

Oaks-West Church of Christ

204 Second Street • Burnet, TX 78611 • 512-756-4493

March 21, 2021

The Messiah's Mission

by George Slover

“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;” (Isaiah 61:1)

Imagine a man walking into a religious assembly, opening the Bible to this passage, reading it, then proclaiming he was the fulfillment of this prophecy. Yet this is what Jesus did in the synagogue in Nazareth 2000 years ago. Luke says those who heard marveled at his gracious words.

Isaiah, 700 years before the time of Christ, spoke about the mission of the Messiah. Under the law, priests and kings were anointed as a sign of the appointment to a high office or commission by God. According to Isaiah, just what was God's mission for this Messiah-King?

Jesus did not come into the world to condemn it, but to save it. (John 3:17) The angels announced the birth of Christ proclaiming peace and good tidings. The Messiah's forerunner declared that “all flesh would see the salvation of God” (Luke 3:6) During his earthly ministry, Jesus plainly stated that he came to seek and save the lost. (Luke 19:9) There is no better good tidings than this.

The brokenhearted are the target of the Messiah's message. The main thrust of this proclamation is to those broken by the burden of sin. Christ made atonement for sin and secured a means of forgiveness. The Lord's life, death, and resurrection was a declaration of God's mercy.

In addition, the Messiah came to free the captives. All of Satan's prisoners are slaves of sin. Christ not only offered freedom from the guilt of sin, but freedom from

The Messiah's Mission ... concluded from front page

its bondage. "Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:11) Men are slaves of lust and habit. But Christ has opened the prison doors and cast off the fetters.

These marvelous blessings are not offered to the "rich" and "noble" – to those who solely pride in human accomplishment. They are offered to the meek and humble; to those so crushed by hopelessness, that their primary longing is the joy only found in fellowship with God. Have you given him your life?

You Know The Truth

(1 John 2:18-23)

by Warren Berkley

"Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrist have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us. But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth. Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the

antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also." (1 Jno. 2:18-23).

A.W. Tozer once wrote: "...there is scarcely an error in doctrine or a failure in applying Christian ethics that cannot be traced finally to imperfect and ignoble thoughts about God."

It did not take centuries for men to form and advocate error about the Father and the Son. At this place in his first epistle John begins to address this vital issue. When the truth about God and Jesus is distorted and proclaimed, those "who know the truth" are compelled to respond.

In John's time there were "many" who did not believe the truth about the Father and the Son. It wasn't that they hadn't learned yet. They were in denial of the Father and the Son, yet apparently were among Christians – then "went out."

It is also critical to observe in this passage, John doesn't speak of antichrist as a singular historical figure who would some day have a role to play in the end of the world. He said, "so now many antichrists have come." There is a tendency in modern times for people to reach into this passage and lock into "antichrist" and project into the present or future. That's not a fair use of the term. The take-away for us is, as Tozer implied: guard against error about the Father and the Son.

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.



Upcoming Ladies' Bible Classes - Next class March 23.

Services - The elders have decided to continue with the current service times of 10:45 am Sundays and 7:00 pm Wednesdays through the month of April. We will reevaluate in April. Thank you for your support and encouragement as we make these difficult decisions! --DT for the elders

Mark Your Calendars - our spring meeting with Tim Stevens is scheduled for April 25-28

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.



Please remember the following individuals in your daily prayers:

Jack Wilson
Jerry & Nancy Richardson
Ron & Sue Stanberry
Karen Hallmark
Morgan O'Hair
Dinah Williams
Bobbie Gibbons
Tyler Hairston
Don & Alene Simmons

And continue to pray for each other

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

We have many that face challenges on a daily basis and need your prayers as well.

“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

