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*God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.*

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## John 7.

(2013)

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The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

***Teach it, don't demand it.***

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## John 7.

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### Topics.

- The Jews' Feast of Booths was at hand.
- Jews were seeking to kill Jesus.
- The world hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil.
- Jesus accuses the Jews of seeking to kill him.
- Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment.
- The Spirit has not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.
- Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.
- Let him come to me and drink.

**The Previous Chapter:** in the previous chapter Jesus miraculously fed the five-thousand and walking on the Sea of Galilee he went to the disciples. He taught in a synagogue in Capernaum that he is the living bread that came down from heaven and told his disciples unless they eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood they have no life in them and Peter made the statement, Jesus has the words of eternal life.

**NOTE:** for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

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### The Jews' Feast of Booths was at hand.

John 7:1-6 ----- <sup>1</sup>After this Jesus went about in Galilee. He would not go about in Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill him. <sup>2</sup>Now the Jews' Feast of Booths was at hand. <sup>3</sup>So his brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea, that your disciples also may see the works you are doing. <sup>4</sup>For no one works in secret if he seeks to be known openly. If you do these things, show yourself to the world." <sup>5</sup>For not even his brothers believed in him. <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to them "My time has not yet come, but your time is always here.

The two words: -

- After this.

Introducing this chapter links back to the previous chapter, in which Jesus was telling his disciple unless they eat his flesh and drink his blood they have no life in them.

**Booths:** means to set up a tent hut or temporary residence, figuratively it can refer to the human body (as the abode of the spirit). The Feast of Booths is also called the Feast of Tabernacles and Ingathering because of the custom of erecting booths for temporary homes and everyone gathering together.

### Jews were Seeking to Kill Jesus.

Jesus is aware that the religious leaders at Judea were seeking to kill him, so he remained in Galilee since it was not yet his time to lay down his life, but his brothers had no idea that Jesus fate was destined to end in death at Jerusalem. They did not understand that their first born brother was Israel's Messiah the Christ, the Son of God and the saviour of the world, in fact no-one not even the apostles fully comprehended who Jesus was until he appeared to them after his death and resurrection but it is clear that his brothers did accept him as a great

prophet because they realised his message is for the world. Since it was the time Jews would be gathering at Jerusalem they naturally wanted him to go with them to the Feast of Booths so the disciples in Judea would hear his message and see the miracles so they tell him to go to Judea and show himself openly to the world instead of keeping his message and power secret.

### **The world hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil.**

John 7:7-13 ----- <sup>7</sup>The world cannot hate you (Jesus brothers) (v3, 5) but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil. <sup>8</sup>You go up to the feast. I am not going up to this feast, for my time has not yet fully come." <sup>9</sup>After saying this, he remained in Galilee. <sup>10</sup>But after his brothers had gone up to the feast then he also went up, not publicly but in private. <sup>11</sup>The Jews were looking for him at the feast and saying, "Where is he?" <sup>12</sup>And there was much muttering about him among the people. While some said, "He is a good man," others said, "No, he is leading the people astray." <sup>13</sup>Yet for fear of the Jews no one spoke openly of him.

The world here primarily refers to the Jewish world, but by extension embraces the entire world and though Jesus is speaking to his brothers what he is saying applies to all who belong to him, we know this because later Jesus says: -

- To every branch of his (v2) and to whoever abides in him (v5), "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you (John 15:18-20).

The reason Jesus said to his brothers "The world cannot hate you," Was because they were not telling people especially the chief priests, Pharisees scribes and the Jews that they are sinners. They are not exposing people's sinful deeds or inward sinful nature (self, ego, pride, greed etc.). It is because Christ exposes people's ungodliness in behaviour, thought and motivation that they hate him. Jesus purpose in exposing wrong behaviour is not to condemn people but that they would come to repentance and be saved to eternal life. We know this because Jesus says: -

- Whoever does not believe is condemned already, because they has not believed in the name of the only Son of God (John 3:18).

And that: -

- God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him (John 3:17).

However, when a person does identify with Christ those who are self-righteous and those who want to live an ungodly lifestyle will certainly not want to be their friends and in extreme cases even hate them as they hated Christ because they know that Jesus was a holy and righteous man and just by being in the company of those who are faithful to him they feel exposed and uncomfortable.

### **Jesus goes to the Feast of Booths on his Own.**

Jesus was fully aware that he only a limited amount of time to minister and teach his disciples before the Jewish religious leaders would condemn him to death so he goes to the Feast on his own most likely so that he would not put his brothers in any future danger so he could stay amongst the people where he would be safe. (The religious authorities (v26) were seeking to kill him secretly not in the middle of a public crowd).

### **NOTICE.**

Jesus was the central conversation, the people no-doubt had heard all sorts of stories and rumours about this man who some thought was leading the people astray (primarily the Jews) by what they considered to be false teaching while others thought him to be a good man.

## **Jesus teaches in the Temple.**

John 7:14-18 ----- <sup>14</sup>About the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and began teaching. <sup>15</sup>The Jews therefore marvelled, saying, "How is it that this man has learning, when he has never studied?" <sup>16</sup>So Jesus answered them, "My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me. <sup>17</sup>If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. <sup>18</sup>The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory, but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood.

It is certain that Mary and Joseph would have read and taught Jesus the Old Testament when he was a child and as he grew he would have read and studied the scrolls and writings of the prophets, but he also had a unique relationship to the Father and because of this God's word was in him, he was the manifestation of God's word full of grace, mercy, truth and power appearing in human form on earth (John 1:14) (John 14:10).

For forty-days God gave Moses detailed laws for the nation of Israel and instructions for the Tabernacle on Mount Sinai so there is no-doubt God gave His only begotten Son (the One greater than Moses) revelations of the Gospel during Jesus time with him in prayer.

### **To do the will of God is to: -**

- Believe in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ who He sent.

And to: -

- Love your neighbour as yourself.

Which means do not deliberately do harm to other humans. No sane person deliberately does things to inflict pain on themselves, loving others as you love yourself is not about feeling some warm and fuzzy emotion towards others, it is about not hurting others as you would not hurt yourself. The thing God hates the most is when we do harm to another person, physically, financially, sexually, emotionally or spiritually and the thing God loves the most is when we do good to others.

It is interesting to notice that the major crime that God points out in Noah's time and one of the main reasons for the flood was because of all the violence in the land. Leviticus chapter nineteen makes it clear that our neighbour is every other person, showing that the law requires justice to all people. The six commandments regarding mankind should be applied to everyone and we must abide by them ourselves.

To love in the biblical sense is not an emotional attitude, but the keeping of these laws in relation to our neighbour. This is the general law of justice, beyond that; our conduct is to be regulated by relationship. We must render honour and justice to all people wherever due, but we have a particular responsibility to care for our families and those who belong to Christ.

## **Jesus accuses the Jews of seeking to Kill Him.**

John 7:19-26 ----- <sup>19</sup>Has not Moses given you (the Jews) the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why do you seek to kill me?" <sup>20</sup>The crowd answered, "You have a demon! Who is seeking to kill you?" <sup>21</sup>Jesus answered them "I did one deed, and you all marvel at it. <sup>22</sup>Moses gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. <sup>23</sup>If on the Sabbath a man receives circumcision, so that the law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with me because on the Sabbath I made a man's whole body well? <sup>24</sup>Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment." <sup>25</sup>Some of the people of Jerusalem therefore said, "Is not this the man whom they seek to kill? <sup>26</sup>And here he is, speaking openly, and they say nothing to him! Can it be that the authorities really know that this is the Christ?"

Jesus is speaking in the temple and accuses the Jews (the religious authorities) (v26) of seeking to Kill Him, the people are stunned at his extreme statement they think for him to make what seemed them such an outlandish statement he must have a demon. This would be like standing up in the Vatican and saying to the Pope your followers are seeking to kill the Queen, to those sitting in the temple it is a radical statement so they ask Jesus, "Who is seeking to kill him?"

Jesus then explains to them that he did one deed referring to the invalid (who had not walked for 38 years) that he healed, but because it was a Sabbath Day and Jesus told the man to pick up his bed and walk the Jews were furious because to them carrying a bed on a Sabbath Day was considered work and therefore the healed man was breaking God's Commandment, thou shalt not work on the Sabbath Day. (The story is in John 5:5-18).

### **The Sabbath Day and Circumcision.**

Jesus exposes the Jews foolishness and their hypocrisy by pointing out if the eighth day of a new born child fell on a Sabbath Day the Jews would still perform the work of circumcising the child to keep the law of Moses, but if they accuse Jesus of breaking the law of the Sabbath because he healed a crippled man they then should be accusing themselves for performing the work of circumcision on a Sabbath Day. Because the Jews had become so legalistic they had no-idea of what was really important to God, it was never against God's law to do-good toward others especially when it meant saving a life the work not to be done on a Sabbath Day was business and secular work.

### **Do not judge by appearances, but judge with Right Judgment.**

Jesus words, "Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment," means do not judge by what appears right according to the law, but judge with love, mercy and grace, meaning don't be legalistic when something is not black and white or comes in the grey areas of the law or even God's word. In these situations judge with love (i.e. what is going to bring about the best results for everyone concerned in this situation).

An example of this rule would be divorce, there are no rules in the Bible on how to deal with a multitude of difficulties that arise in cases of broken marriages especially when children are involved, in these situations, Jesus would say, "judge with right judgment." (i.e., do what is right), another way of stating this would be to ask yourself, "What is the loving thing to do?" This does not mean doing away with justice rather it is about having people's best interest at heart.

### **No-one will know where the Christ will come From.**

John 7:27-31 ----- <sup>27</sup>But we know where this man comes from, and when the Christ appears, no one will know where he comes from." <sup>28</sup>So Jesus proclaimed, as he taught in the temple, "You know me, and you know where I come from? But I have not come of my own accord. He who sent me is true, and him you do not know. <sup>29</sup>I know him for I come from him and he sent me." <sup>30</sup>So they were seeking to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come. <sup>31</sup>Yet many of the people believed in him. They said, "When the Christ appears, will he do more signs than this man has done?"

The words, "When the Christ appears, no one will know where he comes from." Refers to the following two things: -

1. To his origin and birth, everyone thought he came from Mary and Joseph but though he came from Mary he certainly never came from Joseph since God was his Father.
2. To his return as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth.

The words "I come from him," refers to his birth, and the "Words he sent me," Refers to God anointing and ordaining him at his water baptism for his ministry.

## **Many believed in Jesus because of the Miracles.**

The miracles Jesus performed authenticated and testified that he was the prophet to come like Moses, the promised seed of Abraham and of David, Israel's Messiah the Christ the Son of God and Saviour of the world (v31). No man on earth could do the things Christ did without the full power of God flowing through him, thus his sign miracles evidenced that he was approved of God, sent by God, had God's favour and was God's beloved Son and the one Moses and all the prophet spoke of.

We know Jesus miracles were to authenticated that he was sent by God the Father because when John the Baptist was in prison he sent his disciples to ask Jesus if he was the one who is to come and Jesus answered them with the following majestic words: -

- Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me (Matt 11:2-6) (Luke 7:18-23).

It is stated in the Old Testament that the Christ will open the eyes of the blind, heal the ears of the deaf, cause the crippled to walk and the mute to speak with joy (Isaiah 29:1-24) (Isaiah 35:1-10) (Isaiah 42:1-10) all the miracles that Jesus did.

## **NOTICE.**

Jesus told the Jews that they do not know God (v28).

## **The Chief Priests, Pharisees send Officers to Arrest Jesus.**

John 7:32-36 ----- <sup>32</sup>The Pharisees heard the crowd muttering these things about him and the chief priests and Pharisees sent officers to arrest him. <sup>33</sup>Jesus then said, "I will be with you a little longer, and then I am going to him who sent me. <sup>34</sup>You will seek me and you will not find me. Where I am you cannot come." <sup>35</sup>The Jews said to one another, "Where does this man intend to go that we will not find him? Does he intend to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks? <sup>36</sup>What does he mean by saying, 'You will seek me and you will not find me,' and, 'Where I am you cannot come'?"

Jesus words, "Where I am you cannot come" refers to his death and resurrection to the right hand side of his Father and eternal glory, the Chief Priest and Pharisees cannot come because they do not believe in Christ and is the only way to the Father. At this stage the people had know idea that Jesus was going to be arrested killed and raised from the dead they thought he was just going to another town. The reason Jesus said, "You will seek me and not find me," Is because they will be seeking for him in another town instead of seeking him by faith.

## **The Spirit has Not Been Given, because Jesus was Not Yet Glorified.**

John 7:37-49 ----- <sup>37</sup>On the last day of the feast (of Booths) the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. <sup>38</sup>Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' <sup>39</sup>Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. <sup>40</sup>When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This really is the Prophet." <sup>41</sup>Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee? <sup>42</sup>Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the offspring of David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" <sup>43</sup>So there was a division among the people over him. <sup>44</sup>Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him. <sup>45</sup>The officers then came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring him?" <sup>46</sup>The officers answered, "No one ever spoke like this man!" <sup>47</sup>The Pharisees answered them, "Have you also been deceived? <sup>48</sup>Have any of the authorities or the Pharisees believed in him? <sup>49</sup>But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed."

### **Out of his Heart will Flow Rivers of Living Water.**

Many believe Jesus statement, "Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water" (v38) refers to the gift of speaking in other languages as recorded in (Acts 2:1-4). But the statement is directed to whoever believes and to whoever comes to him so it has a much wider application than just those in the upper room and the few they transferred the gift onto by the laying on of hands.

The "Whoever will believe" embraces everyone who belongs to Christ it is referring to the spiritual event that takes place in the human heart in that moment when a sinner is transferred from the Kingdom of darkness to the glorious Kingdom of light and the focus of their mind and priority of their life is transformed from desiring the things of this world to desiring the things of God.

The reason their heart is filled with "Rivers of living water" is because they know the love of God is toward them and that God imputes righteousness to them as a free gift because of their faith in Christ. Rivers of living water rise up because they are delivered from the bondage of the law and works into salvation by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Let him come to me and Drink.**

Jesus words, "Let him come to me and drink" (v37) means believe in Christ, make him pre-eminent in the heart and mind, look to him and learn of his ways and his teachings and do them the more one surrenders their mind and life to the Lord the greater and deeper the rivers of living water will spring up in the heart.

### **For as yet the Spirit had not been Given.**

Jesus words, "For as yet the Spirit had not been given," (v39) refers to the Holy Spirit (i.e. the spirit of righteousness has not yet been granted because Jesus was not yet glorified), referring to his death and resurrection. Christ death and resurrection totally destroyed the Old Covenant with all its religious laws, ceremonial rites, Levitical Priesthood and it robbed the religious leaders (the Chief Priests, Pharisees and Scribes) of all their power and religious control over the people because no-one needs a human priest to intercede for them since Jesus is the perfect and eternal High Priest for everyone who belongs to him.

### **Jesus was not yet Glorified.**

The words, "Jesus was not yet glorified" (v39) should be a great encouragement to everyone who is in difficult circumstances or in a suffering situation. Jesus knew that before he was to be raised to eternal glory he had to suffer, never think suffering is a sign that God does not love you, if that was the case God really hated Jesus, but Jesus knew that living in his mortal body and this decaying world there was no perfection or freedom from trouble, but was willing to endure the pain because he knew the joy and glory that God had promised him, we are called to have the same attitude when troubles come to us.

### **Division among the people over Jesus.**

Verses 40-43 is a good example of unnecessary division, some people thought Jesus was the Prophet to come that Moses and the prophets spoke of others thought he was the Christ, but others were in doubt because they thought he should be a descendant of David and come from Bethlehem the city of David not Galilee so there was division. The sad part about this division is that all of this confusion can be harmonised with a little more knowledge.

Jesus did descend from David and though his ministry was mostly around Galilee his origin and birth was in Bethlehem and he was the prophet to come, sadly this kind of division often happens in the body of Christ many divisions are caused by two groups being so dogmatic everything is either right or wrong, but in many cases opposing thoughts ideas and beliefs can be harmonized if the two opposing groups instead of trying to prove to each other their opposing point of view which only put the listener on the defence actually humbly sat down and allowed to each other explain from the Scriptures why they hold their particular viewpoint.

### **Have you also been deceived?**

The chief priests and Pharisees were expecting their officers to arrest Jesus and bring him to them but the officers were moved by Jesus' speeches, they had never heard a man speak as Jesus did, so they (to the Pharisees' enormous disappointment) returned without him.

The Pharisees believed Jesus was deceiving the Jews (v44-49) and that those in the crowds who did not know the ceremonial Law of Moses and of the Old Covenant (i.e. circumcision, holy days, feast and Sabbaths etc.), were accused, meaning condemned and feared that other Jewish religious leaders may have been deceived by Jesus' teaching.

### **Nicodemus tells the Pharisees to give Jesus a hearing.**

John 7:50-53 ----- <sup>50</sup>Nicodemus, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them said to them, <sup>51</sup>"Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" <sup>52</sup>They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and see that no prophet arises from Galilee."<sup>53</sup>They went each to his own house.

Nicodemus means victorious among his people and by implication conquest and triumphant he was a Jewish rabbi. The words, "Who had gone to him before," refers to Nicodemus' visit to talk with Jesus at night as recorded in (John 3:1-21) it is also most likely he was with the crowd who accompanied Jesus as he rode into Jerusalem on the colt since there were Pharisees amongst the crowd (Luke 19:39) and he became a disciple of Jesus (John 3:1-10) (John 7:50-53) (John 19:39-42).

### **NOTICE.**

The Pharisees' response to Nicodemus' intelligent and just suggestion, "let's listen to the man speak before condemning him," but they were so hypocritical and prideful that they took the superior position believing they were right and dismissed Nicodemus, but had they allowed Jesus to speak they would have found out he was from Bethlehem and it was his place of birth, but even this blatant rejection of Christ fitted in with the sovereign eternal plan of God for the salvation of mankind.

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End