



March 12, 2023

Pastor Note:

It's probably safe for me to say that you hold an opinion or two (thousand). Often we introduce our opinions with, "Well, I think that ... (nobody should go shopping in their pajamas)," or, "I just feel like ... (those kids nowadays don't even know what hard work is)." There is nothing wrong with holding an opinion, unless, of course, your opinion is wrong, not grounded in facts, contrary to the truth. For example, your and my opinion on whether or not an election was legitimate doesn't matter (or shouldn't matter), what counts are the facts, whatever they might be.

"Aren't we entitled to have an opinion?" Sure we are, but at the same time, you and I need to remember that our mere opinion isn't fact, the truth, or the final word. We should be flexible and wise enough to change our opinions (our minds and hearts) when they are contrary to the truth. It is okay to be stubborn about the truth, it is foolish to stubbornly hold on to an opinion contrary to the truth.

Personal preferences, advice-giving, politics, and religion, talk about opinion lava flows, Petri dishes with thriving opinion cultures, and look! There you are. Well, let me jump right in, "What's your opinion about Jesus?" and, "Is your opinion really the truth about Jesus?"

Jesus once asked his disciples what people's opinions were regarding him, **"Who do people say that I am?"**

And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets."

He *said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God"

Mark 8:27; Matthew 16:14-16 (NASB). Of course, there were many more opinions than the ones the disciples listed. Some thought Jesus was an imposter, others thought He was crazy, the Jewish leaders thought Jesus needed to go away, and, I'm sure, many didn't give a hoot, thought He was unimportant, inconsequential.

But we are not talking about others' opinions regarding Jesus, we are talking about yours, and whether your Jesus opinion squares with the facts, the truth about Jesus that should shape your opinion, your belief about Jesus.

The first and most important truths about Jesus are that He is God, God the Son, the Creator of all things, who took on human flesh in order to save sinful, dying, humankind, you and me. The Apostle John, an eyewitness of Jesus, put it like this:

"In the beginning the Word, *Jesus*, already existed. The Word, *Jesus*, was with God, and the Word, *Jesus*, was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. The Word, *Jesus*, gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it...

He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God. So the Word, *Jesus*, became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son ...

For the law was given through Moses, but God's unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. But the one and only Son is himself God and is near to the Father's heart. He has revealed God to us" John 1:1-5, 10-14, 17-18 (NLT2, italics mine).

So, the first thing John lets you and me know is that Jesus is far too important to hold a low or dismissive opinion of Him. The Apostle Paul, who started out having as low and anti of an opinion of Jesus as you possibly could have, thought all that was being said about Jesus was hogwash, the worst kind of heresy. Then he had a real-life encounter with the living (not dead) Jesus and had to change his mind, adjust his low and wrong opinion regarding Jesus to the truth. Later Paul wrote, **"In Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body"** (Colossians 2:9 NLT2).

One of the last reminders Jesus left with His disciples before He returned to where He had come from, heaven, was, **"All authority, power, has been given to Me in heaven and on earth"** Matthew 28:18 (NASB, italics mine). Only God holds all power in heaven and anywhere else. The bottom line is, when you are dealing with Jesus you are dealing with God Himself. Thus, the wisest thing for you and me to do is not to shape Jesus by our opinion but to adjust our opinion to the eternal and unchangeable truth that Jesus is God. This is the time, your and my time, to adjust both our opinion and lives to the truth of Jesus, it will determine our eternal destiny.

To God be all glory. Love you, Pastor Hans



Lord Hear Our Prayers

Sermon Notes:

PRAYER REQUEST

Health: Karen Souza, Shirley Wolfenbarger,
Mabel Mayes, JoEllen, Jim & Gabi Cox,
Rickie Jeffers
Family and Friends, Our Church's Ministries,

SALVATION

Nick, Greg, David, Phillip, Luke, Skip, Demetrius McCray,
Farney, John Boykin, Peter, Mariah Ellis, Jimmy,
Shyrlee Stagner, Dan, Josiah, Amanda, Jim

Military And Those Serving

Michael Berger, Austin Downing, Mike Sharland,	
Noah Martin, Rebekah	Wilhelmy, John
Michael Chavez,	
Chris Kelly, Austin	Kroeker, Dylan
Werner, Brian Sula,	
Michael Thomasson,	Thomas Hoffman,
Joel Thelen,	

For those wanting to send cards & flowers to *Genevieve* see her new address below:

Brandel Manor
C/O Genevieve Alldrin
1801 North Olive Ave.
Turlock, Ca 95382
Ph # 209-410-7200

Prayers:

Being a Church that Cares Well

Training coming soon...

Why?

“The American church is facing an abuse crisis. Is your church doing all it can to be safe for survivors and safe from abuse? Churches should be a refuge for those who have experienced abuse. But, too often, survivors haven't found the protection they deserve and the care they need from the church. Are you ready to join us in changing that?”

Yes. We are committed to being a safe place for everyone from babies to elderly and we will continue to keep ourselves educated and trained in order to be able to love, love, love. In order for that we will have once-a-month trainings for 4 months for our church staff, Deacons, Board, Children and Youth Leaders, Women's Leaders, Men's Leader, and Food Basket Leaders, and any other adult that may be interested in attending. Each meeting will be at the church from 6:30-8:30 pm.

Meeting 1: 2/13/23

Meeting 2: 3/13/23

Meeting 3: 4/10/23

Meeting 4: 5/08/23

The videos are survivor stories, educational training, and explaining why the church's response to abuse is a Gospel issue (meeting #1).

In addition to providing these monthly meetings, our leaders and administration will commit to protecting our children and church by training as Mandated Reporters and have a live scan background check.

If you would like to join our monthly meetings, please let Susie Frei know so there is a seat for you (skfrei@gmail.com or 209-247-9234) or let Jannett know.

March Announcements

Upcoming Events

- Men's Gathering - Tuesdays @ 6:00 P.M.
- **Wednesday Night Bible Study for all ages - 7:00 P.M.**
- Food Ministry - 1st Wed. & 3rd Tues. @ 9:00 AM - 11:00 A.M.
- Communion Sunday - March 26th
(Deacon Fund Offering going toward the Food Bank Ministry)
- Church Board Meeting - March 13, 2023 @ 6:30 pm

Fellowship Time Snacks
were provided

By - *Dan's Class*

Thank you

Next week Beverly's & Youth Class is up!!

Caring Well Training - March 13 @ 6 pm

For all *adults* in Church leadership positions, training will include:

- Survivor Story: Megan Lively
- Abuse and Mental Health - Understanding the Long-Term Effects of Trauma: Kay Warren
- Walking with the Broken: Caring Well for Friends and Family who Have Experienced Abuse: Jamie Ivey

Please understand these stories can trigger trauma in those who have suffered abuse or have loved ones who have suffered abuse. We invite you to come but understand if you opt-out. Please pray that God gives us unity, empathy, and love to serve as a church that cares well.

Susie Frei, Bible School Director

Giving

March 5, 2023

Offering:
\$4,919.00

Food:
\$60.00

Facilities:
\$50.00

Books/Material:
\$40.00

Attendance:
93

Weekly Events

Sunday School/Small Groups:

9:00 AM

Sunday Morning Worship Service:

10:30 AM

Sunday Evening Worship Service:

6:00 PM

Tuesday: Men's Gathering: 6:00 PM

1st Wednesday & 3rd Tuesday

Food Ministry:

9:00 AM -11:00 AM

Wednesday:

Women's Bible Study - 10:00 AM
Bible Study/Small Group - 7:00 PM
Grief Share - 6:30 PM (On Hiatus)

Thursday: Chicken Foot - 1:00 PM

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S H A R E



1 Timothy 6:18



March 13th thru March 19th

DAY 1 - Luke 3
(Proverbs 13)

DAY 2 - Luke 4
(Proverbs 14)

DAY 3 - Luke 5
(Proverbs 15)

DAY 4 - Luke 6
(Proverbs 16)

DAY 5 - Luke 7
(Proverbs 17)

DAY 6 - (Proverbs 18)

DAY 7 - (Proverbs 19)

Welcome all of you who are guests with us today. Our desire is for you to relax and be blessed by worship, God's Word, and fellowship. We, the members, have committed ourselves to underwrite the church financially. We do not expect you to contribute to the offering, but you are free to participate. We would like to get to know you and for you to know us better.