

Preached at GBC on 5/22/22
Christ's Deity And Power, Pt.8

John 5:41-47

In the two previous messages, we saw Christ, as the most skilled and qualified litigator, bring forth **THREE UNDENIABLE WITNESSES** that proved conclusively that He was **INDEED** the Messiah **PROMISED, PROPHESED,** and **SENT** “*in the fullness of time*” to “*save His people from their sins.*” Christ dogmatically declared: **1)**The “*works which the Father had given me to finish*” **witnessed or testified** of His Divinity and Sonship; **2)**The Father’s voice from Heaven **witnessed or testified** of Christ’s Divinity and Sonship; and **3)**the Scriptures which these **JEWS** diligently searched seeking life in them **witnessed or testified** that this **PERSON** was the Christ of God. According to the words recorded by Moses (**the one in whom these JEWS trusted**) these **THREE WITNESSES** settled the issue – “*One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.*”(Deut.19:15) All Christ’s interactions and words with these **JEWS (particularly these Scribes and Pharisees who accused Him falsely)**, have to be understood and interpreted in light of what Christ declared to one of their own members, Nicodemus, in **Jn.3:17-21** – “*For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.*” Even though Christ didn’t come “*to condemn the world*”, the fact that He was sent, came, lived, was crucified, resurrected, and ascended on high is a **WITNESS** against these **JEWS** and **ALL MEN** in every generation “*that will not come to Him that they might have life*” – “*And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; [and] he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*”(I Jn.5:11,12) The word translated “*He that hath*”, “*hath*”, and “[and] *he that hath*” in this verse are the same word and it means ‘to have (**hold**) in the hand, in the sense of wearing, or to **POSSESS**’. **HAVING** in the hand, or **POSSESSING** Christ **IS eternal life**”, and God’s record (**literally, witness or testimony**) is “*that GOD HATH GIVEN to us eternal life, and THIS LIFE is in His Son.*” These **JEWS** wanted nothing to do with **THIS LIFE** God’s Christ accomplished and secured for His people. Therefore our Lord uses those things these men looked to as their hope or cause of eternal life to **WITNESS** or **TESTIFY** of their true condition and nature before the one true and living God.

Let’s pick up with vs.41 – “*I receive not honour from men.*” I love **YLT** of this verse – “*glory from man I do not receive.*” Christ wasn’t seeking to get these men to acknowledge that He was **TRULY GOD**, or that He was the Messiah sent of God. By Christ’s words and the witnesses He had brought forth to prove His Deity and power, Christ revealed clearly that **NONE OF IT**

depends on man's acceptance of it. The words "**receive not**" are the same words Christ used in **Vss.34,44** and they mean the same thing – "**I SEEK NOT**" honor or glory from men." Like the Father, Christ's glory and honor are **UNCHANGEABLE** – "**For I AM the LORD GOD, I CHANGE NOT.**"(**Mal.3:6ab**) One old author wrote the following concerning Christ's words – "When I state My claims, and complain that you disregard them, it is not because I wish to ingratiate Myself with you; not because I covet your approbation or that of any man, or set of men. **He did not need their sanction: He could receive no honor from their applause.** His object was to secure the approbation of His Divine Father, by faithfully executing the commission with which He was entrusted; and so far as they were concerned, His desire was not that He should be applauded by them."

Christ's next words to these JEWS had to fill them with rage, especially in light of the fact they were seeking His death because in their minds He was a blasphemer – "**Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.**"(**Vs.18**) Notice what Christ declares to these men who would not come to Him for life – "**But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you.**" The word translated "**know**" means 'to perceive, understand, or have knowledge of'. These men **KNEW** that **ONLY GOD** knows the hearts of men, because the Old Testament Scripture testified of the same. **Listen to King David's words to Israel as he addressed Solomon** – "**And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.**"(**I Chron.28:9**) **Listen to Jeremiah** – "**The heart [is] deceitful above all [things], and desperately wicked: who can know it? I THE LORD SEARCH THE HEART, [I] try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, [and] according to the fruit of his doings.**"(**Jer.17:9,10**) Christ being God, knew their hearts, i.e., their minds, understanding, and will. As God, Christ saw into these men's souls, perceiving and understanding they "**have not the love of God**" in them. This "**love of God**" isn't something a sinner does – It is what must be given to those who are by nature "**dead in trespasses and sin**" – **Turn to Rom.5:1-5**. Let me state something clearly – The fact that these men would not come to Christ that they might have life is an **UNDENIABLE MAXIM** taught in the Scriptures, namely that all those **WHO GOD LOVES, will and do LOVE HIM** – "**We love Him, BECAUSE He first loved us.**"(**I Jn.4:19**) This "**love of God**" is founded upon perfect satisfaction to God's law and justice through our God appointed and sent Surety and Substitute, the Lord Jesus Christ – "**In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son [to be] THE PROPITIATION FOR OUR SINS.**"(**I Jn.4:9,10**) Christ pronounced judgment on the JEWS for considering the "**love of God**" to be of little significance in comparison to their obedience and morality – "**But woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other**

undone.” (Lk.11:42) That word translated “*pass over*” means ‘to neglect, omit, or transgress’. Imagine that – transgress against the “*love of God*”, choosing their obedience and sacrifice over the Messiah’s work. **Christ was crystal clear on this:** “*But go ye and learn what [that] meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.*”(Matt.9:13)

Christ next declares the destiny of these men – “*I am come in my Father’s name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.*” This statement has to be considered in the light of **John 1:10-13** – “*He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, [even] to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*” Christ came in the Power and authority of His Father, by His consent, will, and according to the everlasting covenant of grace with Him. Christ came not to do His will, but the will of the Father. Christ was called, and sent, and came by mutual agreement. Christ brought his credentials with him, doing the works and miracles which his Father gave him to finish. Yet here’s the sad reality – “*and ye receive me not*”. They rejected him as the Messiah, and would not receive him as such, accusing and considering Him to be an impostor and a deceiver. This was **THEIR FATE**, and **THIS** is the **FATE** of all those not chosen by God in the everlasting covenant of grace – “*if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.*” This isn’t speaking of a single person, i.e., the one the world speaks of as **ANTICHRIST**, but speaks of **ALL THOSE** who have the spirit of antichrist. The word “*another*” actually means ‘**others**’ – “*And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that [spirit] of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.*”(I Jn.4:3) **LISTEN TO ME:** These **JEWS** and every non-elect sinner will ultimately follow the spirit of antichrist in rejection of God’s Christ to the destruction of their own souls – “*For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if [it were] possible, they shall deceive the very elect.*”(Matt.24:24)

Look at **Vs.44** – Christ poses a question to them that can be answered by a simple **YES** or **NO**. The answer to the question is **THEY CAN NOT BELIEVE** because they are more concerned about the “*honour*” (which means ‘opinion, judgment, or view’) of their peers than the ‘opinion, judgment or view’ of God concerning them. Those “*born of God*”, those who are truly “**JEWS**”, seek the honor or praise of God which is in Christ Jesus, the One these **FLESHLY JEWS** rejected and hated – “*For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither [is that] circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he [is] a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision [is that] of the heart, in the spirit, [and] not in the letter; whose praise [is] not of men, but of God.*”(Rom.2:28,29)

Look at **Vs.45**– Christ begins by telling them that **HE IS NOT THE ACCUSER** of men, no matter how evil and vile they might be. Over in **John 8**, Christ told the woman who was caught in the

very act of adultery and guilty before God's holy law – *“When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.”* Christ didn't come to bring charges against men, but to save them. To be an accuser isn't compatible with Christ's offices as Surety, Substitute, Mediator, and Advocate for those sinners He represented – *“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, **we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous**: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for [the sins of] the whole world.”* (I Jn.2:1,2) **BUT HERE'S THE THING**: Christ didn't have to accuse them, seeing there was enough to accuse them already, namely their perverseness and stubbornness in not coming to Christ for LIFE; their not possessing the *“love of God”*; their rejection of Christ as the Messiah who came in the name of the Father; their willingness to follow one who would come in his own name – antichrist; their seeking honour from one another, and not seeking the true spiritual and eternal honour which God freely gives. Christ even told them that Moses, in whom they trusted for salvation by their supposed lives of self-righteous obedience would accuse and condemn them – *“Be it known unto you therefore, men [and] brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.”*(Acts 13:38,39) Their condemnation came because they **SOUGHT LIFE** where God never promised or intended it to be found, **IN THE LAW** – *“[Is] the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.”*(Gal.3:21)

Look at **Vss.46,47** and we'll close out this chapter. In these verses Christ told them plainly that if they believed the **DOCTRINES OF MOSES** and what he wrote, *“then you would have believed me.”* **WHY?** Because there is agreement between Moses and Christ – *“For Christ is the **END OF THE LAW** for righteousness to every man that believes.”* But even more than that, *“he wrote of **ME**.”* **ELABORATE**. In vs.47 Christ deals the death blow to everything they valued – **READ IT AGAIN**. Christ tells them plainly they **DIDN'T REALLY** believe Moses words, words about redemption, forgiveness, satisfaction. And if they didn't believe Moses, who was a faithful servant in the Lord's house, writing those things which typified God's Christ and redemption through His accomplished work, *“how shall ye believe my words?”*, seeing the house over which Moses watched, Christ is the SON of that house (**His church or bride throughout all time**) – *“Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: [but] the Son abideth ever. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”*(Jn.8:34-36)

Lord willing, we'll come back in 2 weeks and begin John 6.