

John 3:22-4:2, Daily Devotions

☐ Monday - Jesus Baptizes with the Holy Spirit.

John 3:22

Here in John, chapter three, the apostle writes, “After these things Jesus and His disciples came into the land of Judea, and there He was spending time with them and baptizing” (John 3:22). And in chapter four we read, “Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John (although Jesus Himself was not baptizing, but His disciples were) (John 4:1-2). Jesus did not personally baptize anyone with water, for the waters of baptism are just a symbol. No, Jesus baptizes His people, not with symbols, but with the Holy Spirit (John 1:33). But when does the baptism of the Holy Spirit occur? Jesus Himself gives us the answer, “He who *believes in Me*, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’ But this He spoke of the Spirit” (John 7:38-39). Yes, the baptism of the Holy Spirit was when I first believed. Our duty now is to: [1] keep on being filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18) by not grieving the Spirit (Eph. 4:30) through unconfessed sin; and [2] walking in the Spirit, so that we do not carry out the desires of the flesh (Gal. 5:16). Read 1 Corinthians 12:13

☐ Tuesday - The Bride of Christ.

John 3:29

Here in John 3:29, John the Baptist refers to Christ as the “bridegroom,” and he refers to himself as the “friend of the bridegroom,” but who is the bride? The bride of Christ is the church. Christian, you are betrothed to Christ (Hosea 2:19-20). In the Bible there are several Scripture pictures used to describe the church (e.g. a bride, a body, a building), and each picture is used to convey different characteristics of the church’s relationship with Christ. The church pictured as a bride teaches us that our relationship to Christ is characterized by purity, closeness, love, devotion, and commitment. This is the true church and the true bride of Christ. Friend, do these things characterize your relationship with Christ? Are you the bride of Christ or merely a casual acquaintance? Read 2 Corinthians 11:2

☐ Wednesday - The Goal of All Christian Ministry.

John 3:30

Some of John the Baptist’s disciples were concerned that many of his followers were leaving John’s ministry to follow Christ (John 3:25-26). They wanted to build and maintain a big following, but John desired only to point people to Christ. The apostle Paul encountered this same attitude, identifying those who “proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition” (Phil. 1:17). Let today’s seeker-sensitive churches take note of John’s response, “[Christ] must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3:30). This is the goal of all ministry, to point people to Christ, and not make a name for ourselves. Read 1 Timothy 1:5

☐ Thursday - Christ Must Increase, I Must Decrease.

John 3:30

When John the Baptist proclaimed, “He must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3:30), he was specifically referring to Christ’s ministry in relation to his own. Nevertheless, John’s statement also wonderfully encapsulates the whole Christian life and the process of sanctification, whereby the flesh is daily mortified, i.e. put to death (1 Cor. 15:31), and faith, hope and love continually grow. But this we know, both from Scripture and by experience, whatever one you feed, whether your flesh or your spirit, that one will increase in strength (Gal. 6:7-8). Read Matthew 16:24; Galatians 5:16-25

☐ Friday - The Gospel For Dummies.

John 3:36

Jesus declared, “He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him” (John 3:36). Here the Gospel is laid bare. Men may try to complicate it, but its statements are fairly simple: All have sinned (Rom. 3:23); the wages of sin is eternal death (Rom. 6:23); Jesus Christ is the only Savior for sin (John 14:6); receive Christ and be saved (John 1:12); reject Him and suffer God’s eternal wrath (Rev. 14:9-10). Read Romans 10:9-10