

5-5-20 SUNDAY MORNING Video Message

This is Pastor Bissol of the Elkdale Baptist Church of West Clifford and this now is the Second Sunday of our stay at home order. Right now as I speak I received word that a friend died from this dreaded Covid 19, and we suspect that his wife may have it. I also know of another friend that recently passed away but it has not been determined if he had the virus, but he developed double pneumonia and had all the symptoms. We need to be in prayer for our nation our loved ones and each other. This is why we set up the conference call prayer meetings that we have scheduled at our regular service times. If you would like to join make sure you call the numbers we have listed below. We have the conference prayer and Bible studies at Sunday School, Sunday evening and Wednesday evening. Join for prayer and Bible study at those regular times. At the Sunday morning 11:00 A.M. time, I will be broadcasting this video. Please share the link for this video with family and friends. I have been saying in times like this we do not need less church but we need more church as we see the day approaching! We just have to be more creative in the way we do it. I like the conference calls because it gives you an opportunity to share a testimony or a prayer request. I love hearing from each of you.

The Bible says,

James 5:16 pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

I don't know about you but I am praying for everything all the time. My Bible says, I Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

Now next week is Easter Sunday, and I want to ask each of you to call the number at the bottom of the screen and call into our conference call at the Sunday School hour at 10:00 A.M. Please call in a little early you can at that time visit with each other over the phone. Sometimes people who try to call in right on the hour get a busy signal. The reason for that is that there are too many people on the lines and the phone lines are getting bottlenecked. Just keep trying. Or you can text Ken Knapp and he can call you back to help you hear the conference call. Calling in earlier and just putting your phone on speaker phone while you wait for the service to start may be the best answer.

We are commanded to Assemble Ourselves together and this is one way we can obey this verse. Next week we will be partaking of the Lord's table together at the end of our 10:00 A.M. service around 11:00. We will be using these special sealed communion cups and wafers for the Lord's table. If you have some grape juice and unleavened bread you can use your own elements. If you would like to pick up the elements at the church you can do that at your own convenience. We have placed them on the front pew of the church. Again the Lord commanded us to do this in memory of Him. We are going to obey Him in this ordinance the best we can under these difficult circumstances.

Now the text I would like to share this morning is found in John chapter 5:39.

Let me just give the context of the verse and then I will read our text:

In John Chapter 5 we read about Jesus healing a man who was bedridden for 38 years. Now, because Jesus healed this man on the Sabbath the Pharisees conspired to kill Jesus.

When Jesus perceived they were upset at Him He defended His healing on the sabbath by claiming that He was just imitating His father in heaven. God doesn't cease to work on the Sabbath day. He holds everything together every day!

Then he went further and stated that He was co-equal with the Father, and in fact God the father delegated to Him all judgment, and He had power to resurrect people and someday He would resurrect everyone. He even said, He had life in and of Himself.

Now these Jewish leaders were the theologians of the day. They knew the Bible, and they didn't like a thing our Lord said. They didn't believe a thing He said. In fact they wanted Him dead.

Now here you have the most biblical literate people in the world. I mean these were the same people who when Herod commanded them to tell him where Christ should be born. They didn't stutter, they didn't have to look it up in a concordance, they didn't have to huddle together and confer one with another. They immediately said,

Matthew 2:5 In Beth-lehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,
Matthew 2:6 And thou Beth-lehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

These were men who knew the Bible, but they did not know the author, of the book. They didn't know the one that the book was pointing to.

This brings us to our text:

John 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

John 5:40 And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

Now here is what the Lord says, to these doctors of the law, these religious teachers. He says, search your Bible, you think in them you have eternal life, you think you're safe because you know the Bible, but that whole book testifies of me.

What a statement to make. Now I think it is important to read your Bible, I think it is important to know the Bible, but listen, the whole Bible points to Jesus.

I wanted my wife to sing a song that goes along with the message. I thought about having her sing the books of the Bible. I even recorded her singing the books of the Bible and was going to have her do that for this message, but then as I meditated on this verse I thought I wish I had a song that shared more of what I am going to preach about. So I sat down in my office to see if the Lord would give me something to share by way of a song. I sat and played and the Lord gave me a new song to go along with this message. So a few days ago I wrote this song, it is has the same title as the message I am going to share this morning, "SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES: THEY TESTIFY OF ME."

I am going to have my wife come and sing this song I wrote for this message. As she sings, meditate on this verse in John 5:39 "SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES"

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES SONG

Now our text is simply this:

John 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

John 5:40 And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

Now according to the Lord's statement in this verse, you don't get eternal life just by reading and knowing the Bible. The Bible points to Jesus and you can only be saved by receiving Jesus into your heart.

Jesus says, you think you're going to make it because you know the Scriptures, no, it is not knowing the Scriptures that saves you, it is knowing Christ that saves you. We see in Matt. Chapter 4 the devil quoted Scripture to Jesus.

Many times I have people that say, well you Baptists believe this, and the Catholics believe that, and the Methodists say this, and the Presbyterians say this. Now listen to me carefully, it is not being a Baptist or a Methodist or a Catholic or a Presbyterian, or the lists go on that will give you eternal life. It is only by knowing Jesus that you receive life.

I'll not name all the denominations and sects, but often people will say this one says that, and another says this, how do we know. Below are a list of some of them. There are over 200 of them.

There are over 200 denominations of Christian religions in the USA.

Catholicism - 1.313 billion

Independent Catholicism - 18 million

Protestantism - 1000 million

Historical Protestantism - 300-400 million²¹
Baptist churches - 75-105 million
Lutheranism - 70-90 million
Anglicanism - 110 million
Methodism - 60-80 million
Reformed churches (Calvinism) - 55-100 million
Seventh-day Adventist Church - 20.0 million
Restoration Movement - 7 million
Anabaptism - 4.0 million
Plymouth Brethren - 1 million
Hussites - 1 million
Quakers (Religious Society of Friends) - 0.4 million
Modern Protestantism -
Pentecostalism - 280 million
Nondenominational Christianity - 80-100 million
African initiated Protestant churches - 60 million²⁰³
New Apostolic Church - 10 million
Chinese-originated and Chinese Independent Churches - 10 million
Eastern Orthodoxy - 270 million
Oriental Orthodoxy - 80 million
Non-trinitarian Restorationism - 35 million
Miscellaneous branches - 2 million

I am not going to give a long list of comparisons between what all these different groups teach and preach, that would be like chasing rabbits.

All I can tell you is what happened to me and so many others like me.

What changed my life was having a relationship with a person and not an organization. That person was Jesus Christ. Now if you are part of a religious group but you do not have Jesus in your life you do not have life. If you are part of a religious group and know Christ but you don't have the same sign out in front of your church that my church has we can rejoice in Christ together we are brothers and sisters.

The Key is knowing Jesus Christ. In 1974 when I gave my heart to the Lord I heard a lot of people giving God the glory for what He did in their lives and the common denominator was this: They all were talking about Jesus.

Back then I asked myself this question, "How could someone who died 2000 years ago still be changing peoples lives today? The answer is simple he is not dead he is alive and still working in men's lives.

It is not how much Bible you know alone that can change your life but it is who you know that changes your life. Consider:

Jesus said this to the religious leaders of his day:

John 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

I. WE SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES TO SEE CHRIST.

From Genesis to Revelation the Bible gives us pictures of Jesus Christ. This is our Lord's diary to us. The Bible has many pictures pointing to Christ.

There are too many to enumerate. Just about every Sunday I share more. I have been pastor at the Elkdale Baptist Church for 37 years now and I have not run out of material.

Truth is, I read through the Bible at least once a year if not more, and I have been doing that for 46 years now. I still have not exhausted the resources of this one book that contains 66 books.

I remember the first time I read through the whole Bible. My van's engine blew a head gasket and I was not able to go anywhere for a whole month. I was house bound and decided to read through the whole Bible. Every day I read and read till I read the whole Bible. That was in 1974.

If we had the time and we read through the whole Bible together I could show you many many pictures of Christ in the Bible.

Let's look at some of those pictures together.

1. We see the prophetic promise of Jesus coming to defeat Satan:

Genesis 3:14 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Way back in the garden when mankind fell into sin, God predicted that Satan would be defeated through a child born of a woman. That Child was non other than Jesus Christ.

2. We can see Jesus Christ in the days of Noah.

Luke 17:26 And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.

Jesus is the Ark of Safety for all those that believe on Him.

II Peter 3:6-7 just as the world perished in the great flood so too someday Jesus will come and judge the world in fire.

3. We see in Abraham a great picture of Jesus.

When he took his son Isaac and went to offer him up as a sacrifice to God this was of a picture of How God would someday offer up His son for the sins of the world on Golgotha, which was on the same mountain chain where Abraham offered up Issac. Why was it God said go to mount Moriah and offer up Issac? That was a three day journey. The reason for this was that God wanted the picture to be complete. Jesus would be offered up on mount Moriah about 2000 years later.

4. Then we can see Jesus In Moses.

Deuteronomy 18:18 I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.

Deuteronomy 18:19 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.

Jesus said there were a lot of pictures with Moses, and Himself.

He said he was that manna come down from Heaven. John 6:58

Paul said as was the Rock from which came the water. I Cor. 10:4

Jesus said, as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness so would he be lifted up.. look and live.. John 3:14

Now we can see Jesus, in Joshua, and many of the Judges, etc.

5. But The next clear picture of Jesus is found in King David.

David was rejected at first, but later was received to be the deliver of the nation.

David was a man after God's own heart.

Jesus was called the Son of David,
Jesus would sit on the throne of David.

6. Every book of the Old Testament Speaks of Him. Jesus in Every Book of the Bible.

(Author Unknown)

In Genesis, Jesus Christ is the seed of the woman.

In Exodus, He is the passover lamb.

In Leviticus, He is our high priest.
In Numbers, He was serpent lifted up by Moses LOOK AND LIVE.
In Deuteronomy, He is the prophet like unto Moses.
In Joshua, He is the captain of the Lord Of Hosts and our salvation.
In Judges, He is our judge and lawgiver.
In Ruth, He is our kinsman redeemer.
In 1st and 2nd Samuel, He is our trusted prophet.
In Kings and Chronicles, He is our reigning king.
In Ezra, He is the rebuilder of the broken down walls of human life.
In Esther, He is our Mordecai.
In Job, He is our ever living redeemer.
In Psalms, He is our shepherd.
In Proverbs and Ecclesiastes, He is all wisdom greater than Solomon.
In the Song of Solomon, He is the loving bridegroom.
In Isaiah, He is the suffering servant and prince of peace.
In Jeremiah, He is the righteous branch.
In Lamentations, He is our weeping prophet.
In Ezekiel, He is the the prince who returns to the New Temple.
In Daniel, He is the forth man in life's "fiery furnace."
In Hosea, He is the faithful husband, forever married to the backslider.
In Joel, He is the baptizer with the Holy Ghost and fire.
In Amos, He is our burden bearer.
In Obadiah, He is the mighty to save.
In Jonah, As Jonah was in the belly of the whale Jesus would be in buried 3 days and nights.
In Micah, He is the messenger of beautiful feet.
In Nahum, He is the avenger of God's elect.
In Habakkuk, He is God's evangelist, crying, "revive thy work in the midst of the years."
In Zephaniah, He is our Saviour.
In Haggai, He is the restorer of God's lost heritage.
In Zechariah, He is the fountain opened up in the house of David for sin and uncleanness.
In Malachi, He is the Sun of Righteousness, rising with healing in His wings.

Every Book of the New Testament points to Him.

In Matthew, He is King of the Jews.
In Mark, He is the Servant.
In Luke, He is the Son of Man,
In John, He is the Son of God.
In Acts, He is the Savior of the world.
In Romans, He is the righteousness of God.
In I Corinthians, He is the Rock that followed Israel.
In II Corinthians, He is the Triumphant One, giving victory.
In Galatians, He is your liberty; He sets you free.
In Ephesians, He is Head of the Church.

In Philippians, He is your joy.
In Colossians, He is your completeness.
In 1st and 2nd Thessalonians, He is your hope.
In I Timothy, He is your faith.
In II Timothy, He is your stability.
In Philemon, He is your Benefactor.
In Titus, He is truth.
In Hebrews, He is your perfection.
In James, he is the Power behind your faith.
In I Peter, He is your example.
In II Peter, He is your purity.
In I John, He is your life.
In II John, He is your pattern.
In III John, He is your motivation.
In Jude, He is the foundation of your faith.
In Revelation, He is your coming King.

We can see Jesus in the Bible.

II. WE SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES TO LEARN OF CHRIST.
Any Jesus you believe in contrary to Scriptures is a false Jesus.

All though I said, you can know the Scripture and still not know Christ, I need to qualify that by saying this. **Without knowing the Scripture you cannot know Christ.** It is possible for someone to know the Bible and not be saved, it is not possible for someone to know Christ without knowing the Bible.

Jesus didn't say don't read the Scripture He said when you read it you will see me. All the prophets spoke of Him.

The Psalms described his crucifixion perfectly,
David wrote of His resurrection,
Isaiah described Him as that suffering, servant.

Men in their evil minds are conjuring all Kinds of Christs that are in opposition to the clear teaching of the Bible.

Paul the Apostle in his day said in II Cor.11:4 That people were preaching another Jesus. This was not the real Jesus, it was counterfeit Jesus.

When I was in Jr. College, I took a humanities class and in that class they presented to us what they called "The Historical Jesus.." It was a false Jesus not an biblical Jesus. There was only one little lady in that class that objected to what was being taught. Back then I was like all the others just a zombie following the teaching of fools. That class was not education; it was behavioral modification and reconditioning.

There is only one authoritative record of Jesus and it is in the word of God. He can be found in the Old Testament and the New Testament.

Those who reject this record preach another Jesus of their imaginations.

Look if someone says to me, I meet your wife the other day and I say might say oh where did you meet her. Then if they start saying well I met her in Florida. I might say that's strange when was this. Then they say, well it was a few weeks ago. I then would say, can't be she has been with me the whole time.

Then they might say, yes it was her name was Elaine Bissol,

Then I might say describe her.

They might say, she has Blond hair, blue eyes, she is about 5'8" and her name is Elaine Bissol.

Then I would say, she doesn't even look like that. Look, she may be called Elaine Bissol but there has to be another Elaine Bissol and that is not my wife. I know my wife, I live with my wife and she has not been in Florida 2 weeks ago.

The writers of the New Testament knew Jesus, they lived with Jesus for over 3 years. Day and night they observed Him. He taught them and what they learned they have shared with us in the Scripture. Why would you believe people who never saw Him and conjure up these strange ideas about Him.

Search the Scripture it is the only accurate Record of who Christ is.

Look someone wants to present to you a Jesus and they describe Him different than the Bible describes Him they are presenting to you another Jesus.

The Bible is an accurate record of who Jesus is.

The 4 gospels give you 4 close up photos and description of who He is.

The book of Acts shows how He works.

The Epistles describe how He administers the Churches.

Revelation tells you about His future plans to come to back to earth some day!

There is no other way to know who Jesus is and what He did and what He said but in the Bible. But there are people just like the Pharisees who read the Bible and get a whole different Jesus from what this book says. Jesus told them, re-read your Bibles and see me in those pages.

III. WE SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES TO GROW AND OBEY CHRIST.

Now once you see that.

1. Through the Scriptures you can see Jesus Christ,
Then you realize:
2. Only Through Scripture can you learn of Christ.

Next you need to search the Scripture to Grow in Christ.

How do you grow in Christ?

You grow by obeying His word.

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

Now the truth of the matter is that we have a lot of people teaching a lot of crazy things about what Jesus would have them do and how He would have them live.

I love that saying, What would Jesus do?

That is a great statement except for one thing, a lot of people that use the statement are doing things Jesus would never do and that is all because they don't know what Jesus taught them to do.

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES FOR WHO HE IS.

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES FOR HOW HE WANTS YOU TO LIVE.

To grow in Jesus is to become like Jesus in this world.

The Word Christian means to be Christlike.

I am sorry some of the things that people are doing are the opposite of what Jesus would tell people to do.

For instance, a lot of people say Jesus preached love. Yes he did but define that love. But he said, #1 Love God, #2 Love your Neighbor as yourself.

1 Cor. 13 gives a definition of how to love your neighbor. We wrote a little song sharing the characteristics of love. It goes like this:

Charity it suffereth long, and charity is kind, charity it envieth not and vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up or unseemly seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked and thinketh no evil. **rejoiceth not in iniquity but rejoiceth in the truth**, beareth believeth hopeth all things endureth all things too.. now abideth faith and hope and charity these three. But the greatest of these three is love or charity.

Growth comes through Obedience to Christ.

Here is how you grow,

You read it in the Bible and then you obey it and put it into actions. This is the purpose of Church. It is a place where you can be challenged to learn and obey the commands of Christ.

Search the Scriptures,

**THE SCRIPTURES HELP YOU TO SEE CHRIST.
THE SCRIPTURES LEARN OF CHRIST.
THE SCRIPTURES HELP YOU TO GROW AND OBEY CHRIST.**

Application:

Look, there is a lot of confusion in this world about religion and Christ. Forget all that confusion, that is fluff fig leaves. What we need is to love Jesus Christ as revealed in the Word of God. Now there is a reason that the devil gets people using our blessed Lord's name in just about every expletive and vulgar word you can think of. The reason why is because the Bible says,

Philippians 2:9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

Philippians 2:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

Philippians 2:11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

It is not being religious that give you eternal life, it is knowing Jesus.

It is not just knowing some Bible verses or repeating a prayer that will get you there, it is knowing Jesus who every book in the Bible points to.

I encourage you to forget all the man made teachings and ideas, forget about all the brainwashing you have had through 12 years of the humanistic schools of our country and years of college.

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES, THEY TESTIFY OF JESUS.

Listen to me please. These are some pretty somber words in the Bible.

This book says,

I Corinthians 16:22 If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha.

Love him with all your heart,
Love him with all your soul,

The Bible points to him through over 4,000 years of writings,

Do you love him?

He is coming again,

Jesus gave this parable concerning the state of the church when he comes back.

In Matt 25:1-13 he likens his church to 10 virgins who go to meet the bridegroom. 5 were wise and 5 were foolish. The wise took oil in their lamps the foolish did not. So when we read

Matthew 25:6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

Matthew 25:7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

Matthew 25:8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

Matthew 25:9 But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

Matthew 25:10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

Matthew 25:11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

Matthew 25:12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

Matthew 25:13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

Look, I have never seen anything like we are dealing with in our nation with this Covid 19. We are in lockdown over a stupid virus. Hold on to your hat John predicted things are going to get a lot worse in this world before our Lord returns.

The foolish virgins were foolish because they did not spend their money to buy oil for their lamps. And why did they not spend the money for oil. I think it was because they didn't want to pay the cost for living for God in their hearts. Truth be told on the outside they looked the same as the wise virgins. The only difference was what was in the inside. And what is in the inside is your heart. Only God see's your heart.

If that parable is a description of the church in the end times, then Jesus predicts that half of the people that say they are Christians do not have Jesus in their heart. Half of Christendom is lost. If that is the case that would explain why our nation is having trouble today and the church is powerless to change it.

In conclusion let me just say this:

Search the Scripture they are what testifies of Jesus.
Give you heart to Christ.

If you have let me know by contacting us through our church website at www.ElkdaleBaptistChurch.com.

God bless you all,

Let us close in a word of Prayer.

- I. WE SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES TO SEE CHRIST.
Any Jesus you believe in contrary to Scriptures is a false Jesus.
- II. WE SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES TO GROW IN CHRIST.
- III. WE SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES TO OBEY CHRIST.