

As we've been examining the gospel of John, it's repeatedly become evident, that John ever keeps before his readers the broad and glorious themes of the Christian faith—(1) the absolute total depravity of man, (2) the gracious and just nature of God, and (3) the person and work of Christ—regardless where you look, anywhere within these 21 chapters, who will never be far from one of these themes, and usually, where there's one there's all three...

But you know what, there is a sense in which these are three dominant themes of Scripture—regardless what book you examine (the Old or NT), man's sinfulness, God's character, and the person and work of Christ are boldly present—and brethren, this is what adorned the preaching of our Reformed and Puritan forefathers, they always majored on the major themes...

And friends—I hope this is what you've come to hear—you haven't come to hear the mere opinions of men, a commentary on the social ills of our day, or a moralistic sermon wherein you are given 3 easy steps to being a better you—who've come to hear the great and grand themes of Scripture—about God, Christ, and man (and salvation)...

We come this morning to the final exchange between Jesus and the Jews (ch.8)—beginning back in v2, we learned our Savior entered the temple and began to teach the people—that teaching was interrupted in vv3-11 by the Pharisees bringing Him a woman caught in adultery—Jesus resumed His instruction in v12, and continues through v58...

I was mentioning to one of you recently, how the puritans were prone to give their sermons, titles that actually summarized the content of the sermon (book)—this means, they often had rather lengthy titles—well, if I were to give this sermon such a title it would be—Jesus Christ, the hope of Abraham and the God of Moses, dishonored and hated by man, but loved and honored by God—or else, Christ dishonored by man, but honored by God...

- I. The Jews Dishonor the Son—vv48-53
- II. The Father Honors the Son—vv54-55
- III. The Son Identifies Himself—vv56-59

I. The Jews Dishonor the Son—vv48-53

- 1. According to v48, the Jews dishonored Him by accusing Him of two things—[1] of being a Samaritan, and [2] of having a demon...
- 2. [1] Being a Samaritan—"Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan"—that is—He was a mixed-breed...
- 3. J.C. Ryle—"When the Jews called our lord 'a Samaritan,' they meant much the same as saying that He was no true Jew, and little better than a heathen..."
- 4. The Samaritans were a mixture between Jew and Gentile—the Jews despised them more than the Gentiles...
- 5. It seems likely the Jews were retaliating for His remarks that He made earlier, about their relation to Abraham...
- 6. The Jews took great pride in descending from Abraham, and no doubt were greatly offended by what He said...
- 7. Because Christ called them children of the devil, they referred to Him as a Samaritan, a despised half-breed...
- 8. Thus, what we find here is the very ugly reality of national pride, of despising others who are different from us...
- 9. Surely brethren, I trust we are all clear on this—it makes no difference to God, what nation you come from...

10. The Jews were so proud of their national roots, that they even despised those whose pedigree wasn't pure enough...
11. Our Savior doesn't even respond to this foolish accusation, but ignores it, Prov.26:4—"Do not answer a fool according to his folly..."
12. [2] Having a demon—they accused Him of being demon possessed because of the astonishing claims He's made...
13. In other words, there was only one reason why any person would make such claims—He was demon possessed...
14. Now—the Pharisees believed in Angels and demons, furthermore, they totally believed in the devil (the leader of the demons)...
15. Thus, it's possible that the Pharisees are responding to Jesus' claims that they were moral children of the devil...
16. It's as if they were saying something like this—"You've accused us of being the willing offspring of the devil—but actually, you're the one acting like your demon possessed, and largely because of the pride it takes to make such claims..."
17. V49—"Jesus answered, I do not have a demon; but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me"—I'm neither demon possessed, nor self-seeking...
18. Again, the inference being, Satan and his demons are self-seeking, thus Christ, who they claimed was self-seeking, must be demon possessed...
19. V50—"And I do not seek My own glory; there is One who seeks and judges"—that is—"The Father seeks My glory and will one judge settle all accounts..."
20. Thus, fundamentally, the Jews were accusing Him with the very things He said were true of them—they were claiming that He was demon possessed and a liar...
21. If the devil is the father of lies (v44), and if Christ is demon possessed, then of necessity, He must be a liar...
22. V51—"Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death"—regardless what you say about Me—"I SAY TO YOU..."
23. Now—I trust we understand, that our Savior doesn't mean—those who keep His word will never physically die...
24. All people die, Christians and non-Christians, but—Christians will die very differently than non-Christians...
25. Again, they misunderstood what He meant, v52—"Then the Jews said to Him, Now we know that You have a demon! Abraham is dead, and the prophets: and You say, If anyone keeps My word he shall never taste death..."
26. Jn.11:25—"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this..."
27. Simply put—though Christians physically die, their souls live with God, and they shall never die the second death...
28. Rev.2:11—"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death..."
29. [i] He who overcomes—this basically means the same thing as—"If anyone keeps my word"—to abide in My word...
30. [ii] Shall not be hurt by the second death—that is, shall not see or taste death—shall not experience the second death...
31. Rev.20:14—"Then Death and Hades (grave) were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death"—this is hell...
32. Before moving on to the next main heading, I want to suggest three observations about the person of Christ...
33. [a] The humiliation of Christ—that is, behold how humbling it was for our Savior to be slandered and maligned...
34. The eternal Son of God, takes to Himself human flesh, sin excepted, and how is He treated by His own creation...
35. They mock Him, reject Him, call Him a liar, say He's demon possessed, and eventually arrest, beat, and kill Him...

36. My dear friends, such behavior not only underscores man's native wickedness, but also Christ's utter humiliation...
37. The eternal Son of God, the Holy One of Israel, the perfect and sinless Lamb of God, described as demon possessed...
38. Ps.69:19-21—"You know MY reproach, My shame, and My dishonor; My adversaries are all before You. Reproach has broken My heart, and I am full of heaviness; I looked for someone to take pity, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found none. They also gave Me gall for My good, and for My thirst they gave Me vinegar to drink..."
39. [b] The graciousness of Christ—here I'm referring to the gracious way in which our Savior responds to their wicked accusations...
40. V48—"Then the Jews answered and said to Him, Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon. Jesus answered, I do not have a demon...Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death..."
41. Rom.12:21—"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good"—this is a very difficult lesson to learn...
42. Matt.5:44—"I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you..."
43. We as Christians must ever keep this in mind, regardless what wicked men say, we must ever remain gracious...
44. There is a video of an elderly man making his way around the internet—where he's preaching the gospel in a park in London...
45. And he's surrounded by 20-30 Muslims who are intimidating him, they are mocking him, and interrupting him...
46. And yet he never repays evil for evil, he never yells back at them or threatens them, he simply tells them the truth...
47. [c] The love of Christ—where in this passage do we find the love of Christ, well I suggest it's implied in v51...
48. V51—"Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death (shall never taste death)..."
49. As I showed earlier, the death referred to is the second death (the lake of fire), but my question here is—why will some people not taste this death...
50. Heb.2:9—"But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone (or for every son)..."
51. The apostle is here describing what we are able to presently see by eyes of faith—Christ, crowned with glory and honor...
52. But notice why—"he was made a little lower than the angels (a man), for the suffering of death, or tasting of death..."
53. The reason why people who trust Christ will never SEE or TASTE death is because Christ tasted it FOR them...

II. The Father Honors the Son—vv54-55

1. From v53, the Jews continue their verbal assault against Christ, plainly challenging Him concerning His identity...
2. Before He directly answers them (vv56-58), He underscores the fact that He doesn't honor Himself, but His Father honors Him...
3. [1] How He honors Him, v54—"If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that he is your God..."
4. The Father honored the Son, through testifying of Him at His baptism, and through His many signs and miracles...
5. But, no doubt, the greatest way the Father honors the Son is through His resurrection and subsequent exaltation...

6. Jn.13:31-32—"Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in Him. If God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and glorify Him immediately..."
7. Here, our Savior speaks of His crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension as a glorification—a public honoring...
8. A.W. Pink—"God honored Him at His birth, by sending the angels to herald Him as Christ the Lord. He honored Him during the days of His infancy, by directing the wise men from the east to come and worship the young King. he honored Him at His baptism, by proclaiming Him His beloved Son. He honored Him in death, by not suffering His body to see corruption. He honored Him at His ascension, when He exalted Him to His own right hand. He will honor Him in the final judgment, when every knee shall be made to bow before Him and every tongue confess that he is Lord. And throughout eternity He shall be honored by a redeemed people who shall esteem Him the Fairest among ten thousand to their souls. Infinitely worthy is the Lamb to receive honor and glory. Let then the writer and reader see to it that our daily lives honor Him who has so highly honored us as to call us *brethren*..."
9. [2] Why He honors Him—our Savior provides several reasons WHY His Father honors Him, let me suggest two...
10. [a] To vindicate Him from His enemies—although His enemies dishonored Him, His Father would honor Him...
11. V50—"And I do not seek My own glory; there is One who seeks and judges"—that is, seeks His glory and judges His enemies...
12. My dear friends, the Father is not going to let His Son's enemies, who openly dishonor Him, to go unpunished...
13. Notice, how our Savior puts together His honor and their judgment—the Son will be honored at the day of judgment...
14. All the people who now reject Him, mock Him, and take His name in vain—will one day confess He is LORD...
15. [b] To reward Him for His obedience, v55—"Yet you have not know Him, but I know Him. And if I say, I do not know Him, I shall be a liar like you; but I do know Him and keep His word..."
16. The Father honors the Son because He kept His word—the Father gave this to His Son in an eternal covenant...
17. The Father promises to honor the Son as the Godman and give Him a bride, if the Son comes in obedience to His word...
18. That obedience included the incarnation, a perfect life, shame and humiliation, and the suffering of the cross...
19. Phil.2:8-11—"And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father..."
20. Now—I want to here make a single application from this second point—God honors those who honor Him...
21. J.C. Ryle—"The true Christian in the present day must never be surprised to find that he has constant trials to endure from this quarter. Human nature never changes. So long as he serves the world, and walks in the broad way, little perhaps will be said against him. Once let him take up the cross and follow Christ, and there is no lie too monstrous, and no story too absurd, for some to tell against him, and for others to believe. But let him take comfort tin the through that he is only drinking the cup which his blessed Master drank before him..."
22. How are Christians to respond to mistreatment, false accusation, rejection, hated, name calling, and slander...
23. The world has always been filled with poor despised Christians, mistreated, mocked, ridiculed, and mocked...
24. For example, think of the Christian who is mocked at college for believing the Biblical teaching of creation...
25. Or else, think of the Christian that's mocked at work because he believes that God marriage for man and woman...

26. Or else, think of the Christian who's despised because they believe that life begins at conception in the womb...
27. Or else, think of the Christian woman, mocked by friends and family members because she spends herself for her household...
28. Or else, think of Christians in the Middle East, who are persecuted, ridiculed, imprisoned, and killed for their faith...
29. I grow very discouraged watching the news, and seeing how Christians are increasingly ridiculed in this country...
30. It's increasingly becoming a reality, that being a TRUE Christian in this country, put a target on your back...
31. My dear friends, how are Christians to respond to such mistreatment, to slander, false accusations, and insults
32. Well—I suggest we don't need to defend or honor ourselves—for there is ONE who will openly honor His people...
33. Rom.8:17—"Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory..."
34. 1Pet.2:21-23—"For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth, who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously (there is One who seeks and judges)..."

III. The Son Identifies Himself—vv56-59

1. It's now, beginning with v56, that our Savior directly answers their question back in v53—"Who do You make Yourself out to be..."
2. Fundamentally, our Savior identifies Himself in a twofold way—as the hope of Abraham (vv56-57), and the God of Moses (vv58-59)...
3. [1] The hope of Abraham, v56—"Your Father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad..."
4. Earlier the Jews asked a question, v53—"Are You greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead..."
5. You have claimed that those who keep Your word will never die, are you saying you're greater than Abraham and the prophets...
6. To this our Savior now replies—that Abraham himself—"rejoiced to see Me day, and he saw it and was glad..."
7. By "My day" our Savior means—the day of His coming—the time when the promised Messiah would come...
8. How did Abraham see His day and rejoice?—well, there are at least two ways this was true—through promise and type...
9. [a] Through promise—from the very beginning Abraham had been told through promise, of the coming Messiah...
10. Gen.12:3—"And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed"—the NT repeatedly calls this the gospel...
11. Abraham is told, that from His very loins, would come the promised seed of the woman who would bring salvation...
12. [b] Through type—that is—not only through the sacrificial system, but especially that incident on Mount Moriah...
13. Gen.22:13-14—"Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. And Abraham called the name of the place, THE-LORD-WILL-PROVIDE; as it is said to this day, In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided..."
14. [2] The God of Moses, v58—"Jesus said to them, Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM..."

15. Having asserted that Abraham rejoiced to see His day, this prompted the Jews to ask another question, v57—"Then the Jews said to Him. You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham..."
16. It's obvious they were again confused—they assumed our Savior was claiming to be a contemporary of Abraham...
17. V58—"Jesus said to them, Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM"—I actually predate Abraham...
18. Now—I've mentioned several times throughout our consideration of this chapter, that our Savior is here referring back to Ex.3...
19. Ex.3:14—"And God said to Moses, I AM WHO I AM. And He said, Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, I AM has sent me to you..."
20. The name I AM refers to the self-existence of God—He is of or from Himself—eternal and never-changing...
21. What our Savior is saying is rather obvious—He is claiming to exist before Abraham because He is the eternal I AM...
22. He is the very same self-existent God who revealed Himself to Moses in the burning bush, He is self-existent...
23. It's evident the Jews understood, on some level, this is what He was claiming, as is obvious from their reaction...
24. V59—"Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by..."
25. Thus—I want to take a few minutes, and suggest two wonderful truths these final verses tell us about the gospel...
26. [a] Their is a SINGLE Savior in the gospel—every person ever saved, was always and only saved, by looking to Christ...
27. [b] Their is a MIGHTY Savior in the gospel—God the Father did NOT send a mere man into the world to save us...