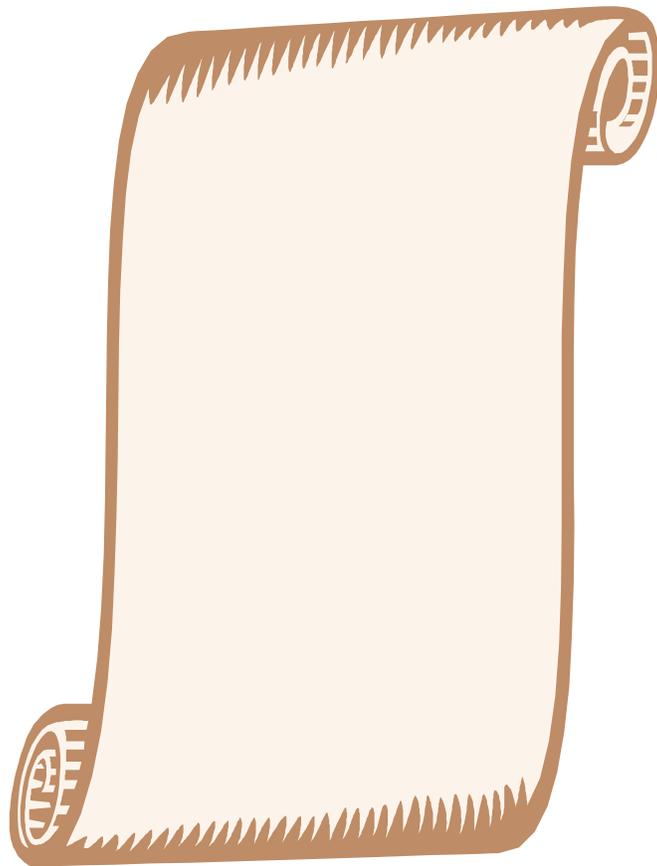


**THE
PROCLAMATION
OF
GOD'S SON**



by
Evangelist Norman R. Stevens

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S SON

Please open your Bibles to the gospel of John chapter three and verse sixteen. I would like to preach a message entitled "The Proclamation of God's Son."

This verse, John chapter three and verse sixteen, is one of the greatest promises in all the Word of God on eternal life, on everlasting life. The Bible says, "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."

Perhaps many of you have already embraced the gospel of Jesus Christ. By that I mean this: You are born again. Your destiny is heaven when you die, and not an awful place called hell, for which you praise the Lord. You ought to praise the Lord.

You ought to rejoice in your salvation. That's right. But it is not right, my dear Christian friends, that you go to heaven and not take others with you. That's not right. It was Jesus Christ, God's Son, who came into the world to save sinners.

If you are born again, you have an awesome responsibility to declare Jesus Christ, God's Son, to all mankind. You have the awesome responsibility to declare the gospel—the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ—to all mankind.

My purpose is that Jesus Christ and the gospel will become more glorious to you today, so much so that it will set a fire within your heart and soul to declare them to others.

Please notice number one, the proclamation of God's Son. There is no one in the entire world like the Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son. He is glorious. He is amazing. He is all together lovely. He is known as the Bright and Morning Star, the Rose of Sharon, and the Lily of the Valley. In the book of Isaiah, He is called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace. In the book of Revelation, He is called Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the Ending, Faithful and True, the Word of God, King of kings, and Lord of lords. In John 1:29, John the Baptist said, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

I submit to you folks that there is no one in all the world like God's Son. He is glorious. He is glorious in His origin. He came forth from eternity. He came forth from the very presence of God the Father. Being in the form of God, He was and is God Almighty.

He is glorious in His birth. He was born of a virgin, without a natural father. He was the fruit of the virgin Mary's womb.

He is glorious in His life. He was without sin. He was incapable of sinning. He was the only sinless Person to ever walk the Earth.

Jesus is glorious in His ministry. The men and women who heard Jesus preach and teach some 2,000 years ago around the Sea of Galilee, in the streets of Jerusalem, in Samaria, on the hillsides, were all astonished at His doctrine; for, they said, "No man taught as this man." In other words, He did not preach and teach as the Sadducees and Pharisees of His day. He taught as one having authority.

Jesus is glorious in His character. He showed us the Father. Jesus Christ, God's Son, did what was right in pleasing God the Father, and He showed us how we too can please God the Father today, in the 21st century, through the Word of God and by God's example set forth in His Word.

Jesus is glorious in His death. Jesus Christ, God's Son, died in the place of sinners. He died for you and He died for me. The Bible says, For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, who knew no sin, to be sin for us. He was the perfect substitute for our sins.

Jesus is glorious in His resurrection. He rose from the dead to die no more. He conquered death and the grave for our justification. He saved us from the penalty of sin. He saved us from the power of sin. And, praise the Lord, one of these days we shall be saved from the very presence of sin itself.

Jesus is glorious in His ascension. He ascended into heaven where He is now seated at the right hand of God the Father, where He reigns in glory as the Creator of the universe, where He is making intercession for me, and for you if you are born again. And just think! Jesus Christ, God's Son is coming again! If that's not glorious, what is?

You can mark it down, my friends. There is no one in all the world like the Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son. He is glorious!

We have noticed number one, the proclamation of God's Son; but notice number two, the proclamation of God's message. God's message is easy to understand. The message is all about Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ, God's Son, came into the world to save sinners.

Jesus did something great for us some two thousand years ago on the cross of Calvary. He died in our place so that we could have our sins forgiven, have eternal life, and have a home in Heaven when we die. We are all sinners. Every single person in the world, from Adam unto this very hour, stands before almighty God guilty; and all the world must say, "I am guilty, for I am a sinner." The Bible makes that very clear in Romans 3:10, which says, "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one." In Romans 3:23, the Bible says, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." In Romans 5:12, the Bible says, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."

Because you are a sinner, you are condemned to die. In Hebrews 9:27, the Bible says, "And it is appointed unto men once to die." In Romans 6:23, the Word of God says, "For the wages of sin is death." That includes eternal separation from God and the people of God in an awful place called hell.

However, God in His love, mercy, and grace was determined to save man. Now, in order for God to save man, He would have to die Himself upon the cross; and so God the Eternal One, God the Holy One, God the High and Lifted up One, that Almighty God, became man in the person of Jesus Christ; and He who knew no sin went to Calvary's cross and became the substitute for man's sin. In II Corinthians 5:21, the Bible says, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." In Romans 5:8, the Bible says, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

If you are going to be saved today, my friend, you will be saved by simply believing what the Bible says about the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In I Corinthians 15:3-4, Paul wrote, "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures."

I believe Jesus Christ, God's Son, died on the cross for me, because the Bible says He died on the cross for my sins. I believe Jesus Christ, God's Son, rose from the dead because the Bible says He rose from the dead. I believe I am saved today because the Bible declares salvation by faith in Christ alone.

Salvation is as simple as believing on Christ. In John 6:47, Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life." In Romans 10:9-10, the Bible says, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." In Romans 10:13, the Bible says, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

If it were not for Christ, you would have no hope of eternal life, a home in heaven, or your sins forgiven. In John 3:16, the Bible says, "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."

Are you going to perish? Are you going to go to an awful place called hell? Hell is an awful place, my friend. Hell is described in the Bible as a place of unquenchable fire. In Mark 9:43-44 the Bible says, "And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched."

What is the Bible saying? It is simply saying this. It is a fire whose flames

never go out. A hundred thousand years from today the fires of hell shall burn as they burn now, a hundred million years, a hundred billion years, throughout the endless eons of eternity, the fires of hell shall burn as they burn now. They shall never be quenched. No relief from the flames of hell. No quenching of the flames of hell. Hell shall burn forever and ever, and all those in that awful place shall endure hell forever.

The Bible defines hell not only as a place of unquenchable fire, but also a place of destruction. In II Thessalonians 1:8-9, the Bible says, "In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power."

I don't know about you; but if those were the only two verses in all the Word of God on judgment and hell, and if I were lost, I would flee to Christ.

In Matthew 10:28, the Bible says, "Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

You say, Preacher! There it is—"destroyed." Destroyed in hell, annihilated, burnt up, and gone forever.

That's not the meaning of this word. That word destroy here does not mean the loss of being, but the loss of well-being. What is the Bible saying? The Bible is saying this. They shall be punished with everlasting destruction. They shall be punished with everlasting, eternal destruction. They shall be being destroyed forever and ever. Day after day, week after week, month after month, year after year, eon after eon, ever being destroyed. Not burnt up, not annihilated, as some false teachers preach and teach today in the twenty-first century, but ever being destroyed.

Are you living in the reality that, if you should die today without Christ, hell shall be your home for eternity? There is only one road that leads to eternal life, Jesus said; and it is a narrow road, and there be few that find it. You will never be able to work your way into heaven. God does not have a scale in heaven whereby he weighs your good and bad works. That is a lie of the Devil.

Salvation is not to be found in church membership. Salvation is not to be found in baptism. Salvation is not to be found in morality. There is absolutely nothing in all the world you can ever do to earn your salvation. Forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and a home in heaven only come through personal faith in Jesus Christ. In Ephesians 2:8-9, the Bible says, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

If you have never received Jesus Christ, God's Son, as your own personal Savior and Friend, receive Christ today before it becomes eternally too late. In John

1:12, the Bible says, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." To believe on Christ is to receive Christ. To receive Christ is to believe on Christ. It is simply believing on Christ as the one who bore your sin, who died in your place, who was buried, and whom God resurrected from the dead.

Jesus did a wonderful thing for you on the cross of Calvary some 2,000 years ago. He died for you; He was buried for you; and He rose again the third day for you; and nothing would thrill Him any more than to save you today so that you can have your sins forgiven, have eternal life, and have a home in heaven when you die.

Brethren, what a glorious Savior we have to proclaim—the Lord Jesus Christ! What a glorious gospel we have to proclaim—the good news: the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ! If it is believed, it will transform Hell-bound sinners, lost and without hope, into the children of Almighty God. And it is on the authority of the Bible that we can, as Christians, offer a dying world salvation from hell through the Person of Jesus Christ. We have an awesome responsibility. It is the job of every Christian today to declare Jesus Christ and the gospel to all mankind.

Just think! You are not here by chance, but by God's choosing. His hand formed you and made you the person you are. You are unique. You are one of a kind. There is no one in all the world like you. God compares you to no one else, and you lack nothing that His grace cannot give you. God has allowed you to be here at this time in history, in this geographical location, in the year of 2001, to fulfill His special purpose for mankind. What is that purpose? We are to reach mankind with the gospel of Jesus Christ before it becomes eternally too late.

Are you telling others about Christ? Are you telling others about the gospel? Or are you ashamed of the gospel of Christ? In Romans 1:16, the Apostle Paul said, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth."

Do you truly believe that we are commissioned by the living Christ to spread the gospel to all mankind? You have the highest calling of God on your lives. You are His ambassadors. In II Corinthians 5:20, the Bible says, "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ." You are the very representatives of Jesus Christ, God's Son; and you must, with every opportunity, warn sinners to flee from the wrath to come and point them to Christ who is "the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world," as the Bible says in John 1:29.

Listen to the Bible. In Matthew 28:18-20, the Bible says, "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." In Acts 1:8, the Bible says, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in

Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." In Mark 16:15, Jesus said it this way, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." That's not just good advice. That's not just a strong suggestion. That's a command.

You say, Preacher! What's the big deal? It is three-fold. The Devil is laughing at the vast majority of God's children today because they are not doing what they are commanded to do in the Word of God. The souls of human beings are perishing by the millions today in an awful place called hell, and the heart of Jesus Christ is broken today. That's the big deal.

You say, preacher! Why do you say that? Why do you believe that the heart of Jesus Christ, God's Son, is broken today? The heart of Jesus Christ, God's Son, is broken today because the Lord Jesus Christ and the gospel are no longer glorious to the vast majority of God's children today. You say, preacher! I don't believe that. I don't believe that the Lord Jesus Christ and the gospel are no longer glorious to the vast majority of God's children today.

Let me ask you something. If Jesus is so glorious to you, when was the last time you went out on church visitation to tell someone about your glorious Saviour and Friend? If Jesus is so glorious to you, how much time do you set aside each week to do nothing else but point men to Christ? If Jesus is so glorious to you, when was the last time you personally led a soul to Christ? If I were to ask you to write down on a piece of paper how many souls have you won to Christ in the last six months, what would you write? If the gospel is so glorious to you today, when was the last time you shared the gospel with a friend? When was the last time you shared the gospel with a family member? When was the last time you shared the gospel with a neighbor or the guy you work with? When was the last time you shared the gospel with a complete stranger?

A vast majority of God's children today are so caught up in their own dreams, in their own plans, in their own ambitions, that they take no time, or very little time, to tell others about Jesus Christ. The vast majority of God's children today are so caught up in their own problems, in their own careers, that they take no time, or very little time, to share the gospel with anybody.

I submit to you folks that Jesus Christ and the gospel are no longer glorious to a vast majority of God's children. That is a sad commentary on God's children today. A vast majority of God's children are no longer concerned for those who are perishing around them. That's not right. It is simply not right that you go to heaven and not take others with you. Today you are living in an area where there are thousands of people on their way to an awful place called hell. The vast majority of your family and friends with whom you live and work are going to hell. We all deserve to go to hell, but we have been saved; and they are on their way to hell, and it is not well that you keep the gospel among yourselves.

Let me ask you something. How were you saved? You say, preacher, I was saved by faith. I know that. But someone probably told you about Christ. What if

that someone had kept Christ to himself? What if that someone had not given up his dreams, his plans, or his ambitions? What if that someone had not set aside his problems or his career? Just think! You might not have gotten saved.

We have noticed number one, the proclamation of God's Son. There is no one in all the world like the Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son. He is glorious. He is amazing. He is all together lovely. In His origin, He came forth from eternity. In His birth, He was born of a virgin. In His life, He was without sin. In His ministry, He taught as one having authority. In His character, He showed us the Father. In His death, He died in the place of sinners. In His resurrection, He rose from the dead to die no more. In His ascension, He ascended into heaven where He is now seated at the right hand of God making intercession for all those who are truly born again.

We have noticed number two, the proclamation of God's message. The message is all about Jesus Christ, and it is easy to understand. Jesus Christ, God's Son, came into the world to save sinners. It was the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ that accomplished the salvation of all mankind if they would believe.

It is my hope that Jesus Christ and the gospel are more glorious to you today, that God's Word has set a fire within your heart and soul to declare them to those who are perishing around you today.

How is a Person Saved?

Salvation is all of God. God does the saving. Just take God at His Word and claim His salvation by faith. You will never be able to work your way into heaven. God does not have a scale in heaven whereby He weighs your good and bad works. That is a lie of the Devil – Romans 3:24; Acts 4:12; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; I Peter 1:18; Romans 5:8.

Salvation is as simple as believing on Christ as the one who bore your sin, who died in your place, who was buried, and whom God resurrected from the dead – John 1:12, 3:16, 6:47; Acts 16:31; II Corinthians 5:21; Romans 10:9-10; Romans 10:13.

Simply admit that you are a sinner and believe on Christ as your crucified, buried, and risen Saviour. You will receive forgiveness for all of your sins. You will receive His free gift of eternal life by faith – Romans 3:10, 23; I Corinthians 15:3-4.

Jesus did a wonderful thing for you some 2,000 years ago on Calvary's cross. He died for you. He was buried for you. He rose again the third day for you, and nothing would thrill Him more than to save you today.

Won't you go to Him right now in prayer and tell Him in your own words that you will trust Him as your Saviour? Or pray this simple prayer: Dear Lord, I know I am a sinner. I believe Jesus died for me and that He arose from the grave. Here and now I ask You to forgive me of my sin and save me. In Jesus's name. Amen.

If you prayed that simple prayer, I would like to hear from you. Please contact me by e-mail or phone (813) 760-4028.

Evangelist Norman R. Stevens
602 Canterbury Road
Kings Mountain, NC 28086-9601
Phone: (813) 760-4028

E-mail: nrsevangelist@earthlink.net
<http://www.evangelistnormanstevens.com>