

“This Is Jesus: Anointed to be Our Savior”

Do you know what noteworthy event happened last Monday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019, in Wisconsin? New Wisconsin governor Tony Evers was sworn into public office. Most people in Wisconsin were probably totally unaware that was going on, but that event is significant. Last Monday marked how Tony Evers will now, with all of its responsibility and power, publicly carry out the office of governor which he was chosen to do November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018. While we don't know the exact date, do you know what noteworthy event happened 1989 years ago? Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. Most people in the world were totally unaware that was going on, but that event is significant. Jesus baptism marked the start of Jesus publicly carrying out the office of Savior that he was chosen to do. Today let's consider Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 as Jesus baptism teaches us: This Is Jesus – Anointed to be Our Savior.

**<sup>15</sup> The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ. <sup>16</sup> John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”**

**<sup>21</sup> When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”**

Listen to vs. 15 again. **“The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ.”** The word Christ means “anointed one.” Who would be anointed, set apart, as the next King in the mold of David, a king who would have a significant impact upon the world? When would this Christ be anointed publicly so that he can start making a visible and tangible difference in this world and in the lives of people? Early on in his life there were glimpses of Jesus being that Christ. The angel chorus in Bethlehem speaking to the shepherds. The wise men following the star to come and worship Jesus. Simeon and Anna in the temple when Jesus was 8 days old. 12-year-old Jesus blowing away the religious leaders with his knowledge of Scripture. But other than those few moments, the Bible doesn't really share any details about the first 30 years of Jesus life. It does say this however, **“He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him”** (Isaiah 53:2). Jesus was our Savior from the moment he was conceived, checking all the boxes and doing all the dirty work even though nobody really noticed. But it wasn't until his baptism that he was publicly anointed to take office and carry out those duties in a way that the world would take notice. **“When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased”** (vs. 21-22). President Trump was interviewed shortly after he took public office and he was asked about some of the scandalous pre-presidential details of his life. President Trump said that had he planned to run for president earlier in his life he would have done a few things differently earlier in his life. At the time of his Baptism Jesus was 30 years old. Did Jesus have any regrets about those first 30 years? Would Jesus have done anything different in those first 30

years? God the Father answers those questions with a resounding “NO” when he said this, **“You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased”** (vs. 22). God the Father was saying, “This Is Jesus: Savior of the World. With no regrets from his first 30 years, God the Father anointed Jesus as Savior with his words. And God the Holy Spirit publicly anointed Jesus to move forward and complete the work he was set apart to do. Work that would culminate in him publicly suffering Hell, publicly dying on a cross, publicly rising from the dead to pay the full price for every sin of all people. This work that Jesus was set apart to do would have two effects on all human beings as John the Baptist reminds us, **“His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire”** (vs. 17). When grain is harvested, the seed is separated from the husk. The seed is kept and the husk or chaff is thrown away. Using a farming illustration, John the Baptist reminds us that Jesus work as Savior will have that effect on people – some will embrace him in faith and go to Heaven for eternity and others will reject him in unbelief and ultimately end up in Hell for eternity. John the Baptist’s words are a reminder of what aged Simeon said to Mary and Joseph when Jesus was 8 days old. **“This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed”** (Luke 2:34-35). As we see this happening in the world it is a reminder that This Is Jesus: Anointed to be Our Savior.”

As we think about Jesus baptism today, it gets us thinking about our own baptism. Jesus commands baptism, but he does much more than that. Jesus personally was in no need of baptism for his own salvation, but baptism was in need of the power of Jesus. So Jesus was conceived for us; born for us; grew for us; was baptized for us; fulfilled all righteousness for us; died for us; lives for us; rules for us; and guides all things for us. Jesus did all that so that God might **“save us through the washing which works rebirth and through the Holy Spirit who works renewal”** (Titus 3:5). Jesus was anointed at his baptism, so sinners like you and me might be anointed through baptism. It’s through baptism that you were set apart to have faith in Jesus as your Savior. It’s through baptism that you enjoy all your sins being washed away through the forgiveness that Jesus provides. It’s through baptism that you have an eternal inheritance in Heaven awaiting you. It’s through baptism that you were anointed, set apart, to tell others through your words and actions that “This Is Jesus: the Savior of the World.” Last Monday, the University of Clemson defeated the Alabama Crimson Tide in the College Football National title game 44-16. Clemson’s coach, Dabo Swinney, was asked this question after the game. “Dabo, there are few coaches who display as much joy as you do. How would you describe the joy of this moment?” Coach Swinney responded in this way, **“For me personally, joy comes from focusing on Jesus, others, and myself...It’s the grace of the good Lord to allow us to experience something like this.”** We might not ever get the National Championship stage to do that, but people are watching and listening to us as well. Where does your joy come from? Let us say with Dabo Swinney, **“For me personally, joy comes from focusing on Jesus, others, and myself...It’s the grace of the good Lord to allow us to experience something (life with Jesus as your Savior) like this.”** Amen.