

Series: John

Title: Why the World Hates Christ

Text: John 7: 1-11

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**John 7: 1: After these things Jesus walked in Galilee: for he would not walk in Jewry, because the Jews sought to kill him. 2: Now the Jews' feast of tabernacles was at hand. 3: His brethren His brethren therefore said unto him, Depart hence, and go into Judaea, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest. 4: For *there is no man that doeth any thing in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. If thou do these things, shew thyself to the world.* 5: For neither did his brethren believe in him. 6: Then Jesus said unto them, My time is not yet come: but your time is always ready. 7: The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil. 8: Go ye up unto this feast: I go not up yet unto this feast; for my time is not yet full come. 9: When he had said these words unto them, he abode *still* in Galilee. 10: But when his brethren were gone up, then went he also up unto the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret. 11: Then the Jews sought him at the feast, and said, Where is he? 12: And there was much murmuring among the people concerning him: for some said, He is a good man: others said, Nay; but he deceiveth the people. 13: Howbeit no man spake openly of him for fear of the Jews.**

Here we have three groups of people with one thing in common. They would not identify with Christ.

The Jews were the religious leaders. They sought to kill the Lord Jesus. The Lord's brethren were the younger sons of Mary and Joseph, his brethren after the flesh, not those who believed on him. They mocked him. The religious people of Judea also had gone up to Jerusalem to the feast and murmured [secretly, quietly] concerning him but not openly.

Christ said that the world hates him. Romans 8 declares that the carnal mind is enmity against God. We see in all three of these groups of unbelievers that they all hated Christ. None identified with Christ. None confessed Christ and followed him in faith.

There are three things in this passage that show why natural man hates Christ. We will look at them in order they come in our text.

**Subject:** Why the World Hates Christ

## **NO FAITH IN CHRIST**

**John 7: 5: For neither did his brethren believe in him.**

This can be said of each unregenerate person in these three groups of people. They did not believe in him.

The Jewish religious leaders had the oracles of God. They had the law and the prophets which spoke of Christ. The scribes studied the scriptures. Pharisees were zealous for the law. They saw him heal an impotent man. Each heard Christ declare he is one with the Father. But they did they believe on Christ? Therefore they sought his life.

What about his own brethren after the flesh? They grew up with him. These had to know he was not like others. He knew no sin and did no sin. They had to have heard from Mary that he is the Christ. They saw his miracles, too. But even his nearest family questioned him in unbelief, *“IF thou do these things...for neither did his brethren believe in him.”*

The unregenerate multitude at the feast—some religious, some not—did not believe in him. Some said he was a good man. Others said he deceives the people. Why were they divided? Why did none speak openly of him? They did not believe on Christ.

Brothers and sisters what a blessing of God to truly believe on the Lord Jesus Christ from a new heart! Thank God for faith in Christ!

No sinner, born of Adam, can make himself be born of God and believe on Christ. The new birth is of God.

John 1: 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 must be born again of the word. Later our Lord tells some *“Ye seek to kill me because my word hath no place in you.”* All flesh is grass. Sinners must be born-again, not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible seed by the word of God which liveth and abideth forever. This is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you (1 Pet 1: 23-25).

After multitudes walked away from Christ in unbelief the eleven said, “Lord to whom shall we go thou hast the words of eternal life and we believe and are sure thou art that Christ the Son of the living God” (Jn 6: 68-69). “And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven” (Mt 16: 17). What a blessed, precious gift of God to have spiritual life and faith in Christ!

Ephesians 2: 8: For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: 9: Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10: For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Why does the unregenerate world hate Christ? Natural man does not believe on Christ! Sinner, believe on Christ. Cast all your care on him. The only way we know we have been born again of God and given faith is by believing on Christ. When God gives faith we cannot do otherwise.

## **EVIL WORKS**

**John 7: 7: The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.**

The unregenerate world hates Christ because Christ testifies against it that their works are evil. The fact the Son of God took flesh and worked the works of God testifies that the works of every natural man are evil. Man is so fallen and so evil in Adam that it was a must that the GodMan, the last Adam, work the works of God for his people.

In Adam all fell under the condemnation of the broken law. We all are born with Adam's corrupt sin-nature. The sin-nature only produces evil. The religious leader's works were evil. His brethren's works were evil. The unregenerate religious and irreligious multitude's works were evil. From vilest sinner to the righteousness of the Pharisees, Christ testifies of the world, that their works are evil.

Romans 3: 9: What then? are we better *than they*? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; 10: As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12: They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

Christ crucified testifies there is nothing any sinner can do to make himself righteous and accepted of God.

Jeremiah 13:23 Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? *then* may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil.

Christ is THE Way. He is the Righteousness of God. Christ alone fulfilled the law. He alone justified his people. The Lord Jesus made his people the righteousness of God in him. The Son of God said,

John 9:4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

We see this in what the feast of tabernacles represented. The feast of tabernacles is called "*the LORD's feast*" in Leviticus 23: 7. But it had been corrupted into "*the Jew's feast of tabernacles.*" God ordained that they were to dwell in little huts for seven days to remember the Lord's works of bringing them out of Egypt and providing for them throughout their pilgrimage through the wilderness. The bringing out of Egypt typified Christ our Passover redeeming his people from all bondage which was observed in their passover feast. This feast of tabernacles typified Christ's preservation and provision for his people throughout our pilgrimage on this earth. During the seven days they were to offer sacrifices which typified Christ our High Priest and Lamb who perfected his people by his one offering by whom we worship God throughout our life on this earth. The eighth day was a special day typifying Christ coming again to gather us to the true promised land to present us perfect by his righteousness. As John saw New Jerusalem coming down out of heaven, that is when God will tabernacle among his people.

Revelation 21: 3: And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

So here is the very Christ that the feast of tabernacles typified. His very presence testified that without faith in him all their observance of the feast was evil. They were going through an empty form because those who were unregenerate and without faith did not know Christ. Their works were evil.

Even as a regenerated believer Paul said, "In me, that is in my [sinful] flesh, dwells no good thing" (Rom 7: 18). Paul knew that every good work was of God and sin was of his fleshly nature. He said, "I labored...yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me" (1 Cor 15: 10). Every good work performed by his people in faith is good only in and by Christ. Good

works are produced of God the Holy Spirit sent by Christ. They are cleansed in Christ's blood. Therefore they are "acceptable to God by Jesus Christ" (1 Pet 2: 5).

Yet, whatsoever is not of faith is sin. This is why folks hate Christ and his gospel and his people because when the gospel goes forth, Christ testifies of the world that the works thereof are evil.

## **NO FEAR OF GOD**

**John 7: 13: Howbeit no man spake openly of him for fear of the Jews.**

Natural man fears men rather than fearing God. King Ahaz is an example. He refused a sign from God's prophet pretending piety. But in reality, rather than fearing God, he feared man. Therefore, he made a confederacy with a foreign king to save him and his kingdom. The Lord said through Isaiah,

Isaiah 8: 12: Say ye not, A confederacy, to all *them* to whom this people shall say, A confederacy; neither fear ye their fear, nor be afraid. 13: Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and *let him be your fear, and let him be your dread.* 14: And he shall be for a sanctuary;

By Christ formed in a sinner we are given a fear of God in our new man. Christ sustains it and strengthens it. The fear of God makes us willing to confess Christ before men, unite with his people under the gospel, and give Christ all the glory. It is the fear of God that makes us seek to honor God in these services, amongst one another and in our lives.

Philippians 2: 12: Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. 13: For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.

Yet, the same as we put no confidence in our faith or in our good works, so too, we put no confidence in our fear of God. We still have a sin nature that make us fear man. Peter boasted he would not deny the Lord. But Peter denied his Lord three times due to a fear of man. It was Christ alone who preserved and restored him.

So where is perfect fear that makes us perfect? It is Christ who is the perfect faith in whom his people have believed perfectly. It is Christ who is the perfect righteousness in whom his people are made the righteousness of God. So it is Christ himself who is the perfection of the fear of God in whom his people are perfectly holy.

Consider Christ's perfect fear of God. As God, Christ knew the Jews sought to kill him. He knew that entire mob would cry crucify him very soon. Yet as the representative of his people, as a Man serving God for his people, with perfect fear of God he believed God that his time was not now. But this feast was one of the three required for the males to observe each year. So being made under the law to fulfill the law, Christ obeyed the will of his Father by observing the feast, even preaching the gospel to them, though everyone there hated him and wanted to kill him and he knew it. He did it in perfect fear without any fear of man.

It was that same perfect fear by which he set his face like a flint, bore the sin of his people, the shame of the cross, and the forsaking of God which we deserved. Doing so Christ declared

God just and the justifier of his people. “And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him” (Heb 5: 9).

We have seen three reasons the world hates Christ: no faith, evil works and no fear of God. But it is in Christ that his people are complete.

Concerning faith, Christ is the author and finisher of our faith. We still have much unbelief because it is all our sin-nature is. But by him we believe and persevere in faith unto the end. But our small gift of faith rests entirely in the Faith of Christ who loved us and gave himself for us and who faithfully lives in us.

Concerning righteousness, Christ is our righteousness in whom we are complete. Our fleshly sin-nature produces evil (nothing good). But Christ produces good works in his people and makes our works accepted in him. Still, we do not look to our works but rest in Christ our Righteousness alone.

Concerning fear of God, Christ feared God in perfection and in him we are perfectly holy. We still have much fear of man in our flesh. But with Christ formed in you we have a fear of God and Christ keeps us fearing God and obeying him from a new heart. Still, it is in Christ alone what we are perfectly sanctified and holy.

Believe on him, rest in his righteousness, and fear God! He said,

Matthew 10: 28: And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. 29: Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? And one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. 30: But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31: Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows. 32: Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. 33: But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

**Amen!**