

SERMON - MESSAGE – SEPTEMBER 11, 2022

Title: "Living With God and Humankind In Today's World!"

Scripture: Special Selected Verses:

(Genesis 11:1-9 – John 16:13-1 John 5:4-5 - I Corinthians 10:13 - 1 John 4:21 – 2 Peter 3:1-8)

Rev. Ted Althouse, Pastor - The Chapel of Cypress Cove

Oh, my goodness! Why would any preacher attempt to bring a message with a title like "Living with God and Humankind In Today's World?" Well, it all started with an idea that kept bothering me. I had this feeling in my mind even before I began to construct the message. Thinking too much can sometimes lead to disaster, however, I personally wrestled with the content of this message and cried out to God for his help. I pondered over this message for many hours as I needed to carefully research scriptures, explore lots of spiritual history and information and then tie my thoughts together from all this material. Boy did I pray a lot too.

As I tried to contemplate the many serious problems of the world, I couldn't really wrap my mind around the immense situation of the world situation because, like you, would get too bogged down with everything negative we read and see. Unfortunately, we are all constantly being bombarded daily with the adverse, harmful and damaging issues of the world and not enough concentration on the good and positive things in the world that are around us. From the very beginning of time when God created Adam and Eve, we have become a part of what is called personal sin, which includes wickedness, depravity, immorality…all issues of life that are not of God's ways. A simple definition of sin is: an immoral act considered to be a transgression against divine law. And the reference to "divine law" is God's Ten Commandments which you have all heard and many of us memorized. But I want to take a moment to again recall and review God's divine law…His Ten Commandments:

- You shall have no other gods before me.
- You shall not make idols.

- You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.
- Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
- Honor your father and your mother.
- You shall not murder.
- You shall not commit adultery.
- You shall not steal.
- You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- You shall not covet your neighbor, you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's

It was Almighty God's desire to have his sinful people of the world to still abide to good wholesome principles that would give each other a sense of pride of living and loving…first to Almighty God, then self and then other individuals. God also gave the world a method to receive forgiveness of our sins. This is one of the main reasons that Jesus Christ came into this world. The world, and its people, has been given these tools, that if observed, will create a better life for everyone living in this world. But we also must realize that sin is a product of evil which abounds increasingly in the world.

So, in my preparation for today's message, I asked myself, when did the human race begin to fall from God's grace and I was led to this scripture in *Genesis* 11:1-9. Incidentally, it has been common consensus that the book of Genesis was written by Moses but whoever the real author is, the content message in Genesis has volumes of valuable and pertinent information. Listen to Genesis 11:1-9. It's somewhat lengthy so pay attention please. "*Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shina and settled there. They said to each other, 'Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly.' They used brick instead of stone and tar for mortar. Then they said, 'Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise, we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth.' But the* LORD *came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. The* LORD *said, "If as one people speaking the same language, they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.' So, the* LORD *scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. That is why it was called Babel…because there the* LORD *confused the language of the whole world. From there the* LORD *scattered them over the face of the whole earth."*

God was discouraged and unhappy with his people and he wanted them to know that what they were doing was wrong by building a tower as a temple that was not to worship God but to satisfy the evil desires of those people. So, as a consequence of Babel, the people became genetically isolated and the groups of people could not easily mix and created hatred for one another. Sound familiar to today's society? These people became genetically isolated, meaning

that they married and had offspring primarily within their particular group. As the years passed, each group developed its own desired culture and ways of doing things. So, being genetically isolated, certain physical traits became more prominent in each group. These ethnic characteristics were wrongly considered racial characteristics; but there really was and remains only one race, the human race created equally by God. So, when humans rebelled against God by settling at Babel and refusing to spread out in the world, God confused and disorganized their language and finally after groups of people separated, they began to move away from one another with some distrust.

Humankind then and today! Different? Not really, but today's diverse society has become more sophisticated and has brought about even more open confusion and distrust. And I don't really have to go into specifics about that last statement because we all are living in the present and experiencing the results of ancient Babel which God eventually destroyed but left the world with ethnic diversity. God's anger of his human creations that disobeyed him has led us to much of the world's instability. This is not of God's choosing but the result of humankind not obeying his direction for his people. Remember, when God eliminate most of humankind, as well as, animals before and asked Noah to create a boat big enough to save these selections before God created the great flood. Now, fast forward to the warning for today. We read these words in 2 Peter 3:1-8: "*Dear friends, this is the second letter I have written to you. In both of them I have tried to get you to remember some things. You should remember the words that were spoken before by the holy early preachers. Do not forget the teaching of the Lord, the One Who saves. First of all,* ***I want you to know that in the last days men will laugh at the truth. They will follow their own sinful desires.*** *They will say, "He promised to come again. Where is He? Since our early fathers died, everything is the same from the beginning of the world." But they want to forget that God spoke and the heavens were made long ago. The earth was made out of water and water was all around it. Long ago the earth was covered with water and it was destroyed.* ***But the heaven we see now and the earth we live on now, have not been kept by His word. They will be kept until they are to be destroyed by fire.*** *They will be kept until the day men stand before God and sinners will be destroyed*."

I pause for a moment to let you know that I'm not a prophecy preacher of doomsday, etc., however I've done quite a bit of study about the end times and I might broach the thought that we may be in the end times. That said, I also quickly state to you that NO ONE knows the time that this will take place except Almighty God himself. What scripture is telling all people is that we need to be prepared and accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior now because, at some moment, he will return again during the end times and cleanse the world of diverse ethnic hatred.

Moving on, **God wants us to have more peace and stability in this life**. So, I refer you to this next scripture that Jesus said to us all in John 16:33: *"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world"*. Please listen again to Jesus words: "*I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."*.

This message was given shortly after the Passover meal with Christ's disciples. Even though Jesus Christ knew his earthly time was limited, he continued to teach His disciples. He told them that He would soon go to His Father and that the Holy Spirit, or the Comforter, would come and guide the world into all truth. That truth being that we who believe in the saving grace of Jesus Christ are given peace…his peace as the world is in tribulation/turmoil as it is today. This is a truth given from Christ, that we can and will live a better life with Christ's Holy Spirit leading us in today's turbulent world.

Then I was led to this next scripture from 1 John 5:4-5; "*For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world…our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?"* Friends, these are some powerful words of truth in those two verses. If we are "born of God"…meaning our belief in the saving grace of Jesus Christ combined with sincere FAITH, then we can and will move through this world knowing that we have a protector, a guide…Jesus Christ. This does not mean that we should not have faith in the guidance of family, friends and even government officials. With the Holy Spirit, we will be given signs to know what to believe is good or bad guidance those individuals impart. Everyone has the opportunity to receive this same spiritual direction if desired. Again, unfortunately the evil influence of Satan has deeply infiltrated into the very fiber of humankind and the world and we see what is taking place. That said, the Christian knows that Jesus Christ is the true influence for those of us who have faith and believe in his direction for our daily living. Christ will open our eyes to see what is right and wrong.

Then God spoke to me about this scripture mainly because I needed to hear more confirmation for myself and to bring to each of you; *"No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."* The apostle Paul, an anointed man of God and a disciple of Jesus Christ said these words as recorded in I Corinthians 10:13. Friends, if we look carefully at these words, we see that temptation of any kind is in this world but…but if we believe in God and know that he is faithful to those who believe in his direction then we will be able to endure these worldly temptations. God is always faithful to the believer and will lead us through all life's situations and will also forgive us as we seek His forgiveness.

Finally, I remembered a scripture that we dissected in seminary from 1 John 4:21. Listen closely to these words as we conclude today's message entitled; Living with God and Humankind in Today's world? "***Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.*** *By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every*

spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, ***for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.*** *They are from the world; therefore, they speak from the world, and the world listens to them."* I could preach an entire sermon on the scripture. But in a few words, what is said here is that there are evil spirits or influences in this world continually bombarding our mind to engage in unholy actions. The world is full of deceivers who want us to believe that the way of the world is better than God's way. But remember that even more powerful in this world is the Holy Spirit of God/Christ and that if we believe in the saving grace of Jesus Christ and confess our allegiance to him, then the worldly influences will become less of an influence on us and we can overcome them.

Yes, I firmly believe and say to you that living in God's world is far better than living in and getting caught up in today's world of uncertainty and evil. As Christians we must be strong, we must realize that this world is not moving in the direction that Almighty God created it to be but most of all we must have faith in the scriptures and follow God's laws first and foremost. God will take care of each of us if we truly believe in him today and every day that we have to live in this unstable world.