

**I. THEY LISTED LAW**

**A. Call your witness**

1. Remember in the last few weeks
  - a. The Jews thought they were putting Jesus on trial
  - b. And Jesus begins to call His witnesses
  - c. And it turns out that the Jews were on trial the whole time
  - d. (Spoiler alert)
2. Jesus receives not testimony from man
  - a. Despite the fact that (vs. 33) the Jews sent unto John
  - b. Jesus let us know how highly He holds John (vs. 35)
  - c. But He doesn't need John's testimony
  - d. He had a GREATER witness
3. There were actually FIVE witnesses starting in vs. 31
  - a. He witnessed of Himself
    - i. Jewish law said that a single testimony could not convict
    - ii. He said, by itself, it would be legally inadmissible
  - b. John the Baptist witnessed of Him
    - i. We know vs. 32 isn't about John because of vs. 36
    - ii. He testified of the TRUTH (vs. 33)
    - iii. Why? He receives not testimony from man (vs. 34)
  - c. The miracles witnessed of Him
    - i. John 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."
    - ii. No one there denied the miracles
  - d. The Father's Voice witnessed of Him
    - i. John the Baptist heard it
    - ii. But these religiously lost Jews had never heard it
  - e. The Scriptures witness of Him
    - i. Search them!
    - ii. They are they which testify of me

**B. Receiving Not**

1. Vs. 34 – receives not testimony from man
2. Vs. 41 – receives not honor from men
  - a. Might seem a little out of place
  - b. But it connects directly to vs. 44
  - c. Vs. 40 flows directly into vs. 41
  - d. BECAUSE of vs.44
3. Vs. 44 – They'll come to receive honor one of another

- a. But they won't come to Him to have everlasting life (vs. 41)
- b. He receives honor directly from God
- c. Bro. Gray:
  - i. Religion is what man (often mistakenly) tries to do for God
  - ii. Salvation is what God has already done for man!

#### C. The Words of Christ

- 1. This is a key point we should not overlook
  - a. The Words of Jesus do not replace the Old Testament
  - b. Nor do they hold lesser value than the Old Testament
- 2. Jesus refers OFTEN to the O.T. when preaching
  - a. He confirms all kinds of things
  - b. Marriage, tithing, commandments, and so on
- 3. But look at vs. 46 & 47
  - a. Moses wrote of Jesus
  - b. The name Moses there refers to the Law (first five)
  - c. But Jesus makes them equivalent – equal in weight and value
  - d. The writings of Moses and the Words of Jesus
  - e. All the very Word of God!
- 4. He ordered them to SEARCH the Scriptures
  - a. You see, they were expert with the book
    - i. But ignorant of the Subject!
    - ii. 2 Timoth 3:15 – “And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”
    - iii. They knew the words but not the WORD
  - b. Vs. 39 and 40 go hand-in-hand
    - i. You have the Scriptures therefore you think you have life
    - ii. But you will not come to Jesus

#### D. But as the Jews attempt to put Jesus on trial

- 1. He instead puts them in the witness stand
- 2. They Listed Law
- 3. But He would prove to the jury:
  - a. They Lacked Life
  - b. They Liked Looks
  - c. They Left Love

## II. THEY LACKED LIFE

#### A. A Problem of Will (vs. 40)

- 1. This is not a fault of understanding
  - a. This is a fault of will
  - b. THIS is the reason why people go to Hell
  - c. What if I said that people don't go to Hell for sin?
    - i. Let me tell you straight out: I am a sinner

- ii. And I can never go to Hell!
  - d. Maybe it's more correct to say:
    - i. Sinners go to hell because of unrepentance
    - ii. Sinners go to hell because they refuse to come to Jesus
- 2. It makes no sense
  - a. I can't explain it better than what the Bible says:
  - b. John 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."
- B. Remember: they knew the book from earliest childhood
  - 1. They THOUGHT they had eternal life
  - 2. But they didn't have Him
  - 3. He IS the Word
    - a. When Phillip led the Ethiopian Eunuch to the Lord:
    - b. Luke 24:27 – "And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself."
    - c. From Genesis to Revelation
  - 4. Be noble!
    - a. Act 17:11 – "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."
    - b. Search the Scriptures!
- C. He is what they lacked
  - 1. John 14:6 – "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."
  - 2. Not Mary. Not a priest. Not by baptism.
  - 3. Only by Jesus
  - 4. They lacked life, but they also liked looks!

### III. THEY LIKED LOOKS

- A. A Misplacement of Honor (vs. 44)
  - 1. They slighted and undervalued the Savior
  - 2. Because they admired and overvalued themselves!
  - 3. "I know you..." (vs. 42)
    - a. They wanted to honor each other but not God
    - b. If someone came proclaiming his own honor, they'd receive that!
  - 4. Matthew 23:27 – "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness."
  - 5. Too busy praising each other to be bothered with praising God!
- B. Moses and the Law testified against them!

1. Deut. 31:25-27 – “That Moses commanded the Levites, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, saying, (26) Take this book of the law, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there for a witness against thee. (27) For I know thy rebellion, and thy stiff neck: behold, while I am yet alive with you this day, ye have been rebellious against the LORD; and how much more after my death?”

C. Antichrist will also like looks

1. Daniel 7:8 – “I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.”
2. Revelation 19:20 – “And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.”
3. They lacked life, and they liked looks, but they also left love.

#### IV. THEY LEFT LOVE

A. God was to be their first love

1. He was going to be their God and they agreed to be His people
2. But the love of God was not in them

B. This is the way that God loved them

1. This is the way that God loved the world (For God SO loved...)
2. He sent His only begotten Son

C. They lacked life, they liked looks, they left love

D. They needed the Lamb alone!

#### V. THE LAMB ALONE

A. By the verse

1. Vs. 40 – Ye will not come to me – They denied themselves Life
2. Vs. 42 – Ye have not the love of God – No Love
3. Vs. 43 – Ye will not receive on in the Father’s name – No Reverence
4. Vs. 44 – Ye seek not the honor that cometh from God – No Honor
5. Vs. 46 – Ye will not believe Moses – No Knowledge
6. Vs. 47 – Ye will not believe His Word – No Christ
7. Vs. 38 – You have not His Word ABIDING in you – No Salvation!

B. Search the Scriptures!

1. Jesus Christ is on every page!
2. He is not just the reason for the season
3. He is the Creator of Everything!

4. He WILL be found!
5. Hebrews 11:6 – “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

C. Be Saved today!

1. Jesus did not come collecting evidence
2. Why? Because the world is condemned already by the Law
3. It is our schoolmaster, teaching the impossibility of reaching Heaven through good works.
4. For God so loved the world...