

“John Tells Them The Truth”

Luke 3:7-14

- I. At the outset, in looking at John’s preaching, there are some notable things that jump out at us:
- A. **It’s almost as if he knows his time is seriously** _____. You can see his straight-forward approach, almost desperate to get to the point with the people he is talking to. **Richard Baxter-** *“I preach as a dying man to dying men”*
 - B. **John has no fear of people.** I.e., he’s not trapped by the need to be _____. You could almost say... *“I’m not here to make friends, but to warn and win souls!” (Gal. 1:10)*
 - C. **He kept the main thing, the** _____ **thing.** It was about the condition of their souls, period; How “not-to” and “how-to” be saved. **Question:** *How many times do we hang around people who desperately need the Lord, but we never tell them? How different do you think John would be in those same situations?*
 - D. **He used strong imagery and language to reach their hearts & minds.** The spiritual disease of those before him was desperate and of long standing, and he knew that desperate diseases needed _____ remedies. It’s okay to be nice to people, but if we are concerned about their soul’s destination, then we eventually have got to “go there” with our words and tell the truth! *(Ryle quote...pg.61)*
 - E. **John doesn’t shrink back about the reality of hell & God’s** _____. A decent amount of Christians today are doing away with this doctrine entirely. If there is no wrath, then what are we supposed to be “saved” from? We’re not saved from: *Insignificance; Non-existence; Boredom; the Lack of Self-Esteem; Negative Thoughts; nor Social rejection.* No, we’re saved from a _____ wrath and a real eternal punishment (**Mt. 23:15,33; Luke 10:15; Mt.22:13; Luke 16:19-31**) *(Ryle p.62...)*
- II. The statement in verse 3 that John preaches “repentance” is now elaborated upon as he sees immediate false assumptions amongst the people with regards to salvation. Look at v. 7... **“You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee...?”**

- A. John compares the crowds to snakes who flee their desert holes when the _____ of a fire drives them out. John’s preaching has seriously turned up the heat on, and exposed their lost, current thinking regarding what people to do to be saved.
- B. His Point: for those who think that escape from judgment can come from mere baptism (running down here for a quick dip), he urges them that only _____ repentance- in contrast to the act of baptism alone- allows believers to escape the wrath to come. I.e. Good Christian works (baptism, obedience, holy acts, etc.) are not the “cause” of salvation, but the “_____” of it.
- C. (v.8) **“We have Abraham for our father...”** John continues to strike right at the heart of their mis-guided thinking...
 - a. He attacks their common notion that mere “_____ with godly people” can save their souls.
 - b. A number of John’s listeners believed that simply by their physical descent from Abraham, that they were automatic heirs of the promises made to him. They believed that God would _____ judge his covenant people lest He place the fulfillment of His promise in jeopardy.
 - c. He shockingly points out to them that the covenant promises (salvation) is not something you inherit from any other person! Salvation is an _____, qualifying act.
 - d. To further the point, John reminds them that if this *“being a descendant of Abraham”* was all that was needed, then God could easily make a bunch of those out of mere rocks. Bigger Point: Their disobedience will not thwart God’s sovereign plans of having a covenant peoples.
- D. (v.9) **“The axe is already laid at the foot of the trees”**
 - a. Every person who does not produce evidence of _____ saving faith will be thrown into the fire. Simply, if we do not put our trust in Jesus alone as our Savior, then we will miss heaven and gain eternal punishment. It’s that simple.
- E. (v.10-14) **“Then what must we do to be saved?”**
 - a. John lists examples of behavior of a changed heart before God. 3 examples: 2 Coat guy- **“Don’t Hoard, Help others-** _____; Tax Collector- **“Don’t cheat & pad your-** profits- _____”; Soldiers- **“Don’t abuse your authority in any way-** _____ kind-hearted”.