

“The Glory – and Peril – of Gospel Light”

John 11:45-57

When Jesus Christ shows His glory all men are pressed to deal with eternal issues!

1. Gospel Light Brings a Divide!

vv. 45-46

(1) Faith!

*“Then many of the Jews who
...had seen the things Jesus did, believed in Him.”*

(2) Unbelief!

*“But some of them went away to the Pharisees
and told them the things Jesus did.”*

2. Gospel Light Exposes Unbelief!

vv. 47ff

(1) Cannot deny what Jesus has done!

*“Then the chief priests and the Pharisees
gathered a council and said, ‘What shall we do?
For this Man works many signs.’ ”*

- Those who are otherwise adversaries
– Saducees and Pharisees – ready to unite against Christ!

(2) The foundations of the life are threatened, shaken!

*“If we let Him alone like this,
everyone will believe in Him,
and the Romans will come
and take away both our
place and our nation.”*

- “our place” = the temple

(3) The wickedness of the heart is inevitably exposed!

- The wicked and cynical counsel of the High Priest:

“It is expedient that one man should die for the nation.”

- Sin against the greatest light ever given?

- The united testimony of all the Scriptures
- His very office and service in its pattern pictured the heart of the gospel.
- He and those with him had witnessed the very words and works of the Son of God.

- The heart of unbelief “given over.” cf. v. 53

3. Gospel Light Shines, Whatever Sinful Man May Do!

- (1) God reigns! - A prophetic word from the unbelieving high priest! (51)

(2) Substitutionary Atonement

- The unbelieving high priest “preaches” substitutionary atonement!

(3) The Testimony filled out by the Spirit of Inspiration (52)

- Men of every nation
- Gathered together in one body cf. Jn. 10:16

Further Application