

The Rejection of Christ

John 1: 9-11

Joh 1:9 *That* was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

Joh 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

Joh 1:11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

He is Rejected and Denied in the following six ways:

1) By a Denial of him as the “True Light”

“*That* was the true Light”

2) By a Denial of the light of conscience

“which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.”

3) By a Denial of his incarnation

“He was in the world”

4) By a Denial of Creation and him as Creator

“and the world was made by him”

5) A Denial sourced in Ignorance

“and the world knew him not”

6) A Denial of Estrangement

“He came unto his own, and his own received him not.”

1) By a Denial of him as the “True Light”

“That was the true Light”

Emily asked the question today, does it disturb me that there are so many religions in the world?

Q. Why do they exist?

Because they reject the true light!!

It is willing ignorance!

Compare:

Joh 3:1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

Joh 3:2 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.

John Heywood, English writer in 1546 said:

‘There are none so blind as those who will not see. The most deluded people are those who choose to ignore what they already know’

That is why they committed the sin against the Holy Ghost!

Gill describes Christ as light in these words:

“Christ is that light, that famous and excellent light, the fountain of all light to all creatures; that gave light to the dark earth at first, and spoke light out of darkness; that light of all men in the earth, and of all the angels in heaven, and of all the saints below, and of all the glorified ones above: he is the true light, in distinction from typical lights”

We see the reason for this denial in:

Joh 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, **because their deeds were evil.**

Joh 3:20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, **lest his deeds should be reprov'd.**

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

2) By a Denial of the light of conscience

“which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.”

Q. How do we understand this?

There are various opinions!

I believe it is taking of the light of conscience!

Compare:

Rom 2:14 For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:

Rom 2:15 Which shew the work of the law (*not the law as in Romans 7*) written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and *their* thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)

Rom 2:16 In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.

Note,

There is no promise of Salvation here outside of the Gospel of Christ. Man by nature knows enough to condemn him but not enough to save him!

Rom 2:12 For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law;

Calvin: (on verse 15)

“He means not that it was so engraven on their will, that they sought and diligently pursued it, but that they were so mastered by the power of truth, that they could not disapprove of it. For why did they institute religious rites, except that they were convinced that God ought to be worshipped? Why were they ashamed of adultery and theft, except that they deemed them evils?”

Lloyd Jones gives two very good arguments against interpreting these verses as meaning they have the Law of God in their hearts in the sense of loving it and obeying it.

1} This would make them greater than the Jews who only had the Law in the Scriptures and not in their hearts.

2} They would have something that has only been promised in the New Covenant. Jeremiah 31.

3) By a Denial of his incarnation

“He was in the world”

Q. How many have sought to Reject this truth?

Let them say what they like, we say with the Apostle Paul:

1Ti 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

Bede: (comment on 1 John 5:20)

1Jn 5:20 **And we know that the Son of God is come**, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, *even* in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

“The eternal Son of God who was in the world and through whom the world was made has come for a time into the world and for no other reason than our salvation, that is, that he might give us the understanding to perceive the true God. For no one was able to come to life without perception of the divinity; no one was able to perceive God unless he himself taught us.”

Consider,

The words of the Apostle John on this subject:

1Jn 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

1Jn 4:2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

1Jn 4:3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that *spirit* of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

4) By a Denial of Creation and him as Creator

“and the world was made by him”

This denial has many forms:

Atheism, Evolution, Deism, Polytheistic Mormonism, Pantheism etc.

All of these false doctrines have one ultimate goal; to deny that Christ is the Creator of all things!!

Listen to Jeremiahs response to the Polytheists in Judah:

Jer 10:11 Thus shall ye say unto them, The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth, *even* they shall perish from the earth, and from under these heavens.

Jer 10:12 He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion.

Jer 10:13 When he uttereth his voice, *there is* a multitude of waters in the heavens, and he causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; he maketh lightnings with rain, and bringeth forth the wind out of his treasures.

Jer 10:14 Every man is brutish in *his* knowledge: every founder is confounded by the graven image: for his molten image *is* falsehood, and *there is* no breath in them.

Jer 10:15 They *are* vanity, *and* the work of errors: in the time of their visitation they shall perish.

Jer 10:16 The portion of Jacob *is* not like them: for he *is* the former of all *things*; and Israel *is* the rod of his inheritance: The LORD of hosts *is* his name.

Chrysostom: (on the text)

“He was in the world,” but not as though he was of equal duration with the world. Away with such an idea! This is why he adds, “And the world was made by him.” In this way, John leads you up again to the eternal existence of the Only Begotten. For anyone who has heard that this universe is his work, even if he is not very

smart or despises the glory of God, will certainly (whether he wants to or not) be forced to confess that the maker comes before his works.

5) A Denial sourced in Ignorance

“and the world knew him not”

Q. How can this be?

Cyril of Alexandria:

“Just as the light of the sun rises upon all, but the blind cannot see its light, we do not say that there is a deficiency with the sun’s ray, but rather, it is because of the disease of the sight.”

Compare:

Joh 1:5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

Also:

Hos 4:1 Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because *there is* no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.

Hos 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

Hos 4:12 My people ask counsel at their stocks, and their staff declareth unto them: for the spirit of whoredoms hath caused *them* to err, and they have gone a whoring from under their God.

6) A Denial of Estrangement

“He came unto his own, and his own received him not.”

Isaiah could say:

Isa 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.

Also:

Joh 7:1 After these things Jesus walked in Galilee: for he would not walk in Jewry, because the Jews sought to kill him.

Joh 7:2 Now the Jews' feast of tabernacles was at hand.

Joh 7:3 His brethren therefore said unto him, Depart hence, and go into Judaea, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest.

Joh 7:4 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.

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

In Contrast:

1Pe 2:7 **Unto you therefore which believe *he is precious*:** but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

1Pe 2:8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, *even to them* which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

1Pe 2:9 But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness **into his marvellous light:**

App:

1) Do you respond appropriately to what has been revealed to you of Christ in the word?

2) Do you ignore conscience?

3) Do you shamelessly confess him as the creator and sustainer of all things?

4) Do you seek to dispel ignorance in your own heart and mind by knowing and obeying the word of God?

5) Is Christ precious to your soul?

May God bless his word to us this day. Amen.