

29 - 1 John 3:2 - 2018-12-02

Call to Worship: Exodus 15:2a

Exodus 15:2a The LORD is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation; He is my God, and I will praise Him

Scripture Reading: Genesis 21:1-12

Sermon: "The World Does Not Know Us" 1 John 3:1b

Benediction: James 5:7-8

INTRODUCTION

We Know that Jesus Christ, the Son of God Come in the Flesh, Is Righteous

We Know that We Are Not Righteous

We Know We Have Been Counted As Righteous in Jesus Christ

We Know that We Now Practice Righteousness

We Know that We Practice Righteousness Because We Are Born of Him

So, if we know that Jesus Christ is righteous, then

We Know that Everyone Who Practices Righteousness Is Born of Him

Born of Him!?! Yes, we are born of Him! That leads the apostle to urge on us a profound observation: Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Look and see that the manner of love God has bestowed upon us is the kind that loves those most unworthy of being loved, and grants them the highest benefit at the dearest price to Himself.

This truth, that we are the children of God, thus affords us a wonderful view into the love God has for us in Christ Jesus.

As the apostle goes on, we find that contemplation of this truth, that we are the children of God, provides us another very helpful and welcome aid to our walk through this world during this last time: When we painfully experience rejection by this world, and alienation from it; we can know that the world rejects us because it does not know the children of God, since it does not know Him, either!

TEXT

NKJV Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! **Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.**

BODY

No textual variant, no big differences in the translations!!!

- I. Our Lord Here Provides Us An Answer to Our Question, “Why?”
 - A. This is gracious
 - B. This is helpful
 - 1. for our own souls
 - 2. for explaining to others
- II. The Question We Ask Is, “Why Does the World Not Know Us?”
 - A. You know that we find ourselves distressed at every turn by how the world alienates us. We have the question, “Why is it like this? Why does it have to be like this?”
 - 1. Why must a simple reading of the news be a torment and a temptation?
 - 2. Why can't I even find a decent movie to go to?
 - 3. Why can't I find something at the store that is decent to wear?
 - 4. Why are we, the law-abiding citizens, being forced, by the fruits of our labor, to fund the activities of the lawless who refuse to labor?
 - 5. Why must it be impossible to trust even the public school system, that is supposed to teach children what is right and true and good?
 - B. Clearly the does not know us, does not know our quality, does not know our relationship with God Almighty
 - 1. its legislatures outlaw us
 - 2. its police forces arrest us
 - 3. its courts convict and sentence us; rule against and penalize us
 - 4. its publications and demonstrations denounce us
 - 5. its religions persecute us
 - 6. its schools exclude us
 - C. It does not walk the way we walk
 - 1. they think it strange we do not run into the same flood of dissipation
 - 2. so they speak evil of us
 - D. It does not talk the way we talk
 - E. It does not think the way we think
 - 1. the world's thinking is futile
 - 2. the Lord gives them over to a depraved mind
 - F. It does not love the way we love
 - 1. our love is based on what is good for the other person
 - 2. our love is based on a perfect law
 - 3. our love is based on the character of God, especially as revealed in Jesus Christ
 - G. It does not believe in the Lord Jesus by the gospel we preach and believe

We have the question always before us, “Why does the world not know us?”

III. The Answer to Our Question Is, "Because It Did Not Know Him"

A. See how it does not know Him

1. It refused to know God as revealed to Adam
2. It refused to know God as revealed in nature
 - a) Romans 1:18-25 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, (19) because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. (20) For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, (21) because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. (22) Professing to be wise, they became fools, (23) and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man--and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. (24) Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, (25) who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.
3. It refused to know God as revealed in Jesus Christ
 - a) John 1:11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.
 - b) 1 Corinthians 2:7-8 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, (8) which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

B. See that our Lord Jesus told of this even as He still walked the earth with us

1. John 15:16-21 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. (17) These things I command you, that you love one another. (18) "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. (19) If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. (20) Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. (21) But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, **because they do not know Him who sent Me.**

C. John tells us that the world does not know us because it did not know Him, and we are His children

- IV. APPLICATION: Let this comfort you in this last time, these last days
 - A. This last time is characterized by the influence of Antichrist and the many antichrists
 - B. We experience all kinds of rejection by the world
 - C. In every example of the world rejecting you, see the great privilege of it! The world does not know you because it does not know God and you are His child!
 - D. Being the children of God the Father entitles us to the highest privileges. But full enjoyment of those privileges must wait for our Lord Jesus to come back. Until then, we must be cheered with this truth, that we may maintain joy and love as we deal with the unpleasant realities of life in the time when there are many antichrists.
- V. APPLICATION: Let this move us to greater fervency of love for one another
 - A. 1 John 5:1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him.
 - B. Your love for the God who has made you His child moves you to love all others who also have been made God's children
- VI. APPLICATION: Let this truth form a firm place to stand and work on what John will talk about next.
 - A. Recall that he has started us into his doctrine of how to tell whom to consider a Christian
 - 1. not one who rejects the sound doctrine of the gospel
 - 2. next, not one who does not obey God's law and love the brothers
 - B. This truth, that being the children of God puts us at odds with the world, is a vital component of sound thinking on that subject

CONCLUSION

It is indeed distressing to live in this world as those who are not of it, as those whose citizenship is not here. In this world we have tribulations. It is hard to walk among strangers, who do not understand your language or your customs.

But be of good cheer! This world is against you because it is against Christ, whose disciple you are, and against God, who has made you His child. And Christ is coming back. When He does...

well, that is the verses for next week!

1 John 3:1

NKJV Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! **Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.**

ESV See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. **The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.**

KJV Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: **therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.**

John 15:16-21 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. (17) These things I command you, that you love one another. (18) "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. (19) If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. (20) Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. (21) But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, **because they do not know Him who sent Me.**

1 John 5:1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him.

JRY:

Being the children of God the Father entitles us to the highest privileges. But full enjoyment of those privileges must wait for our Lord Jesus to come back. Until then, we must be cheered with this truth, that we may maintain joy and love as we deal with the unpleasant realities of life in the time when there are many antichrists.

Geneva:

this so great a dignity, is not to be esteemed according to the judgment of the flesh, because it is unknown to the world, for the world knows not God the Father himself.

Calvin:

It is a trial that grievously assaults our faith, that we are not so much regarded as God's children, or that no mark of so great an excellency appears in us, but that, on the contrary, almost the whole world treats us with ridicule and contempt. Hence it can hardly be inferred from our present state that God is a Father to us, for the devil so contrives all things as to obscure this benefit. He obviates this offense by saying that we are not as yet acknowledged to be such as we are, because the world knows not God: a remarkable example of this very thing is found in Isaac and Jacob; for though both were chosen by God, yet Ishmael persecuted the former with laughter and taunts; and Esau, the latter with threats and the sword. However, then, we may be oppressed by the world, still our salvation remains safe and secure.

Gill:

who, though he made the world, and was in it, was not known by it, but was hated, abused, and persecuted; and therefore it need not seem strange that the saints, who are the sons of God by adoption, should be treated in like manner.

Barnes:

On the fact that the world did not know him, see the 1Co_2:8 note; Act_3:17 note. Compare Joh_17:25.

On the fact that Christians may be expected to be regarded and treated as their Saviour was, see the notes at Joh_15:18-20. Compare Mat_10:24-25.

Spurgeon:

We can well accept the consequence of such a position without any very great sorrow: "Therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not."

JFB:

The world's whole course is one great act of non-recognition of God.

Ellicott:

Why was this? Because God, manifest in Christ, had been unintelligible to the world as such, or, if intelligible, the cause only of antagonism. As far as the children were like their Father, so far would the elements that made up their character be antagonistic to the elements that make up the character of the world. For, as far as "the world" exists at all in the moral meaning of the word, it is a mixture of qualities and tendencies which may or may not be like each other, but which all agree in being opposed to true righteousness.

does not know us

Poole:

i.e. doth not own or acknowledge us for its own, is not kind to us, yea, hates and persecutes us; knowing often (after the Hebrew phrase) signifying affection

Clarke:

o not acknowledge, respect, love, or approve of us.

Barnes:

Does not understand our principles; the reasons of our conduct; the sources of our comforts and joys. The people of the world regard us as fanatics or enthusiasts; as foolish in abandoning the pleasures and pursuits which they engage in; as renouncing certain happiness for that which is uncertain; as cherishing false and delusive hopes in regard to the future, and as practicing needless austerities, with nothing to compensate for the pleasures which are abandoned. There is nothing which the frivolous, the ambitious, and the selfish “less” understand than they do the elements which go into the Christian’s character, and the nature and source of the Christian’s joys.

Him

Geneva:

God the Father

Poole:

the Father, and the whole family, are to it an invisum genus, hated alike

Gill:

neither the Father...nor the Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten of the Father

Barnes:

the Lord Jesus Christ

JFB:

namely, the Father

Spurgeon:

There is no need to say to whom this last sentence refers; the pronoun “Him” is quite sufficient to indicate our Lord Jesus whom the world knew not. Every living, loving heart must at once have thought of “Him” who is the chief, the firstborn, the only-begotten Son of God.

It does not know the Father, then how should it know the children? It did not know the elder Brother, — the firstborn among many brethren, — and as it did not know him, how should it know us?

Prelude: Trinity 442 Behold th'Amazing Gift of Love"

Camille: piano - play from hymnal in G

Noah: trumpet - see attached in A

Anna: clarinet - see attached in A

Trinity 105 "Psalm 148"

Camille: piano - see attached in F or transpose to F

Noah: trumpet - play from hymnal in G

Anna: clarinet - play from hymnal in G

Dale, Jimmy: attached in F has chord symbols; 110 in red Trinity

Grace 84 "Irresistible Grace"

Camille: flute

Noah: sing

Anna: piano

Trinity 442 Behold th'Amazing Gift of Love"

Camille: piano - play from hymnal in G

Noah: trumpet - see attached in A

Anna: clarinet - see attached in A

Trinity 700 "Trust and Obey"

Camille: piano

Noah: direct

Anna: sing