

Message Nine

The Need of The Blind in Religion – Life’s Sight and Life’s Shepherding

Scripture reading: John 9:1 – 10:42

I. Life’s Sight – For the Blind in Religion – 9:1-41.

- A. Born blind – vv.1c-3.
 - 1. When we were sinners, we lost our sight and could not see anything.
 - 2. We sinners were blind by nature because we were born that way.
- B. Receiving sight by the Light and the anointing of Life – vv.4-13.
 - 1. By the light of life – v.5.
 - 2. By the anointing of the word of life mingled with humanity – v.6; cf. Lev.2:5; Rom. 9:21; Matt. 4:4; John 6:63.
 - a. The clay signifies humanity.
 - b. The spittle is the Word, which is spirit and life, that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord; The Word that proceeds out of the mouth of Christ is spirit.
 - c. Thus, to mingle spittle with the clay signifies the mingling of humanity with the Lord’s living Word.
 - d. The word “anointed” proves this, because the Lord’s Spirit is the anointing Spirit – Luke 4:18; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; 1 John 2:27.
 - 3. By the obedience to Life’s word and washing away of the old humanity – 9:7.
- C. Persecuted by religion – vv.14-34.
- D. Believing into the Son of God – vv.35-38.
- E. Life’s judgement on the blind religionists – vv.39-41.

II. Life’s Shepherding – For the Believers outside of Religion – 10:1-42

- A. The sheepfold, the door, and the pasture – for the sheep – vv.1-9.
 - 1. The sheepfold signifies the law, the Judaism, the religion of the law – cf. Gal. 3:23-26.
 - 2. The sheep signifies God’s chosen people.
 - 3. The door signifies Christ for “going in” and “going out.”
 - 4. The pasture signifies Christ as the feeding place for the sheep.
- B. The Shepherd, the divine life, and the soulish life – for the flock – vv.10-21.
 - 1. Christ being the Shepherd
 - 2. Christ laying down His soulish life that the sheep may have His divine life – vv.10-11.
 - 3. To be formed into one flock by life under one Shepherd – v.16.
 - a. The one flock signifies the one church, the one Body of Christ, brought forth by life, which the Lord imparted into His members through His death – Eph. 2:14-16.
 - b. The flock is the church which includes two peoples—the believing Jews and Gentiles.
 - c. The Lord brings both together into one flock and under one shepherd.
 - d. Now, the one flock and the one shepherd are the one Body and the one

Head.

- C. The eternal life, the Son's hand, and the Father's hand – for the security of the sheep – vv.22-30.
 - 1. Both the Son's hand as the hand of power and the Father's hand as the hand of love are for the believers' protection.
 - 2. Eternal life shall never run out, and the hands of the Son and the Father shall never fail.
 - 3. So the believers are eternally secured and shall never perish.
- D. The persecution of religion – vv.31-39.
- E. Life's desertion of religion and Life's new standing – vv.40-42.

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Reference Scriptural verses

John 9:1–41. **1** And as He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. **2** And His disciples asked Him, saying, Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind? **3** Jesus answered, Neither has this man sinned nor his parents, but *he was born so*, that the works of God might be manifested in him.

4 We must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. **5** While I am in the world, I am the light of the world. **6** When He had said this, He spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed his eyes with the clay, **7** And He said to him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam (which is interpreted, Sent). He went therefore and washed and came *away* seeing. **8** The neighbors then and those who previously saw him as a beggar said, Is not this the one who used to sit and beg? **9** Some said, This is he. Others said, No, but he is like him. He said, I am *the one*. **10** They said then to him, How then were your eyes opened? **11** He answered, The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes, and said to me, Go to the *pool* of Siloam and wash. I went therefore and washed, and I received my sight. **12** And they said to him, Where is He? He said, I do not know. **13** They brought him who was once blind to the Pharisees.

14 Now it was the Sabbath, on which day Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. **15** Again therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he received his sight. And he said to them, He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see. **16** Then some of the Pharisees said, This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath. But others said, How can a man *who is* a sinner do such signs? And there was ⁴a division among them. **17** Then they said to the blind man again, What do you say about Him, in that He opened your eyes? And he said, He is a prophet. **18** The Jews then did not believe concerning him that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight **19** And asked them, saying, Is this your son, of whom you say that he was born blind? How then does he now see? **20** Then his parents answered *them* and said, We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. **21** But how he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know. Ask him; he is of age; he will speak for himself. **22** His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone confessed Him *to be the* Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue. **23** Because of this his parents said, He is of age; question him. **24** Therefore a second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, Give glory to God; we know that this man is a sinner. **25** Then he answered, Whether *or not* He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see. **26** They said then to him, What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes? **27** He answered them, I told you already and you did not hear. Why do you want to hear *it* again? Do you also want to become His disciples? **28** And they reviled him and said, You are His disciple; but we are disciples of Moses. **29** We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He is from. **30** The man answered and said to them, Why here is an amazing thing, that you do not know where He is from, and *yet* He opened my eyes! **31** We know that God does not hear sinners, but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He hears him. **32** Since time began it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of one born blind. **33** If this man were not from God, He could do nothing. **34** They answered and said to him, You were wholly born in sins, and you are teaching us? And they cast him out.

35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and He found him and said, Do you believe into the Son of God? **36** He answered and said, And who is He, Lord, that I may believe into Him? **37** Jesus said to him, You have both seen Him, and He is the One speaking with you. **38** And he said, Lord, I believe; and he worshipped Him.

39 And Jesus said, For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind. **40** *Some* of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things and said to Him, We are not blind also, are we? **41** Jesus said to them, If you were blind, you would not have sin; but now *that* you say, We see; your sin remains.

John 10:1–42. **1** Truly, truly, I say to you, He who does not enter through the door into the sheepfold, but climbs up from somewhere else, he is a thief and a robber; **2** But he who enters through the door is the shepherd of the sheep. **3** To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. **4** When he puts forth all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. **5** But they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers. **6** This parable Jesus spoke to them, but they did not know what those things meant that He spoke to them. **7** Jesus therefore said to them again, Truly, truly, I say to you that I am the door of the sheep. **8** All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. **9** I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he shall be saved and shall go in and go out and shall find pasture.

10 The thief does not come except to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and may have *it* abundantly. **11** I am the good Shepherd; the good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. **12** He who is a hireling and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf snatches them and scatters *them*. **13** *He flees* because he is a hireling and it does not matter to him concerning the sheep. **14** I am the good Shepherd, and I know My own, and My own know Me, **15** Even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. **16** And I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must lead them also, and they shall hear My voice, and there shall be one flock, one Shepherd. **17** For this *reason* the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. **18** No one takes it away from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it again. This commandment I received from My Father. **19** A division again took place among the Jews because of these words. **20** And many of them said, He has a demon and is insane. Why do you listen to Him? **21** Others said, These are not the words of one *who is* demon possessed. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?

22 At that time the Feast of the Dedication occurred in Jerusalem, *and* it was winter. **23** And Jesus was walking in the temple in the portico of Solomon. **24** The Jews therefore surrounded Him and said to Him, How long will You hold our soul in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly. **25** Jesus answered them, I told you, and you do not believe. The works which I do in My Father's name, these testify concerning Me; **26** But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep. **27** My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; **28** And I give to them eternal life, and they shall by no means perish forever, and no one shall snatch them out of My hand. **29** My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all, and no one can snatch *them* out of My Father's hand. **30** I and the Father are one.

31 The Jews again took up stones that they might stone Him. **32** Jesus answered them, I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of these works are you stoning Me? **33** The Jews answered Him, We are not stoning You for a good work, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a man, are making Yourself God. **34** Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, "I said, You are gods"? **35** If He said they *were* gods, to whom the word of God came, and the Scripture cannot be broken, **36** Do you say of Him whom the Father has sanctified and sent into the world, You are blaspheming, because I said, I am the Son of God? **37** If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; **38** But if I do *them*, even if you do not believe Me, believe the works so that you may come to know and continue to know that the Father *is* in Me and I *am* in the Father. **39** Then they sought again to seize Him, yet He went forth out of their hand.

40 And He went away again across the Jordan, to the place where John was baptizing at first, and He remained there. **41** And many came to Him and said, John did no sign, but all the things John said concerning this man were true. **42** And many believed into Him there.

I.B.2.

Lev. 2:5 And if your offering is a meal offering baked on a flat plate, it shall be of fine flour mingled with oil, unleavened.

Rom. 9:21 Or does not the potter have authority over the clay to make out of the same lump one vessel unto honor and another unto dishonor?

Matt. 4:4 But He answered and said, It is written, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God."

John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

Luke 4:18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to announce the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to send away in release those who are oppressed,

2Cor. 1:21-22. **21** But the One who firmly attaches us with you unto Christ and has anointed us is God, **22** He who has also sealed us and given the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.

1John 2:27 And as for you, the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone teach you; but as His anointing teaches you concerning all things and is true and is not a lie, and even as it has taught you, abide in Him.

II.A.1.

Gal. 3:23-26. **23** But before faith came we were guarded under law, being shut up unto the faith which was to be revealed. **24** So then the law has become our child-conductor unto Christ that we might be justified out of faith. **25** But since faith has come, we are no longer under a child-conductor. **26** For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

II.B.3.a.

Eph. 2:14-16. **14** For He Himself is our peace, He who has made both one and has broken down the middle wall of partition, the enmity, **15** Abolishing in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances, that He might create the two in Himself into one new man, so making peace, **16** And might reconcile both in one Body to God through the cross, having slain the enmity by it.