



SERIES: September 2022 – February 2023 Believe

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Thursday, September 29, 2022

Scripture: John 3:31-36

TITLE: God Is no Liar

Truth is not in fashion today. Many people believe that truth does not exist, or if it does, it's relative. A culture or even a person can decide the truth for him or herself. But here's the rub, when you push people to the limits of their convictions, they will show they do believe in absolute truth. They simply don't like it.

But how can a person know what is true about God, Jesus, and salvation? Well, the answer is to go back to the source. Let's turn back to the source in John 3:31-36.

He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all. He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony. Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true. For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

Here, John, the Baptist is setting the record straight with his own disciples about Jesus. They're jealous of Jesus and forget that John's ministry was to prepare the way and point people to Jesus.

Here John continues by saying, "look, people, the Messiah is here. Listen to him. Follow Him. God in the flesh is here. If you want to know about heaven, God, eternity, and salvation, then follow Him!"

John affirms what was said in chapter one: "He came to His own, but His own did not receive Him." The people who should have welcomed and received Jesus rejected Him. Jesus would say in Matthew 7 that narrow is the path that leads to life. Few will find it. This is the point. Few will receive Jesus' free gift of salvation. They'd rather die in their sin.

But the offer is still on the table. That's why verse 36 says, "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him."

Whoever believes. People choose to believe or reject His scandalous offer of eternal life. It's not religion that saves. It's not good works. It's not random acts of kindness. It is purely by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ that people can experience eternal life. But for those who rejected this gift, the wrath of God remains on them. But for those who do believe they are called to obey and follow Jesus each and every day.

So here's my challenge for you today: reconsider Jesus' powerful offer. If you do believe in Jesus, then do you live like it? Belief in the Son requires obedience to the Son. Perfectly? Hardly. That's why Jesus came. But a consistent track record of loving our Savior well throughout our lives should be our daily aim. So begin or continue living out your faith.

If you've never received Jesus' offer of salvation, reconsider the offer. He who believes in the Son has eternal life. Right now, God is welcoming you into His family. All you have to do is believe it! Why not believe today?