



Calvary of Albuquerque

The Nail Everything Hangs On - John 3:31-36

From the Series, Believe:879

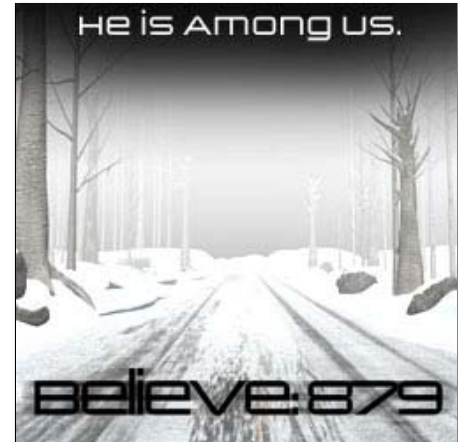
By Pastor Skip Heitzig

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Imagine if everything you valued was in a sack, hanging on the wall from one nail. It surely must be a strong nail, or you're lost! If life could all be boiled down to one thing or one word or one most important principle, what would it be? What is the irreducible minimum for everything and everyone? John answers that here, saying that Jesus Christ is the nail that everything hangs on. He determined what has been and what will be. Thus our knowledge of Him and relationship to Him is paramount above everything else.

OUTLINE

- I. He Descended from Heaven - His Origin (v. 31)
- II. He Declared to our World - His Proclamation (vv. 32-33)
- III. He Dominates the Universe - His Dominion (vv. 34-35)
- IV. He Determines Your Destiny - His Reception (v. 36)



For Home Fellowships:

1. How important is a person's view of Jesus Christ? How does that establish a person's eternal fate? Why is believing such an essential attribute of a person's life?
2. How could a person getting a greater, grander view of Jesus help him/her become a more humble person (v. 30)? Do you think prideful people have a high or low view of Jesus?
3. How does verse 36 summarize the entire third chapter of John?

DETAILED NOTES

There is a disagreement about who is speaking in verses 31-36. No punctuation marks in the original text, translators took the initiative to identify the speaker as John the Baptist, but the style and grammar match John the apostle. Verse 30 ends the words of John the Baptist, and the remainder is the editorial comment of John the apostle. He is saying there is no use hanging your life or trusting in anything beside Christ.

- I. He Descended from Heaven - *His Origin* (v. 31)
 - A. Jesus Christ is God in a human body John 1:1, 14
 - B. Jesus emphasizes his origin is heaven John 6:32, 38, 50-51, 58
 - C. Included in the creeds of the church (Nicene Creed at the Council of Nicaea in 325)
 - D. He came from heaven to save His people from their sins, He was born to die
- II. He Declared to our World - *His Proclamation* (vv. 32-33)
 - A. His testimony is from heaven
 - B. His words are more important than any others
 - C. First-hand knowledge, full knowledge, superior knowledge
 1. Moses and the certificate of divorce
 2. Noah and the flood
 3. Abraham, "Before Abraham was, I am!"
 - D. "No one" receives his testimony literary hyperbole, vs. 33 says some do
 - E. God doesn't give a command without also giving the power to obey it
- III. He Dominates the Universe - *His Dominion* (vv. 34-35)
 - A. Jesus possesses unlimited, unmitigated, unrestricted measure of the Holy Spirit - Isaiah 61
 - B. Not merely a man filled with the Holy Spirit,
 - C. Perfect God-man uniquely operating in full power of the Holy Spirit
 - D. He is above all things from creation to consummation of the universe John 1:3, John 5
 1. Created the universe, took chaos and made the cosmos
 2. Sustains and maintains the universe Hebrews 1:3, Colossians 1:17
 3. He will end it
- IV. He Determines Your Destiny - *His Reception* (v. 36)

- A. Invitation and Warning
- B. Believe
 - 1. Have life presently
 - 2. Life will last forever
- C. Do not believe
 - 1. Don't have life
 - 2. Presently under the wrath of God, perpetual condemnation

Publications Referenced: "The Atom Speaks, and Echoes the Word of God" by D. Lee Chesnut

Cross References: John 1:1, 3, 14, 5, 6:32, 38, 50-51, 58, Romans 3:4, Colossians 1:17, Hebrews 1:3