

JESUS CHRIST, THE SAME

Sunday Morning: August 18, 2002

Text: Hebrews 13:8-9 "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever [ages]. 9. Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein."

Many take this verse out of context and applies this verse today to healing as the Lord healed people during his ministry among the nation of Israel. Because Jesus Christ healed during his ministry to Israel that this verse obligates Him to do the same today. Because of this thought many are disillusioned and disappointed because He does not heal all of our diseases.

The context of Hebrews 13:8 is the context of verse 9 as well as the rest of the book of Hebrews is teaching that Jesus Christ has the same objectives today that he had during his ministry to the nation of Israel. The only difference today is that Gentiles are included in the blessing of Israel. Jesus Christ is not the same today as he was before his crucifixion because he only ministered mysteries of the kingdom of the heavens to the perishing sheep of Israel. To day Jesus Christ is not a prophet and teacher but our high priest. The ages to come he will be a king and then under His heavenly Father according to 1 Corinthians 15:28 "And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all." While He was here on earth He was a prophet. Today He is our high priest and the millennium He will be King of kings and Lord of lords.

THE PROPHET

John 4:19 "The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a **prophet**."

During Jesus Christ earthly ministry he was a prophet. Jesus Christ revealed the will of the Father to the nation of Israel.

HE TAUGHT THEM BY THE SEA

Mark 2:13 "And he went forth again **by the sea** side; and all the multitude resorted unto him, and **he taught them**."

During Jesus' earthly ministry he was a teacher.

TAUGHT THEM IN THE TEMPLE

John 8:2 "And early **in the morning** he came again into the **temple**, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and **taught them**."

Jesus took advantage of every opportunity to teach the people. He knew where the people would be and he went there early in the morning.

WITH AUTHORITY

Mark 1:22 "And they were astonished at **his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority**, and not as the scribes."

Jesus knew is subject matter well and taught it with authority and proof from the scriptures. The scribes were careful how they taught because the scriptures contradicted what they were practicing. Jesus did not use the word "seem" which is used when you are not sure.

While Jesus was here on the earth he was a prophet and a teacher. He was not King of kings nor Lord of lords.

THE PRIEST

Hebrews 3:1 "Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and **High Priest** of our profession [confession], **Christ Jesus**;"

Today the Lord Jesus Christ is our High Priest. He is not on the earth teaching. The Holy Spirit is our teacher today. Jesus is in the heavenlies at the right hand of the Father making intercession for us according to the Will of the Father.

We go to him so that He will intercede on our behalf. When we confess our sins 1 John 1:9 ". . . he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

NEW BEGINNING

Hebrews 5:5-6 "So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an **high priest**; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, **to day have I begotten thee**. 6. As he saith also in another place, Thou art a **priest for ever** [age] after the order of **Melchisedec**."

Jesus Christ is our High Priest after the order of Melchisedec. When Melchisedec met Abraham he brought bread and wine. Genesis 14:18 "And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God." 1 Corinthians 10:16 "The **cup** of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the **blood of Christ**? The **bread** which we break, is it not the communion of the **body of Christ**?"

The word "ever" should be translated "age." He will be our high priest for the church age which will last approximately two thousand years. Jesus Christ assumed his new office as high priest when was raised to the right hand of the Father.

THE KING

1 Timothy 6:15 "Which **in his times** he shall **show**, who is the blessed and **only Potentate**, the **King of kings, and Lord of lords**;"

Paul tells us at the proper time Jesus Christ will become the "only Potentate and the King of kings, and Lord of lords." When Jesus Christ becomes the King then the kingdom of priest will assume the duties of priest in the millennium. Revelation 1:6 "And hath made us **kings and priests** unto God and his Father; to him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

Keep in mind that Satan is still the god or judge of this age. He does have a certain level of control and authority over the nations. Satan did have the authority to give Jesus Christ the kingdoms of this earth when he offered them to him in the wilderness.

LORD OF LORD AND KING OF KINGS

Revelation 17:14 "These (those living here on the earth) shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is **Lord of lords**, and **King of kings**: and they that are with him are **called**, and **chosen**, and **faithful**."

When He becomes King of kings and Lord of lords the faithful of the called and chosen will be with Him. I have been presenting these verses to show that Jesus Christ is not ruling and reigning to day because not all of the faith have been given honor and authority over the nations.

THE FAITHFUL REIGN

2 Timothy 2:12 "If we **suffer** [endure], we shall also **reign** with him: if we **deny** him, he also will **deny** us:"

This verse encourages us to be faithful to the Lord and endure to the end. If we deny Him will not have to endure affliction that Paul mentioned in the context, verse 9.

Denial in this verse is not to be denied being in the family. We will not lose our salvation. This denial is that of reigning with Him and the glory that goes with that position in the Kingdom.

IN THE MILLENNIUM

Revelation 20:6 "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the **first** [chief or best] resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of

Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."

We are waiting for the day when Jesus Christ will reign as king. Christ's kingdom will be for 1,000 years and the overcomer will have part in the first resurrection and will reign with him. Revelation 2:11 ". . . He that **overcometh** shall **not** be **hurt** of the **second death**." The called and chosen who overcome are the ones who will reign with Christ.

ONE PURPOSE

Hebrews 13:8 "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever [ages]."

I hope that we have been able to see that Jesus Christ has is not doing the same thing that he did yesterday, today and for the ages. I hope that you can see that he was a prophet, doing the signs of a prophet during his earthly ministry. Today Jesus Christ is our high priest interceding on our behalf. In the millennial age he will be reigning as King of kings and Lord of lords.

I believe there is one things that has not changed and that is the purpose of Jesus Christ. His one desire and ambition was to do the will of the Father and to finish His work. I want us to look at this in the following verses.

THE WILL OF THE FATHER

John 5:30 "I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because **I seek not mine own will**, but the **will of the Father** which hath sent me."

Jesus sought to do the will of the Father before he came to earth. He sought to do the will of the Father while He was here on the earth and he will continue to see to do the will of the Father in the ages to come. In doing the will of the Father we can say that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for the ages to come.

Jesus Christ is our example in doing the will of the Father that we might live with the same example and purpose. Jesus continues to this day to do the will of the Father and in this he is the same yesterday, to day, and in the ages to come.

CHRIST'S MEAT

John 4:34 "Jesus saith unto them, My **meat** is to **do the will of him that sent me**, and to **finish** his work."

In the context of Hebrews 13:8 is the unprofitable meats found in Hebrews 13:9 "Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For *it is* a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein." The meat that the Lord dined on was that of doing His Father's will and finishing what the Father had assigned him to do.

Jesus taught his disciple what was to be first in their life in Matthew 6:33

PRIORITY ONE

Matthew 6:33 "But **seek** [present active imperative] **ye first the kingdom** of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

The first thing on our priority list is the Kingdom of God. This is not the common salvation but a reference to the coming millennial kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ. The verb *seek* is a present active imperative. This is a command and because of the present tense is to continue until death. Seeking the kingdom is a discipline of the called, chosen, and the faithful who desire to rule and reign with Christ in His millennial kingdom.

The common salvation is an event. Acts 16:31 ". . . Believe [aorist active imperative] on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved. . ." The aorist tense expresses believe as an event not an on going process.

When it comes to seeking to enter into the kingdom of the heavens we should be the same yesterday, to day, and tomorrow. If we will seek first the kingdom the Lord has promised that He will provide the material things that we need for life here on the earth.

THE WILL OF THE FATHER

Matthew 7:21 "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall **enter into the kingdom** of heaven; but he that doeth the **will of my Father** which is in heaven."

Do you see the significance of doing the will of the Father. Not all of the saved do the will of the Father and they will not enjoy the blessings of the kingdom of the heavens. Those doing the will of the Father will enter, participate in, as kings and lords; in the kingdom of the heavens.

Jesus told Nicodemus that if a man is born from above he will see the kingdom of God. This verse tells how we can rule and reign in the kingdom of God. Being saved does not guarantee you that you will do the will of the Father. Being saved does not guarantee you that you will enter into the kingdom of the heavens. If we rebel against God this will disqualify you from entering to the coming kingdom. We have all rebel and become disobedient children and be assured that those who rebel against the Lord will have consequences to pay.

NOT WITH MEATS

Hebrews 13:9 "Be not carried about with divers and **strange doctrines**. . . . not with **meats**,

Many of God children are carried about with strange doctrines. Doctrines that are not supported by the Word. When it comes to meats, it is possible this is also a reference to the ceremonial law given by Moses concerning the eating of unclean food. To be carried away with different and strange doctrines is to forsake that which is first. We are to seek first the kingdom of God and the righteousness which is by faith.

NOT CONFUSED

Luke 12:29-31 "And **seek** [present active imperative] **not** ye what ye shall **eat**, or what ye shall **drink**, neither **be ye of doubtful mind** [present passive imperative]. 30. For all these things do the nations of **the world seek** [present active indicative] **after**: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. 31. But rather **seek ye** [present active imperative] **the kingdom of God**; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Those who are of doubtful mind are the ones who are carried about with strange doctrines. They are the ones who are consumed with the security of having more than enough to eat and drink. The world is seeking financial security where trusting the Father does not even cross their minds. It is a shame for us to seek the things that the world is seeking after and be carried way from the priority of doing the will of the Father.

I am reminded again that Jesus Christ is still the same yesterday, to day, and for the ages when it come to doing the will of the Father and we need to follow His example.

PEACE AND JOY

Romans 14:17 "For **the kingdom** of God is **not meat and drink**; but **righteousness**, and **peace**, and **joy** in the Holy Ghost."

Is the kingdom of God eat and drink? Not according to this verse in Romans 14. The kingdom of heaven is not meat and drink, but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. When we are consumed with meat and drink, the stress will rob us of our peace and joy.

SEEK THINGS THAT ARE ABOVE

Colossians 3:1-2 "If ye then be risen with Christ, **seek** [present active imperative] those things which are **above**, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2. **Set your affection** [to

mind, present active imperative] on things **above**, not on things on the earth."

To seek the kingdom of God, according Colossians 3:1-2, is to seek those things which are in the heavens. These verses will help us to test our priorities. What are we mindful of? Jesus Christ is our high priest concerning good things to come according to Hebrews 9:11 "But Christ being come an high priest of **good things to come**, . ." The good things that are coming concern our inheritance. Hebrews 9:15 "And for this cause he is the **mediator** (high priest) of the new testament, that . . they which are **called** might receive the promise of eternal [agelasting] **inheritance**." If we are thinking about our future heavenly inheritance we are seeking first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.

A HEAVENLY CITY

Hebrews 11:16 "But now they **desire** a better country, that is, an **heavenly**: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a **city**."

"They" in this verse are those who are pleasing God by living by faith. Those who are pleasing God are those who are seeking a heavenly city which is in the kingdom of the heavens.

NOT TOSSED TO AND FRO

Ephesians 4:14 "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;"

God has given the church gifts. One of those gifts is the pastor teacher. Ephesians 4:11-12 "And he gave . . some, pastors and teachers; 12. For the perfecting of the saints,. . .:" The pastor teacher will guide the flock to a deeper understanding of Biblical doctrine so that the church will be establish in doctrine. Satan will deceive those who will not establish themselves in doctrine. Be assured, Satan knows what you know and where you are weak so he can deceive you.

SOMETHING NEW

Acts 17:21 "(For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing.)"

There are those who are continually seeking something new. Those who do often open themselves to error. There is nothing wrong with us growing in grace and knowledge of the Lord and His Word, but this requires background knowledge of the Word. The cunning craftiness and sleigh of men cause the unprepared child of God to be led astray.

BEWARE

Colossians 2:6-8 "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: 7.

Rooted and **built up** in him, and **stablished** in the faith, as ye have been **taught**, abounding therein with thanksgiving. 8. **Beware** lest any man **spoil** you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."

To be rooted, built up and stablished in the faith will not happen apart from doctrine. The phrase "as ye have been taught" supports this idea and is embellished with the thought of abounding therein.

Verse 8 provide a warning, "beware". We can be spoiled by philosophy that based upon tradition and not on the Word of God. There is a tradition being taught in a main line denominational church that not only Jesus Christ was virgin born so was Mary his mother. That is nothing in the world but vain philosophy and deceit based upon tradition and not after Christ.

We can be deceived and to keep from being deceived we must learn doctrine from the Word. This is what keeps us from being led astray. That is why it is important to hear a doctrinal message on Sunday or when ever you gather for encouragement in the Lord. Not just hearing a Bi-

ble lesson is enough. One must go over what they have heard to check out the validity of it's truth. By doing so you confirm that it is true and you are able to apply Bible doctrine in your life.

ABSTAIN FROM MEATS

1 Timothy 4:3 "Forbidding to marry, and **commanding to abstain from meats**, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth." In Hebrews 13:9 ". . . For *it is* a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, . . ." reference is made to meats. The dietary laws of Moses do not establish the heart. It is doctrine. Abstaining from the eating of certain foods is abounding to day. The Bible says that this will happen in the last days. The false teaching of abstaining from meats and forbidding to marry is a doctrine of Satan passed on to the people by demons. Those who know the truth will not be deceived by these false teachings.

ORDINANCES OF MEN

Colossians 2:20-23 "Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to **ordinances**, 21. (Touch not; taste not; handle not; 22. Which all are to perish with the using;) after the **commandments** and **doctrines** of men? 23. Which things have indeed a show of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh."

This passage warns us about ordinances or ceremonial practices and commandments dreamed up by men which are taught to be the commandments of God. If you know the truth of the Word of God, you will not allow yourself to be put in subjection to these commandments and doctrines of men. These ordinances and commandments sound good from a human reasoning and it will bring a certain amount of satisfaction to the flesh. If you can "touch not, taste not, and handle not" you can look down on those who touch, taste and handle. Looking down on others satisfies the flesh. Even though they sound good, there will be no honor coming to you for keeping them.

THE LORD'S COMING IS NEAR

James 5:8 "Be ye also patient; **stablish your hearts**: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh." Because doing the will of the Father is such a high priority we need to patiently endure in doing the will of the Father. If we are doing the will of the Father we are pleasing Him. To do that we must establish our hearts so that we do not become unstable in doing the right thing. One way of establishing our hearts is to be convinced that the coming of the Lord is near. Knowing that the coming of the Lord is near means the kingdom of the heavens is near. If the kingdom of the heavens is near, then I will enter into the kingdom of the heavens by being faithful in doing the will of the Father.

STABILITY

Isaiah 33:6 "And **wisdom** and **knowledge** shall be the **stability** of thy **times**, and **strength** of salvation: the fear of the LORD is his treasure."

It takes the fear of the Lord for us to put our priorities in order. If we have no fear of the Lord the next step is to live a lawless life. We do not have to be afraid of the Lord but we do need to respect Him because one day he will be our judge and we will stand before him and be rewarded according to things that we have done. God's wisdom and the knowledge of His word will provide us with stability. We study to obtain knowledge and the Lord will help us with the wisdom that we need to apply that knowledge.

OUT OF THE HEART

Proverbs 4:23 "**Keep thy heart with all diligence**; for out of it are the issues of life."

Why do we need to guard our hearts with all diligence? We need to guard our hearts because it is out of the heart proceed the issues of life. Matthew 15:19 "For **out of the heart** proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:" We are told what the heart can do in Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart *is* **deceitful** above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

If we put the Word of God in our hearts we will live a godly life. The psalmist tells us what will happen if we hid the Word in our hearts in Psalms 119:11 "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." May God help us to do just that.

PRIORITY ONE

John 4:34 "Jesus saith unto them, My **meat** is to **do the will of him that sent me**, and to **finish** his work."

Many are wearing a bracelets and pins that has the characters WWJD. WWJD means "What Would Jesus Do?" Verse 34 tells us exactly what Jesus would do. Jesus fed on the will of the Father and fleshed it out in his life. Jesus fed on what the Father wanted him to do and He finished it faithfully.

SEEK THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Matthew 6:33 "But **seek ye first the kingdom** of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Maybe I should wear a bracelet that has the characters WSJD. WSJD means "What Should John Do?" We have been instructed plainly in Matthew 6:33. Seek the kingdom and the righteousness which is by faith. This pleases the Father.

BY DOING THE WILL OF THE FATHER

Matthew 7:21 "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall **enter into the kingdom** of heaven; but he that doeth the **will of my Father** which is in heaven."

This passage in Matthew 7:21 provides light as to what it means to seek first the kingdom of God. To seek first the kingdom of God is to do the will of the Father. Doing the will of the Father will provide a well done at the judgment seat and the privilege of ruling and reigning with Christ in his coming kingdom.

Jesus Christ was the same yesterday, to day, and for ever. May give us the will and the ability to be the same as Jesus Christ do day and then tomorrow we can say that we were the same as yesterday and we by the grace of God will continue that same to day. If we do that every day, then we have a better chance of being the same tomorrow.