

Pt 4 Christ Rejected – John 1:10-13

A sermon series in the Gospel of John, by Pastor Byron Chesney at Porchlight Baptist Church www.pbcknox.com

John 1:10-13

10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

12 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:

13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

We pick back up where we left off last time in verse 10 of John 1. Last time we looked at verses 6-9 and looked at the man John the Baptist. We will be talking more about him as we continue through the next few chapters as he plays a key role in the beginning of Christ's early ministry.

10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

I've titled the message "Christ Rejected." Here we see the very first mention of the rejection of Christ. The Bible says, "He was in the world, and the world was made by him." We know that Christ has always existed. He is the eternal one. But here it is referring to his existence as a man in human form as well as his deity of being the creator as we already saw in **John 1:3** All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

and the world knew him not. It's clear the Gentiles didn't know Christ. He was born as a man during the reign of the Roman Empire which of course a pagan Gentile kingdom. They worshipped Greek and Roman gods and had nothing to do with the Jewish God of Israel.

11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

Not only did the Gentiles reject Christ but so did his own people.

The Jews have known of Christ throughout all of history. His existence was spoken of and prophesied of through all the forefathers from Adam on down through Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, and all the prophets. They knew the signs and what to look for and even though Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of the promised Messiah, they still rejected him. It says in verse 11 they "received him not." To receive something means that you **accept it, you take it for yourself**. The Jews did NOT receive him.

Many believe, including myself, that if the Jews had accepted Jesus as their Messiah that he would have established his earthly kingdom the first time he came. But they did not. It was prophesied that He would be rejected. We see that in **Isaiah 53:3** He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

That word "esteemed" means "to hold in high value." The Bible says that they "esteemed him not." In other words, they did not hold him in high value, but rather in low value. So low that they hated him, despised him, plotted his arrest and murder.

Because of their rejection and unbelief in Christ, God blinded the Jews, and they are still in darkness today. If you remember, we studied this in our Rooting Through Romans Sermon Series when we were in **Romans 11:25** For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

As we studied, we saw from the Bible, the Gentiles were grafted in, which God used to provoke the Jews to jealousy. The Jews will stay in blindness until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in, which will be after the Tribulation of the Church. Then God will turn his attention fully upon Israel.

But here in the Gospel of John, verse 11 is one of the most condemning verses in all the Bible. That the Jews fully rejected their Messiah was the proverbial nail in the coffin for them.

This same rejection of Christ by the world and by His own is still going on today. Oh, sure, there are Gentiles that believe in Jesus and are saved and there are Jews who also believe in Jesus and are saved. But, the majority of the worlds still rejects Christ as Savior. They refuse to believe on him, trust him, and turn to him for salvation. The fact is the world despises Christ and would gladly crucify him again if given the opportunity.

Listen to what the Bible says in **John 3:19-20** And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.

The latest available FBI statistics on violent crime states in 2019, an estimated 1,203,808 violent crimes occurred nationwide.

- Murder = 16,425
 - Rape = 139,815
 - Robbery = 267,988
 - Aggravated Assault = 821,182
- <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/topic-pages/violent-crime>

Why do you think most violent crimes are committed in the nighttime? Because men's deeds are evil, and they commit most of their evil sinful acts in the cover of darkness because they hate the light.

Jesus was sent into this world to be the light of the world, but the world hated him and still hates him because they love darkness.

These mortal fleshly bodies and minds that we have naturally gravitate toward evil. It takes zero effort to be evil, but it takes effort to do good.

Don't believe me? Think about something or someone you can't stand. You can easily point out all the reasons you can't stand them and point out all of their problems, but try finding a reason to like them and try pointing out their redeeming qualities. Not so easy, is it?

The next verses in **John 3:21** But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

As a Christian, we do have the light of Christ within us which gives us an edge over the lost world. As difficult as it is for a Christian to think of something good to say about something or someone we don't like, imagine the hate in the heart of those without the light of Christ.

That is, after all, the reason Christ came into this world, to bring us his light so that we can believe in Him and be saved: **John 3:16-18** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. 18 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.

Now go back to our opening text in John 1 and look at verse 12:

12 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:

We talked about this some a few weeks ago, receiving Christ. I mentioned that some people do not like to use that word receive when it comes to salvation. Remember what we said "receive" means: **to accept it, you take it for yourself**

Here in verse 12 is says "as many as received him." In other words, as many as accepted him and took him for themselves. That is the very definition of salvation because it says in the next part of that verse: **to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name**

If you have believed in the name of Jesus Christ, then it means you received him. You accepted him and you took Him for yourself. You took Him to be your Savior. Many ask the question, "**Have you accepted Christ as your Savior?**" It means the same thing as receiving Him.

Of course you would not receive him, accept him, or take him for yourself if you did not BELIEVE in Him. It's much more than just believing Jesus was a real man that lived on earth and was a great Jewish teacher. Men and women all over the world believe that. According to the Bible even the devils believe that and tremble.

A Christian believes in His death, burial, and resurrection and believe Him to be the only means of salvation. Based upon that belief we accept (or receive) Him as our Savior.

The mark of a truly saved person is that they follow Jesus after being saved. If you do not follow him then you were never saved. Listen to what the Bible says in:

John 10:24-31

24 Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly.

25 Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me.

26 But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you.

27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

30 I and my Father are one.

31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him.

Did you see that? If we know Jesus, then we will follow him. If we do not follow him then we do not know him. Just as the Jews who did not believe in Jesus as their Messiah, they were not His sheep and did not follow him or know his voice.

This is one reason I am very leery of anyone that tells me they were saved at such and such time, but they never read the Bible, never pray, never go to Church, and never give any indication they are saved. I believe most of these types of people are basing their salvation on some profession they made at some time, perhaps out of fear or some other reason and some well meaning preacher, mom, or dad congratulated them for "getting saved." But they never truly believed in the Lord Jesus Christ and never received him as Savior.

The Bible teaches us that true believers are followers of Christ, and you will know the by their fruits.

13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

In this last verse we see that a person who has "become the sons of God," was born again. Not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man. But they were born of God. That is what it means to be "born again." I'm sure everyone is familiar with that phrase a "**born again Christian.**" That is what this is referring to; someone being "born again."

We will look at closer in a few weeks when we get in Chapter 3, but quickly I want us to look at:

John 3:1-9

1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

9 Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?

Nicodemus was what Paul refers to as a "**natural man.**" He writes in **1 Corinthians 2:14** But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Nicodemus was not a dumb man; he just had no understanding of spiritual things because he was not saved and had no spiritual discernment.

To be born again, you have to be born of God and not of human blood, flesh, or will.

The Apostle Peter says this in:

1 Peter 1:22-23 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: 23 Being **born again**, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

This world is filled with darkness. It is filled with those who will not receive Christ. They will continue to hate him and reject him. Only God can change them, but it is up to us to reach them with His Word. We cannot save anyone; all we can do is shine the light of Christ in the darkness of this world and be a witness.