee

The Lord's Table

We celebrate the cross at communion, and we should, for it provides the only way for this communion. But don't forget each member of the Triune God planning and orchestrating to not only give you opportunity to be reconciled to God, but to bring lasting change to the glory of God. THIS the power of the cross!

*Hymn (Powerpoint): The Power of the Cross

*Prayer