

## **12-11-22 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent**

### **Sermon- Call Him Everlasting Father**

**Scripture- Revelation 22:1-6, John 4:7-14, CTW- Reading #594**

### **Hymns- To be selected by Nancy Deimler and WDT**

**Theme-** It is said that on Christmas Day, all those years ago, we received the greatest gift ever given...but do we really understand what that is? Today we look at the name "**Everlasting Father**" the one who is ageless, timeless..., **the actual establishment of His eternal kingdom dwelling inside all believers.**

**I. Introduction: One of the most beautiful scenes of the Bible is described in these verses of Revelation.**

**A. John was given a vision of the great River of Life that flows from the Throne of God and of the Lamb.** This crystal clear river begins as a trickle from the Throne and then flows throughout the New Jerusalem to provide healing and life for all who live on its shores.

The green grass, beautiful flowers, trees and meadows along its banks can only be seen in the **mind** and **heart** of man for the time being, but one day soon we shall all see it just as **John** has described in **Chapter 4.**

What a day **that** will be when we get to see Heaven's glorious scenes for the first time! All the troubles and trials of this life will pass into nothingness when we see **Jesus** face to face.

We are given many pictures and symbolisms of the water of life that comes from this river.

**B. We look at this River of Living Water as a continuous and everlasting connection between God and His son.**

When we look at the passage from John, we can see Jesus as he is waiting for the woman at the well who heard the words of Jesus as he said in **John 4:14**,<sup>14</sup> "but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

As the waters of that river flow, there is much that it will do for those who will step into its water and wade out just a little bit deeper each day.

**C. Every Christian must step out into the water and begin to explore the things of God.** As Christians mature in Christ and their relationship grows, they begin to wade out a little farther from the shore and a little farther until finally they are lost in the love of Jesus Christ and learn to walk by faith and not by sight.

However, too many people won't go out into the deep water of relationship with Jesus because it requires a total commitment of faith to believe that Jesus' power will keep them afloat.

As we go "all in for Christ", every provision for our needs is met in the precious **Blood of the Lamb** who is slain. As the River of Life begins its journey through the heart of man there is **so much** that it does for us.

## **II. The River Brings Life Itself!**

**A. Look again at John 4:14, "but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."**

**Those who choose** to be washed in the Blood of the Lamb through repentance of sins and acceptance of the sacrifice of Jesus and surrender their lives to Him, will have this same well of living water springing up from within their own heart.

**B. Why is this so? Because Jesus is the everlasting source of that River and He dwells in the heart of every believer to provide the ability to reach out to other people and have them washed in the Blood also.**

The Holy Spirit within each of us is the manifestation of that river of living water as He speaks through us, leads us and teaches us every day.

### **III. The Gift of the River Satisfies!**

**Listen to the words of David in Psalm 63:**

"You, God, are my God,  
earnestly I seek you;  
I thirst for you,  
my whole being longs for you,  
in a dry and parched land  
where there is no water.

<sup>2</sup> I have seen you in the sanctuary  
and beheld your power and your glory.

<sup>3</sup> **Because your love is better than life,  
my lips will glorify you.**

<sup>4</sup> I will praise you as long as I live,  
and in your name I will lift up my hands.

<sup>5</sup> I will be **fully satisfied** as with the richest of foods;  
with singing lips my mouth will praise you."

**David** knew what it was to need God's forgiveness and God's blessing. He had failed God so many times and yet David's heart longed for the peace and forgiveness that only the River of God would bring.

**A. Surely we live in a dry and thirsty land. Life in this desolate, sin-darkened world is hard and we must forever be on guard against the power of sin as it tries to invade our heart and bring the sentence of death upon us again and again.**

If it were not for that constant flow and the power of the Blood of the Lamb as the River flows upon us, what chance would any of us have?

**But we have a promise of God's help just as David did.**

David wrote another song to the Lord that we can read in

**Psalm 46:4-5**, "<sup>4</sup>There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. <sup>5</sup>God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.

God will not allow the power of sin to overcome us but will come quickly to our aid to deliver us from temptation.

**B. God has promised us in 1 Corinthians 10:13**, "<sup>13</sup>No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; **he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear.** But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it."

The River of God, that begins at the Throne of God and of the Lamb, that comes from the foot of Calvary's cross **gives us the power to overcome and the power to be satisfied by the Spirit of God** in every circumstance for we know that God has it all under control.

#### **IV. The River of God Cleanses Us!**

Every day, around the world, we see people as they use water to wash everything around them. Water has a cleansing power that is beneficial to all of us, but the cleansing power of the River of God goes far deeper than that of natural water.

**A. The water from your tap can only cleanse the outside and make you look good, but the Living Water from the River of God reaches down into the very heart of man and washes away the stain and death of sin.**

There is an old song that says, There is Power in the Blood, Power in the Blood. Sin's stains are washed in its life giving flow, there is Power in the Blood of the Lamb.

There is a painting at a Museum in Eureka Springs, Arkansas which shows just a portion of what that life giving flow is all about.

In that painting, the Blood of Jesus Christ flows from His side as He is hanging upon the Cross of Calvary. **That blood becomes a giant wave of His cleansing and keeping power as it washes across the pages of history.**

This painting is specifically designed to picture America from its foundation to the modern times but the Blood of Jesus Christ as the river of God has flowed throughout the entire history of man.

**B. Every event, every war, every birth and every death have been affected by His Blood. The river has washed upon the shore of every nation and every life. The Blood of Jesus is given that all men can experience its cleansing power.**

**John 3:16 reminds us:** "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."

**"Whosoever"** means any and all people can come to Jesus because there is no limit to the cleansing power of the Blood of the Lamb. Jesus willingly poured out His blood so that we could all experience the cleansing power of the river of God.

Jesus came to be the great I AM of eternity and as such is omnipotent in His power to hear, to save and cleanse man from sin. **The Advent season should remind us all that Christ has given Himself to purchase forgiveness and victory over death for each of us.**

## **V. The River of God is Always Increasing in the Affairs of Men!**

**A. Jesus did not come for only a few. It is God's will that all men should be saved and that none should perish.**

The early church began as a trickle of the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit upon men. **Only 120 were gathered in the Upper Room on the Day of Pentecost as the Holy Spirit came upon them like a mighty rushing wind.** Those 120 began a revival that is continuing to grow throughout the Church Age.

And in the history of the church, **The River of God** continued to flow and would not allow the message of the gospel to die with a **Pagan Church that relied on works more than faith in God.**

**B. Down through history the River has continued its journey. The Blood of the Lamb has never lost its power and it never shall.**

For example, at Azusa Street in California another great revival broke forth because men were searching for true baptism in the Holy Spirit and that revival is still going forth today.

Our own Evangelical Congregational Church and several others were born of this great out-pouring of the Holy Spirit, because on and on, the river flows. **That should be part of our Christmas celebration...that no power on earth could ever stop the river!**

**VI. Conclusion: The Church will not be stopped because the River of God IS Everlasting.** Around the world people are being saved. The river flows onward!

**Matthew 24:14**, reminds us "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."

**A. That's not a picture of a church that is sitting around doing nothing and waiting to be delivered.** That's a picture of the church as it stands under the mighty anointing of the Holy Spirit which defies worldliness and steps out into the territory of the Devil himself to bring the message of the gospel to anyone and everyone who will hear.

Satan cannot stop the River of God as it moves on. Satan and the Antichrist are destined to be washed away by its cleansing power.

The River of God cannot be stopped. It is a flood of God's power to cleanse the world.

That is the message of Advent that we celebrate. This baby Jesus came that we might have life and have it in abundance! Certainly well worth a celebration!

God wants to let the river flow in our hearts today and everyday.

**This is the perfect season to open the doors of your heart and let the cleansing power of the Blood of the Lamb to wash over you!**

**Amen? Let us Pray...**