

Proclaiming the Gospel

Message
of
Jesus Christ

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (1 Cor. 1.18).

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Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)
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The Word of God Prevailed! If I Be Lifted Up . . .

And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all [men] unto me" (Jn 12.32).

Jesus Christ suffered and died to save us that we might be forgiven of our sins. He suffered and died because He loves us. John 3.16 states clearly His love for a world that stands in need of His love and forgiveness.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Numbers 21.6 states that the Lord "sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died" in the wilderness when the children of Israel were murmuring against the Lord – as they so often did. The children of Israel often spoke against the Lord, and death came upon them. They realized they had sinned and said, "... we have spoken against the Lord..." They went to Moses, saying, "pray unto the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us..." (verse 7). The Lord made a way for their healing when they repented of their sins – in the Old Testament.

And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live (Num 21.8).

Reading John 12.32, we are reminded of the Numbers 21 passage where the people sinned, and a way of forgiveness was made. It is true in the New Testament (Jn 3.14-17) as Jesus spoke of His being lifted up.

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

As the Lord made a way for the children in the wilderness, so He made a way once and for all when He came and dwelt among us on this earth in Jesus

shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy

Ghost and with fire:

Whose fan [is] in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable.

And many other things in his exhortation preached he unto the people.

We are called to lift high, to lift up, Jesus – to exalt Him daily in our walk with Him. Let us be like John the Baptizer and understand that we must decrease and Jesus must increase in our lives. Let us lift up Jesus that He might draw people to Himself through us as we bow before Him, lay our lives before Him – for His glory.

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Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

Christ. There was no longer the annual sacrificial system for the sins of the people on an ongoing basis. There was no longer the brazen serpent in the wilderness for the sins of the people who spoke against God so blatantly.

Jesus came, once and for all, to become the sacrificial Lamb for the sin of the world (Jn 1.29) – if they would but turn to Him and repent of their sins. It is out of this that in the scripture is written, “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all *[men]* unto me” (Jn 12.32). The next verse states that this signifies what death he would die.

Jesus suffered and died on the Cross, was lifted up on the Cross, that we might have life in Him now and forevermore. He was lifted up on the Cross to redeem us. He is the only way of Salvation (Acts 4.12); there is no other way. It was as He was lifted up that His glory was revealed. In I Corinthians 1.18 we read, “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.” It is foolishness to those who reject the Lord; but to us who are saved, it is the power of God; and in this is His glory revealed.

Isaiah (6.1-4) saw the Lord “high and lifted up.”

In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, **high and lifted up**, and his train filled the temple.

Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, *[is]* the LORD of hosts: the whole earth *[is]* full of his glory.

And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.

Jesus suffered on the Cross, was lifted up, died, and rose victoriously over sin, hell, and the grave. He arose from the dead, was lifted up – if you will. And, then ascended to heaven, lifted to His eternal throne. Isaiah saw the Lord, “high and lifted up.” While the world, Satan, in the biblical days thought they had obliterated His Holy Name from the pages of history, the world today, Satan, continues believing that through the subtleties in the “churches” and governments the Name of Jesus has been eradicated, that He is dead. They are wrong! Satan is wrong. Alleluia! Know that the Bible stands today as it has always stood. Jesus Christ is alive! It is written in Philippians 2.8-11:

And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

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

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *[things]* in heaven, and *[things]* in earth, and *[things]* under the earth;

And *[that]* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *[is]* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The text is John 12.32: “And I, **if I be lifted up** from the earth, will draw all *[men]* unto me.” We are called to lift up, to exalt, the Name of Jesus in the preached Word of God. Preaching is first and foremost with our lives, how we live the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is speaking forth His Holy Name, not being ashamed of Him, not being ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation (Rom 1.16). It is preaching the Gospel, lifting up Jesus, exalting His Name, with our lives as well as our words. Many today are not preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ, not preaching salvation through the Blood of the Lamb as they hide behind the pulpit while standing on a pulpitum (stage); nor are they lifting up, exalting, Jesus with their lives.

The text says, “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, **will draw all *[men]* unto me.**” It is the Lord Who draws people unto Himself. It is the Lord through the preached Word Who draws people unto Himself. None of us can draw people to the Lord. We can preach, teach, and live for Jesus; but it is Jesus who draws people unto Himself. It is the Word of God that goes forth in power and might to save souls and heal them.

We would experience with Isaiah the Lord being “high and lifted up” if we would but repent as did Isaiah standing before the Mercy seat and be cleansed by the Lord, cleansed and made whole in Jesus Christ. Perhaps this nation would begin repenting of her sins and turn to the Lord Jesus Christ if we would but preach the unadulterated Word of the Lord with our lives as well as proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

If the body of Christ would be obedient to II Chronicles, we would be lifting up Jesus Christ, exalting Him; and we would experience salvation for this nation. The power of Satan in this nation would be broken, and we would know the peace of the Lord that passes all understanding – if we would lift up Jesus Christ – if we would exalt Him.

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land (II Chr 7.14).

John the Baptizer said about Jesus, “He must increase, but I *[must]* decrease” (Jn 3.30). In Luke 3.15-18, John makes clear his calling is to exalt, to lift up, Jesus Christ. He does not hesitate to speak forth the truth of the Lord Jesus that Jesus shall be exalted, shall be lifted up that the people shall come to know salvation.

And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not;

John answered, saying unto *[them]* all, I indeed baptize you with water;

but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose