

4/17/11

Series Title: "John's Gospel of Jesus: God in Flesh"

Today's Title:

"All the Witnesses Agree that Jesus is the God-Man"

Scripture Reading: John 5:30-47

Text: John 5:30-31

"I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me. If I alone bear witness about myself, my testimony is not deemed true."

Introduction:

c/w Deuteronomy 19:15-21

c/w Mark 14:53-59

Premise:

Outline:

I. Verification of Five Witnesses

II. Vulnerability of Five Rejections

III. Vexation of Five Condemnations

I. VERIFICATION OF FIVE WITNESSES

A. John the Baptist

vv.32-33, 35

c/w John 1:19-27, 29-34

John 3:22-36

B. Jesus' own works

v.36

- D.A. Carson

"All that Jesus does is nothing more and nothing less than what the Father gives him to do. The works he does are thus peculiarly divine: they are the works of God. Once this Father/

Son relationship is grasped, everything Jesus does simultaneously attests to who he is and who the Father is.”

- Note 7 distinctions relating to the works of Jesus:

[see Ryle and Pink]

1. ***Their number.*** Jesus performed so many miracles and signs that the Apostle John says, “*Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.*”
2. ***Their greatness.*** These were amazing feats that amazed the viewers.
3. ***Their publicity.*** These were done in open day and in front of many witnesses and often before enemies.
4. ***Their character.*** R.C. Ryle says, “*...they were almost always works of love, mercy and compassion, helpful and beneficent to man, and not merely exhibitions of power.*”
5. ***Their direct appeal to man’s senses.*** They were visible and would bear scrutiny to any who needed empirical evidence.
6. ***Their artlessness.*** They were not staged mechanically. They happened in the natural course of Jesus’ ministry
7. ***Their efficacy.*** A. W. Pink says, “*There was as*

much

difference between the miracles of healing performed by Christ and those of His miserable imitators which are being so widely heralded in our day, as there is between His teaching and that given out by these pretenders who claim to heal in His name. Christ’s cures were instantaneous, not gradual; complete and perfect, not faulty and disappointing.”

C. God the Father

vv.37-38

c/w Matthew 3:13-17

- Hymn by Isaac Watts, #307

***Dearest of all the names above,
My Savior and my God,***

Who can resist thy heavenly love,

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Or trifle with thy blood?

'Tis by the merits of thy death

The Father smiles again;

'Tis by thine interceding breath

The Spirit dwells with men.

*Till God in human flesh I see,
My thoughts no comfort find;
The holy, just, and sacred Three
Are terrors to my mind.*

*But if Immanuel's face appear,
My hope, my joy, begin;
His name forbids my slavish fear;
His grace removes my sin.*

*While Jews on their own law rely,
And Greeks of wisdom boast,
I love th' incarnate mystery,
And there I fix my trust.*

D. The Scriptures

v.39

c/w Psalm 22:1-18

E. Moses

vv.45-47

- Albert Barnes

“If you do not credit what he has written which you profess to believe, it is not to be expected that you will believe my declarations. And from this we may learn, 1st. That many men who profess to believe the Bible have really no regard for it when it crosses their own views and inclinations. 2nd. It is our duty to study the Bible, that we may be established in the belief that Jesus is the Messiah. 3rd. The prophecies of the Old Testament

are conclusive proofs of the truth of the Christian religion. 4th.

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He that rejects one part of the Bible, will, for the same reason, reject all. 5th. The Saviour acknowledged the truth of the writings of Moses, built His religion upon them, appealed to them to prove that He was the Messiah, and commanded them to search them. We have the testimony of Jesus, therefore, that the Old Testament is a revelation from God. He that rejects his testimony on this subject must reject his authority altogether; and it is vain for any man to profess to believe in the New Testament, or in the Lord Jesus, without also acknowledging the authority of the Old Testament and of Moses.”

II. VULNERABILITY OF FIVE REJECTIONS

A. Rejecting Jesus is to reject essential reality

c/w II Timothy 3:1-7

c/w I Timothy 6:3-5

c/w Colossians 2:16-23

B. Rejecting essential reality leads to chaos and despair

- Warren Akin Candler (Enc. of Chr. Quotes, p.87)

“A creedless race will quickly become a corrupt race. Atheism in the mind breeds anarchy in the life as like begets like. Creed and conduct are inseparably united. A faithless world must be a foul world. Waves of crime rise from seas of doubt.”

- G. K. Chesterton (ibid.)

“If I did not believe in God, I should still want my doctor, my lawyer and my banker to do so.”

- (Illustration from Knight, p.7)

An atheistic scientist was incurably ill. A Christian friend visited him and said, “You realize that you will not recover, don’t you?” Anticipating that the question was designed to elicit a discussion of religion, the scientist said, “But I don’t believe in God, or a hereafter.”

“You haven’t long to live,” continued the friend, “and you want life above everything else, don’t you, Bill?” “Above everything else,” quietly replied the scientist.

Then the Christian spoke of a physiological law in God's creation. "You are a biologist, Bill, and as you know the lion was made to eat flesh, not straw. The cow was made to eat hay, not flesh. The fins of fish indicate that water is the medium of its being. The wings of the birds indicate that the air is its pre-determined element. Do you think that the Creator has capriciously implanted in man, who stands at the acme of His creation, soul-yearnings for which He has made no satisfying provision? Your insatiable yearning for life is indicative of the fact that God has given to you an immortal soul which can know no rest until it rests in Him, finding satisfaction in the eternal God."

The scientist, who through the years had sought for biological truth, said, "You have got me! I confess that your argument is unanswerable."

III. VEXATION OF FIVE CONDEMNATIONS

A. v.34b "but I say these things so that you may be saved"

Q. Why did these religious leaders need to be saved?

A. Because to reject Jesus and the claims of Christianity, their own sin and sins would condemn them to eternal hell – the wrath of God

B. vv.37-38 "His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen, and you do not have his word abiding in you."

Q. What is the key to God's Word abiding in us?

A. Bypassing Jesus Christ shuts us off from knowing God

C. v.40 "you refuse to come to me that you may have life"

- Charles Haddon Spurgeon, #72

Hark! Hark! I hear the chariots wheels of death. He comes! he comes! and the axles of his chariot are hot with speed. He stands aloft driving his white horse. The skeleton rider brandishes his awful spear, and you are the victim. God has spared you up till now, but he may not bid you speed another

Sabbath day. I hear the mower's scythe everywhere, as I pass
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along, making ready to cut down the grass and the flower thereof. Ah! death's scythe is being sharpened now. He proceeds to reap his harvest every day, and whether prepared or not, you must be cut down when God's time shall come. Fly, then, I pray you, and though you be, like John Mark, unfit, and unprepared, remember you may come naked to Christ, for he can clothe you; you may come filthy to Christ, for he can wash you; you may come all unholy and defiled to Jesus, for he can put away your sin.

D. v.42 "you do not have the love of God within you"

c/w Romans 5:1-5

E. v.44b "you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God."

Q. What is the glory that comes from the only God?

A. Jesus Christ is the glory of God in whom alone we receive God's glory

c/w Ephesians 1:3-14

Conclusion:

Premise: