

friend had said the day before. He regularly leads people to faith in Jesus Christ, and I had asked him how he knew they were willing to talk about spiritual things. "It's easy," he replied. "I ask 'em."

"Well," I said to myself, "I can do that. I'll ask the next person I meet."

As it turned out, the next person I met was a student along the highway thumbing a ride. I picked him up and we chatted for a while. As we neared his destination, I turned to him and asked, "Do you have an interest in spiritual things?" He looked at me for a moment and replied, "I've been looking for God all my life. Can you tell me how to know Him?" He was my first "fish" (Mark 1:17).

Not all our efforts are so rewarding, but here and there are people whom God's Spirit is drawing to the Saviour (John 6:44). You can be part of that process. There is no greater joy than to be a fisher of men! —DHR

*I love to tell the story,  
For some have never heard  
The message of salvation  
From God's own holy Word. —Hankey*

**Fishers of men cast their nets in faith and draw them in with love.**



# Central Mountains Baptist Church

## DECEMBER 8, 2019

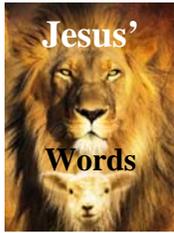
### First Fish

**Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." —Mark 1:17**

In one of my photo albums is a picture of a friend cradling—no, hugging—a large fish to his chest as if he'd just found a long-lost friend. I ask myself, "Why is he sliming himself with that fish?" Then I remember: It was his first—ever!

I recall well my first "fish." I was driving along and thinking about what a





# Seeing Spiritual Realities

In John 7:11-31 two major sets of opinions about the Lord Jesus are described. These sets of opinions came from:

## 1. Those who rely on mere

\_\_\_\_\_ : may they \_\_\_\_\_ God, verses 11-15, 25-27, 30, 19-20, 6:44

(Isaiah 50:4-5) ""The Lord GOD has given Me The tongue of the learned, That I should know how to speak A word in season to him who is weary. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear To hear as the learned. {5} The Lord GOD has opened My ear; And I was not rebellious, Nor did I turn away."

(Luke 2:47) "And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers." (Micah 5:2) ""But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.""

(Malachi 3:1) "".. the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, ..," Says the LORD of hosts."

(1 Timothy 2:1) "Therefore I exhort first of all that .. prayers, .. be made for all men,"

(1 Timothy 2:4) "who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."



Giovanni Schiaparelli

(Acts 1:8) ""But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me ... ""

(Matthew 28:18-20) "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. {19} "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, {20} "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen."



Who am I?

2. Those who are \_\_\_\_\_ sight: be \_\_\_\_\_, verses 16-19, 21-24, 28-29, 31, 6:65

◆ They know \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_, verse 16 (Philippians 2:6-7) "who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, {7} but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men."

(Mark 11:30) ""The baptism of John; was it from heaven or from men? Answer Me.""

◆ They recognise \_\_\_\_\_, verse 17

(John 14:26) ""But the .. Holy Spirit, ... will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."

(John 14:6) ".. "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

◆ They know that Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_, verse 18

◆ They see their own \_\_\_\_\_, verse 19

(Galatians 3:24) "Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, ..."

◆ They see beyond \_\_\_\_\_, verses 21-24

◆ They know the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_, verses 28-29

◆ They recognise the \_\_\_\_\_, verse 31

(Acts 9:17-18) "And Ananias .. entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." {18} Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized."

(2 Corinthians 4:6) "For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

(1 Corinthians 2:14) "But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."



William Turner

(Acts 11:18) ".. "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life.""

(Matthew 11:28-30) ""Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. {29} "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. {30} "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.""