



Brown CG Zoom Session

Better Together, Week 3 – The Goal

June 21, 2020

I. Discussion of Scripture:

We have been exploring the biblical basis for living in peace and love with each other with no partiality or pre-judging. The ground is level at the foot of the cross. We were designed not to be alone, and in eternity future we will be worshipping with brothers and sisters in Christ from all nations and tribes and languages. The Bible is consistent from Genesis to Revelation that there is no partiality with God and His plan for a multi-ethnic Church will be and is being fulfilled.

II. Scripture:

Genesis 1-11 – The Beginning

- In the beginning... God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth...” (Gen. 1:1a, 27-28a) God said all He created was “very good.” From the beginning we were designed not to be alone.
- ***11 Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. ² And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. ³ And they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.” And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. ⁴ Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.” ⁵ And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. ⁶ And the LORD said, “Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. ⁷ Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another’s speech.” ⁸ So the LORD dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. ⁹ Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth. And from there the LORD dispersed them over the face of all the earth. (Gen. 11:1-9 ESV)***
- The people were forced by God now to scatter and fill the earth. People under the curse of sin could not live together as originally intended in peace and in love. Pride made that impossible. Multiple confusing languages was God’s method of forcing people apart.

Genesis 12 – Malachi 4 – The Intended Example

1. It is a pre-Fall universal truth that it is not good for man to be alone. Man is now scattered and confused and God calls one man to be a nation to bless other nations.
12 Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s

house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” (Gen. 12:1-3)

2. Through Abraham (Abram), Israel becomes that nation. They were set apart, children of God (see Ex. 19:6). They were called to be a blessing on the surrounding nations as an example of how God intended people to live. Israel’s obedience to God’s righteous Law was to be looked at with admiration by the surrounding nations and draw them to God (Deut. 4:6-8).
 - a. God’s choosing of His people draws other people to Himself. Remember the “mixed multitude” including Egyptians that left with Israel during the Exodus? (Ex. 12:38)
 - b. Consider Gentiles such as Jethro, Rahab, Ruth & Nebuchadnezzar who found Yahweh through God working in His people.
 - i. What are some ways that God reveals Himself to the world through us today?
3. But, because of Israel’s disobedience at many times in their history, they caused the name of God to be blasphemed in the surrounding nations.
 - a. In what ways does our sin profane His name today and cause for a bad witness?
4. BUT God will not allow His holy name to be blasphemed without intervening
²² “Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. ²³ And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Lord GOD, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. ²⁴ I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. ²⁵ I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. ²⁸ You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God. (Ezek. 36:22-28)
5. God brings people of diverse backgrounds together because it glorifies Him

Matthew – Jude - The Perfect Example & Our Commission

1. The Gospels:
 - a. Jesus was born into the nation of Israel and early on in the NT He is pictured as a Light to the Gentiles (Luke 2:32), through whom “all flesh shall see the salvation of God” (Luke 3:6). God was now working in His Son to bring the peoples of the earth to Himself. Jesus said, “And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw **all people** to Myself” (John 12:32).

- b. Jesus as our example showed complete disregard of manmade dividing lines. Remember the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4, and the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37, and the interaction with the woman in Mark 7:24-30, and the Roman Centurion in Matthew 8:5-13.
 - i. In what ways does the true presentation of the gospel draw all kinds of people together?
 - ii. Truly John the Baptist paved the way for Jesus. He preached repentance and the presence of the Kingdom, and all who craved that message came, from every background (Luke 3:1-17)
- 2. The Great Commission:
 - a. Jesus commands us to make disciples of “all nations” (Matt. 28:18-20)
 - b. What is the basis for Jesus making such a command? Are there any exceptions?
- 3. Pentecost:
 - a. 10 days after Jesus ascended into heaven, many surrounding nations had come to celebrate the festival of the Pentecost. The nations were dispersed at Babel through confusing languages. Now they were brought together and heard one language, a spiritual one. Yes they heard the message in their physical tongue, but the Holy Spirit in a sense translated it for all to hear.
 - b. God was now bringing people together again through a universal spiritual message with no language barrier: “Repent therefore and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus.” Loud and clear!
- 4. The Epistles:
 - a. Paul tells us as far as depends on us, strive to be at peace with all (Rom. 12:18)
 - b. He reminds us that there is no partiality with God (Rom. 2:11) and he himself lived that way (Gal. 2:6).
 - c. He tells Timothy not to prejudge (only use in the NT at 1Tim. 5:21 and is used in a moral sense)
 - d. Similarly, James tells us not to show partiality based on money or status (Jas. 2:1-13)

Revelation – One Nation Under God

1. The Bible’s final Book is Jesus’ own revelation of what the future will look like. In it we hear a new song being sung in heaven...

And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.” (Rev. 5:9-10)
2. And we see this picture...

⁹After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” (Rev. 7:9-10)
3. God sends out the gospel message to all nations and tribes and languages in Rev. 14:6.

III. Responding in Prayer:

- Pray that God would reveal any hidden partiality or prejudices in your heart. Ask Him to give you a desire and the strength and the opportunities to remove them and to see others how God sees them and to love them how He loves them.
- Pray for your Community Group that you would bond in unity towards these issues and that unbelievers and even ones of different ethnicities would see that bond and for God to move in their hearts to receive Him and join the multitudes we will see in Revelation.
- Pray for our church that we would recognize opportunities in our community and globally to reach the nations, to reflect His light that reached out to the Gentiles, and that He would draw all to Himself.