

Preached at GBC on 5/8/22
Christ's Deity And Power, Pt.7

John 5:39,40

For those “**born of God**”, the **WORD OF GOD** is that which has the **HIGHEST VALUE**, seeing it directs or points them to Christ and salvation through His accomplished death alone. King DAVID declared the following concerning God’s **WORD**: “**Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed [thereto] according to thy word.**”; “**Let thy mercies come also unto me, O LORD, [even] thy salvation, according to thy word.**”; “**Thou [art] my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word.**”(Ps.119:9,41,114) The word of God, from Genesis to Revelations, concerns God’s eternal purpose “**to save His people from their sins**” through the life and death of the Surety and Substitute of His dear children, the Lord Jesus Christ. **Listen to me**: The word of God is of **INFINITE VALUE**, so much so that King David declared: “**I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.**”(Ps.138:2) We should value the Word of God above everything, and we should read and study it as much as humanly possible. **This is SO IMPORTANT**: I’m not talking about a **mere reading of God’s Word** like I did when I was religious but lost, nor am I talking about **how so many put so much effort into habitually reading the Scripture – ELABORATE**. If a man or woman has not been “**born of God**”, they can read the Word, study the Word, and even memorize the Word, but the Word alone has **NO LIFE IN IT**. We looked at the **FIRST TWO WITNESSES** Christ brought forth that confirmed His Deity and Power, Divine Witnesses which revealed Him to be the Messiah sent of God – **1st**, “**the works the Father sent Him to finish**”, and **2nd**, God the Father Himself who bore witness to Christ as the Messiah sent of God.

In these two verses we want to look at today, Christ brings forth the **THIRD AND FINAL WITNESS**, a **WITNESS** that left these lost, religious **JEWS** without excuse. The **THIRD WITNESS** is the Scriptures – “**Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.**” This **THIRD** and **FINAL** witness Jesus cited is the most important to **US**. **Think about it**: John the Baptist is long since dead and gone; the “**words**” and “**works**” of Christ are no longer before men’s eyes; the voice of the Father is **NO MORE HEARD FROM HEAVEN**; **but the WITNESS or TESTIMONY** of the Scriptures abide **FOREVER!** The Old Testament Scriptures testified of Christ, affirming both His **DEITY** and His Power. After Christ’s resurrection, Christ appeared to two of His disciples on the road of Emmaus, as they bemoaned the fact that Christ had died and they hadn’t seen Him after He had promised He would rise again. Christ appealed to the **Old Testament Scriptures** to lovingly reprove them for their unbelief – “**Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.**”(Lk.24:25-27) These men, like His apostles, were common men, not religious leaders and scholars, and Christ witnesses to them of His Person and Work by the Scriptures. These **JEWS** to whom Christ was bringing

forth 2 or 3 witnesses to confirm **WHO HE WAS**, were supposed students and scholars of the OT Scriptures, yet Christ says of them – “*Search the Scriptures; for in them you think you have eternal life.*” This verse literally translated declares: “Ye search the Writings, because ye think in them to have life age-during,” According to the Apostle Paul, the Lord had graciously committed into the hands of the Jews the word of God – “*What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit [is there] of circumcision? Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.*”(Rom.3:1,2) If you know anything of the Old Testament, these Scriptures were read not only by their kings and judges, but by the common people. According to Paul, parents instructed their children out of the Old Testament Scriptures – “*But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned [them]; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*”(II Tim.3:14,15) **They didn’t have a KJV of the Bible.** They had the Old Testament Scripture which testified of Messiah! The Scriptures were **READ** and **EXPOUNDED** every Sabbath day. These Old Testament Scriptures were examined by the Scribes and Pharisees, particularly as they related to Messiah and at this time they were looking for him. We know this to be the case because of their response when Herod questioned them concerning “*the king of the Jews*” being born – “*When Herod the king had heard [these things], he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, [in] the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.*”(Matt.2:3-6) By Christ’s declaration, “*Search the Scriptures*”, He wasn’t commending them for their diligent scrutiny and study of the Old Testament. We know **it was a reproof** because of Christ’s next words concerning them – “*for IN THEM you think you have eternal life.*” There’s no doubt that in the Scriptures (**AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME THE OT ONLY**) declared the doctrine of eternal life – “*But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.*”(Gen.6:8); “*And he (Abraham) believed in the LORD, and He counted it to Him for righteousness.*”(Gen.15:6) The OT Scriptures contained all the promises concerning the Messiah, and contained all the types and shadows that pointed to His work as the Savior of His people. But that isn’t what Christ was referring to when He made this statement to the Jews. By Christ’s words, “*for in them you think you have eternal life*”, He meant that **THEY THOUGHT** or **IMAGINED** by their having these writings in their hands, and by their reading them, and hearing them expounded every Sabbath day that they should obtain and inherit eternal life – **NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH!** This notion is **CONTRARY** to salvation by grace – “*NOT BY WORKS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS which we have done, but according to His mercy HE SAVED US by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost.*”(Tit.3:5)

Here’s the problem, and this is what these **UNREGENERATE JEWS** missed in their searching of the Scriptures– “*they are they which TESTIFY of me.*” The **SAME SCRIPTURES** which they imagined or supposed they earned or deserved eternal life for searching, “**TESTIFY**” of Christ’s

Deity and Divine Sonship. The word translated “*which testify*”, like with the previous WITNESSES mean ‘to be a witness, to bear witness, i.e. to affirm that one has seen or heard or experienced something, or that he knows it because taught by divine revelation or inspiration’. The Scriptures they searched testified or **WERE A WITNESS** that He was **JEHOVAH**, “*the mighty God*”, “*the everlasting Father*”, “*the Prince of Peace*”, the Son of God. They **were a witness** of His offices as Prophet, Priest, and King. They **were a witness** of His miraculous birth; the PLACE of His birth; the miracles He would work; the **TREATMENT** He would receive from evil men; His suffering and death, including everything leading up to and involved in the act itself; they were a witness of His resurrection, His ascension, His sitting down on the right hand of God, crowned King of Kings and **LORD of LORDS**. (**If you want OT Scripture references on all these things, ask me later and I’ll give them to you**) This **FINAL WITNESS**, the Scriptures themselves are the **WITNESS** that closes Christ’s case against these **JEWS** – **HE IS THE SON OF GOD**, the **MESSIAH SENT INTO THE WORLD BY THE FATHER** to “*save His people from their sins*.”

Which brings us to **THESE JEWS** condemnation – “*and ye will not COME TO ME, that ye might have life*.” Henry used to say it all the time, and I stole it and use the same statement as well: “Men will come to the front, come to the fount, come to the church, come to one another, but they **CANNOT** and **WILL NOT** come to Christ and His righteousness alone for salvation.” Christ said to **SINNERS** – **GUILTY SINNERS** – **LABORING SINNERS** – “*Come unto me, all [ye] that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke [is] easy, and my burden is light*.”(Matt.11:28-30) Christ would later declare to **THESE SAME JEWS** when they demand He tell them plainly if **HE WAS THE CHRIST** – “*I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father’s name, they bear witness of me. But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any [man] pluck them out of my hand*.”(Jn.10:24-28) Christ will declare in **John 6** to these **JEWS**: “*All that the Father giveth me shall COME TO ME; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out*.”(Jn.6:37) Christ will declare to these **JEWS** – “*No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day*.”; “*And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father*.”(Jn.6:44,65) After Christ declared **THESE WORDS**, the Scriptures record – “*From that [time] many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him*.”(Jn.6:66) Christ then turned to His disciples and asked them directly – “*Will ye also go away*?”(Jn.6:67) To which Peter, speaking for the disciples, responded – “*Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God*.”(Jn.6:68,69) What **KIND OF LIFE?** “**ETERNAL LIFE**”! **Isn’t it amazing** – by God’s grace **SINNERS** who needed salvation from their **SINS** saw Christ’s **PERSON** and His **WORK**. The **11 Apostles SAW** and **BELIEVED**. Mary Magdelene **SAW** and **BELIEVED**. The Gadarene Demoniac **SAW** and

BELIEVED. The **THIEF ON THE CROSS**, he too **SAW** and **BELIEVED**. My stars, even the **DEMONS** confessed that Jesus was the Holy One of God – “*And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, Saying, Let [us] alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.*”(Mk.1:23,24) Yet here are these **JEWS** who “*do search the Scriptures*”, but they **DO NOT SEE** Christ and they “*will not come to Him that they might have life.*” When Christ said they “*will not come*” to Him, He wasn’t speaking about **PHYSICAL INABILITY**, because many of the Jews came to Christ for one thing or another, i.e., some came for the loaves, some came to see the miracles or receive a miracle, some came to hear Him out of curiosity. The **ISSUE** wasn’t **PHYSICAL INABILITY**, but **SPIRITUAL INABILITY** – they had not that faith which is the “*gift of God*”, so they **COULD NOT** and **WOULD NOT COME**. Not only that, but they didn’t care about the “*eternal life*” Christ promised His sheep – **THEY WANTED NATIONAL ISRAEL RESTORED** to her former greatness like the times of David. But King David himself wasn’t seeking the things of time and sense, but was looking for and resting in a “*kingdom which cannot be moved.*” According to the Scriptures, Christ **HIMSELF** is this **LIFE** which all those born of God desire and actually possess in this life, as well as the life to come – “*When Christ, [who is] our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.*”(Col.3:4) **ONLY THOSE** who feel their need, only those who “*hunger and thirst after righteousness*” **SEEK** and **FIND** all they need in the Promised Redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ. These **JEWS** had no need, because they **THOUGHT** they already had everything they needed by their deeds of the flesh.

Let me close with the words of a hymn we occasionally sing:

1 Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore; Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love, and power.

2 Come, ye thirsty, come and welcome, God's free bounty glorify; true belief and true repentance, ev'ry grace that brings you nigh.

3 Let not conscience make you linger, nor of fitness fondly dream; all the fitness he requireth is to feel your need of him.

4 Come, ye weary, heavy laden, lost and ruined by the fall; if you tarry till you're better, you will never come at all.

May the Lord by His grace be pleased to draw His sheep to Himself by the call of His voice that declares **PEACE, SAFETY, SECURITY, and RIGHTEOUSNESS** for all for whom He died.