

20:20 Vision Ministries – Devotions by Roger Browning Week 31 (July 24-30, 2016)

Unlike many of today's preachers, Jesus never sugarcoated the Word of God. He never told the disciples that their lives would be easy; in fact, He told them to expect persecutions from those who hate them because of their stand for Him. We will continue to study Christ's warnings in this week's devotions.

Sunday, July 24 (read John 17:6-12)

"I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name—the name you gave me—so that they may be one as we are one." (John 17:11)

In the Upper Room, on the last night of His life on earth, Jesus prays for Himself (John 17:1-5), His disciples (v. 6-19) and us (v. 20-26). His primary focus in His prayer for Himself is that He may receive glory for His completed task on earth (v. 1-5). His primary focus in His prayer for the disciples is that they may be united as one and protected from spiritual harm (v. 11-12). Jesus has protected them as they have walked with Him for more than three years, but now, they will be left alone, especially until the Holy Spirit comes to them on the day of Pentecost (see Acts 2:1-13). Why would they need protection? We will see that in tomorrow's devotion.

Monday, July 25 (read John 17:13-19)

"I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world." (John 17:14)

Jesus wants us to have joy and peace because we know that the One who has gone to the Father will come back to receive us unto Himself (v. 13; see also John 14:1-3). He warns beforehand that the world with its politically correct worldview will hate His true followers (v. 14). He knows that Satan will use all of his resources to confuse and discourage His disciples while they are ministering (v. 15), because they do not live by the world's standards (v. 16). The Lord is sending them into a hostile world with only one weapon, His infallible Word (v. 17-19). It is still the only effective weapon to use against an ungodly nation!

Tuesday, July 26 (read John 17:20-23)

"May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me." (John 17:21b)

Jesus turns His attention to all of us who have believed in Him because of the Word of God and the testimony of His disciples (v. 20). He wants us to be united in love so that the lost world will see Christ in us. The secret is that the entire Trinity will be involved in salvation and sanctification (v. 21). Paul put it best in Colossians 1:27 which reads as follows: "To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." Those who come to the Father through the Son, will be led into complete unity by the Spirit (v. 22-23). Then the world will know that that God is real and that He loves His own!

Wednesday, July 27 (read John 17:24-26)

“Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.” (John 17:24)

Jesus was born in Bethlehem for us to witness, but He has always pre-existed with His Father in Heaven (v. 24). His ultimate glory will be complete when we are with Him, first in His earthly kingdom, then in His eternal kingdom. That is why He wants us to come to Him (v. 24). Can you see why Heaven rejoices while we mourn over the death of a saved loved one? This beautiful printed verse is a reminder that God looks at death completely opposite from the way we see it. We are on this Satan-controlled earth to be salt and light to a lost world (v. 25-26; see also Matthew 5:14-16). Is death the “bad thing” that we think happens to “good people?” If so, we are not looking at things from a Biblical viewpoint!

Thursday, July 28 (read John 18:33-40)

Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place.” (John 18:36)

Jesus is standing before Pilate on the morning of Good Friday. He informs the Roman leader that He is indeed a king, but not of this current world (v. 36). He is the King of all who are on the side of truth (v. 37). Pilate asks a question in v. 38 that I hope you are asking also: “What is truth?” The 1960’s generation introduced a concept that there is no such thing as absolute truth. On the other hand, the Bible proclaims that **Jesus** is truth (John 14:6), the **Word** is truth (John 17:17) and the **Spirit** is truth (John 16:13). That means that the politically correct worldview will always oppose the Biblically correct worldview. The world will always choose to crucify Jesus and release the worldly Barabbas (v. 39-40). Which one do you choose?

Friday, July 29 (read Matthew 10:17-20)

“Be on your guard against men; they will hand you over to the local councils and flog you in their synagogues.” (Matthew 10:17)

Those who teach that the Christians will be exempt from suffering should take a red letter Bible and read the messages written in red! We have been kept relatively free from physical persecutions in America, but our day is coming very soon. Already, Christians in foreign countries are being raped, crucified and burned at the stake. Our government turns a deaf ear, because these stories do not fit into the politically correct goal of a one-world global government. We will be brought before governors and presidents **so that** we can witness the truth to them. We don’t have to preplan our speeches nor do we need a teleprompter! The Holy Spirit will speak through us (v. 18-20)! Glory to God!

Saturday, July 30 (read Matthew 10:21-25)

“All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.” (Matthew 10:22)

Since we know that the political and religious leaders persecuted Jesus, should we expect better treatment (v. 24-25)? Since Jesus’ own brothers did not believe in Him, should we expect our families to applaud our faith (see John 7:1-5)? The trouble is not that “bad things happen to good people,” but rather, the problem is that we have been misled as to what to expect from this Satan-controlled world. We will suffer persecution unless the Lord’s return is very near (see 2 Timothy 3:12), but He will keep us strong to the end (v. 22; see also Philippians 1:6). Keep looking up! Fully rely on God (KLUFROG)! The best is yet to come!