

24. ARRIVE ALIVE IN JESUS (JOHN 5:19-24) 08/26/12  
 FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, ATCHISON, PASTOR LEE HENDON

REMEMBER THE INTERSTATE SIGNS IN THE 70'S? THEY READ, "ARRIVE ALIVE, DRIVE 55." THERE WAS A CRITICAL OIL SHORTAGE SO THE MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT EVEN ON INTERSTATES WAS REDUCED TO 55 MPH TO INCREASE GAS MILEAGE TO EASE THE OIL CRUNCH - **IT WORKED.**

A RECENT INTERSTATE SIGN I READ WAS, "ARRIVE ALIVE, DON'T DRINK & DRIVE." ALCOHOL RELATED FATALITIES ARE ON THE RISE. NEVER, EVER, DRIVE WHILE DRINKING - **IT WORKS.**

PERHAPS WE SHOULD HAVE A PARKING LOT SIGN THAT READS, "ARRIVE ALIVE, BELIEVE IN JESUS." JESUS PROCLAIMS HIM-SELF TO BE THE SOURCE-GIVER FOR LIFE NOW & INTO ETERNITY. HAVING JESUS AS YOUR LORD & SAVIOR **WORKS.**

JESUS WAS COMING UNDER SHARP & INCREASED ATTACK & CRITICISM FROM THE JEWISH RELIGIOUS LEADERS - THOSE WHO WERE SUPPOSE TO BE REPRESENTING GOD WANTED TO KILL JESUS TO SERVE GOD. DUH? KILL GOD TO SERVE GOD IS JUST CRAZY!

SO JESUS PUT THEM & US ON ALERT - HIS **IDENTITY** IS FOUNDED IN THE FATHER. IF WE WANT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AS FATHER - IT IS IN JESUS. THERE ARE MANY, MANY WAYS TO SEEK GOD, BUT TO FIND OUR REST & PEACE, OUR SALVATION IN THE FATHER IS ONLY THRU JESUS. THIS IS THE UNIQUENESS OF JESUS - TO SHOW US GOD AS FATHER. THEY ARE ONE IN THE SAME.

IF YOU HAVE AN EARNEST DESIRE TO KNOW GOD AS FATHER, **DRAW NEAR TO JESUS.** JESUS TAKES ALL THE GUESS WORK OUT. THE JEWS SAW GOD AS THE LAW-GIVER. MANY PEOPLE STILL SEE GOD AS LAW-GIVER. JESUS PROCLAIMS, "NOT SO, GRASSHOPPER, GOD IS LIKE ME, I AM LIKE THE FATHER." YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW GOD WOULD LIVE & BEHAVE & ACT AS A PERSON - LOOK TO JESUS - THERE YOU HAVE IT! IN JESUS WE SEE, WE EXPERIENCE GOD. CANNOT BE SAID TOO MUCH: THE MIND OF JESUS IS THE MIND OF GOD; THE WORDS OF JESUS ARE THE WORDS OF GOD; THE ACTIONS OF JESUS ARE THE ACTIONS OF GOD. GOT IT? GET IT!

THE JEWISH LEADERS DID NOT GET IT & STILL DO NOT. THE CROWDS OF PEOPLE AROUND JESUS DID GET IT & WERE COMING TO HIM IN DROVES. HOPEFULLY WE GET IT? THEY WERE, WE ARE, HUNGRY FOR THE WORD OF LIFE JESUS HAD/HAS TO GIVE. I

KNOW SOME CHRISTIANS WHO ARE STILL CONFUSED ABOUT THIS - THEY COME TO JESUS & EXPECT HIM TO BE THE LAW GIVER. HE IS NOT THE LAW GIVER, JESUS IS THE LIFE GIVER. THE LAW CONDEMNS & KILLS, JESUS SAVES & GIVES LIFE. PRAISE GOD FOR THE DIFFERENCE! JESUS AS LIFE GIVER DRAWS US TO HIM.

JESUS REFLECTS THE FATHER PERFECTLY IN THAT JESUS IS PERFECTLY IN **OBEDIENCE** TO THE FATHER. JESUS NEVER DID WHAT HE WANTED TO DO; HE ALWAYS DID WHAT GOD WANTED HIM TO DO - FOR THE SON & THE FATHER ARE ONE. AS JESUS HONORED THE FATHER IN OBEDIENCE, WE ARE TO HONOR JESUS IN OUR OBEDIENCE TO HIM. THIS HAS BEEN DIFFICULT FOR ME TO REALLY UNDERSTAND - I CAN BE SUCH AN INDEPENDENT ROGUE AT TIMES - I KNOW IT - SOME OF YOU ARE LIKE THAT TOO SOMETIMES. OBEDIENCE IS NOT POPULAR & IN VOGUE - THE AMERICAN WATCH WORD, RALLY CALL IS, **FREEDOM**. HOWEVER, JESUS DOES NOT VIOLATE OR CRUSH OUR FREEDOM - JESUS CALLS US TO FREELY COME TO HIM IN OBEDIENCE. WHY DO THAT? BECAUSE IN JESUS WE TRULY FIND LIFE. DRUGS, ALCOHOL, POWER, MONEY, SUCCESS, ON & ON FALSELY PROMISE LIFE BUT IF YOU HAVE EVER KNOWN A PERSON CONSUMED BY THESE YOU HAVE SEEN DEATH IN THEIR FEARS. ONLY JESUS GIVES LIFE - JESUS DOES NOT FORCE OR COERCE US - JESUS CALLS US INTO OBEDIENCE - WE FREELY FOLLOW OR NOT. JESUS IS ALWAYS LOOKING OUT FOR OUR BEST INTEREST & WE ARE AT OUR BEST WHEN WE OBEY HIM. WE ARE AT RISK & LOST WHEN WE TURN AWAY FROM JESUS. COME TO JESUS & FIND LIFE.

**JESUS IS THE LIFE GIVER.** YOU KNOW WHAT JUST STRANGLES THE LIFE OUT OF ME & MANY OTHER PEOPLE? THE JUDGMENT - CONDEMNATION - CRITICAL ATTITUDES OF THE LAW GIVERS. LIKE IT OR NOT, THAT IS WHY MANY UNCHURCHED PEOPLE STAY AWAY FROM CHURCHES. THEY FEAR THE POSTURING OF THE **LAW-GIVERS** WHO FREELY MEASURE OUT **GUILT & SHAME**. WHEN ALL ALONG WE AS CHURCH GOERS ARE TO CHAMPION & PRESENT JESUS, **THE LIFE GIVER**. THERE IS NO LIFE IN GUILT & SHAME SO LET'S DON'T GO THERE! JESUS STATED HERE THAT JUDGMENT IS IN HIS COURT & HIS COURT ONLY - WE NEED NOT PRESUME WE CAN HELP & ASSIST HIM - FOR JESUS IS VERY CAPABLE & ABLE TO HANDLE THAT HIMSELF - DON'T YOU THINK? I DO! WE ARE AT OUR BEST WHEN WE SUCK IN HIS LIFE &

EXHALE ALL GUILT & SHAME. THE APOSTLE JOHN WROTE, "GOD HAS GIVEN THE WHOLE PROCESS OF JUDGING TO THE SON." WHICH MEANS WE ARE NOT IN THE JUDGING BUSINESS - JESUS CAN BE TRUSTED WITH THAT - THANK THE LORD FOR HIS GRACE & LOVE!

MY MOTHER USE TO HAVE A WAY OF SUMMING THIS ALL UP - SHE'D SAY, "MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS & LEAVE OTHER PEOPLE TO MIND THEIR OWN." I THINK WE SOMETIMES GET A LITTLE FORGETFUL ABOUT THAT. WE SOMETIMES GET TO THINKING THAT JUST BECAUSE WE KNOW THE TRUTH, THE LAW, THAT WE ARE TO START JUDGING OTHERS BY THAT TRUTH OR LAW. REALLY? YES, REALLY SHAMEFULLY WE GET CAUGHT UP IN THAT GAME PLAYING FROM TIME TO TIME - NOT REALIZING THAT WE HAVE ENOUGH PROBLEMS OF OUR OWN TO MANAGE & LEAVE THE REST ALONE. IF WE REALLY WANT TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE WHEN THEY CROSS THE LINE OF THE LAW HOW ABOUT US BE LIKE JESUS TO GIVE THEM LOVE & GRACE. WHEN WE ARE GIVING ABUNDANT LOVE & GRACE WE REALLY SHINE & IT IS MORE HELPFUL TO THOSE WE THINK NEED OUR HELP!

THAT IS WHY LIKE JESUS, WE CAN LIVE OUR LIVES IN COM-PLETE **CONFIDENCE & FREEDOM**. THERE IS SOMETHING A LITTLE SUSPICIOUS & LACKING IN A CHRISTIAN WHO LACKS CONFIDENCE & FREEDOM IN THEIR LIVING. WE ARE TO KNOW THAT THE FUTURE IS IN GOD'S HANDS & NOT IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES/SITUATIONS AROUND US - THE FUTURE HAS ALREADY BEEN DETERMINED BY JESUS & THE OUTCOME IS IN OUR FAVOR. NOTHING CAN STOP OR HINDER WHAT GOD HAS SET IN MOTION FOR US IN JESUS. THIS IS TRULY WHAT GIVES US LIFE & FREEDOM IN EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE.

WE ARE TO BE **FEARLESS** NO MATTER WHAT - EVEN IN THE FACE OF DEATH ITSELF - FOR WE HAVE A SAVIOR THAT RESCUES US FOR ETERNAL LIFE! JESUS SAID, "THE ONE WHO HEARS MY WORDS & BELIEVES HAS ETERNAL LIFE." HELLO, **STARTING RIGHT NOW!** RIGHT NOW! WE ARE TO LIVE THIS LIFE IN THE FULLNESS OF ETERNAL LIFE. SURE WE GET SICK & ILL, WE GET FATIGUED & TIRED, WE HAVE DARK CLOUDS & CROOKED ROADS WITH SHARP TWISTIES & TURNIES - BUT WE ARE TO FACE THEM ALL FEARLESSLY - JESUS HAS GIVEN US ETERNAL LIFE. LIFE IN THIS EARTHLY DIMEN-SION IS FANTASTIC BUT DO NOT GET TOO

ATTACHED TO IT BECAUSE IT TRANSCENDS INTO ETERNAL LIFE!  
JESUS SAID, "WE HAVE PASSED FROM DEATH TO LIFE." NO MAYBE  
TO IT - DEATH IS A CHANGE OF FORM, PERHAPS - THE LIFE JESUS  
GIVES US IS ETERNAL & NEVER SKIPS A BEAT. YES, WE CAN NOW,  
RIGHT NOW, FACE ALL THINGS FEARLESSLY!

SHEW!! TRULY JESUS CURES WHAT AILS US - HEAR HIS  
WORDS & BELIEVE IN HIM!