

“DO YOU WANT JOY, REAL JOY, WONDERFUL JOY?”

John 8:48-59

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INTRODUCTION

If you want to have joy in life, and genuine hope for the future—if you want the assurance that you will never face eternal death but will have eternal life—you must follow the example of Abraham and not that of the religious leaders.

Turn from your own life, from your sins to which you are enslaved, from the bondage of false religious beliefs, from your own pride and ego, and trust the Lord Jesus Christ as the only one who can give you life and joy and fulfillment.

In this passage we see various views concerning Christ—the unbeliever’s view, the Father’s view, Christ’s view, and the believer’s view.

I. THE UNBELIEVER’S VIEW OF CHRIST

- A. He is a “phony”—a Samaritan
- B. He is Satanically controlled—possessed with a demon (48, 52)
- C. He exaggerates His importance (52-53)
 - 1. Abraham is more important—yet he died.
 - 2. The prophets are more important—yet they died.Who do you make yourself to be?
Can you outlive them, and even give life to your followers?
- D. He has an insignificant life (57)
He has not even reached the age of a fully mature senior at 50.
Who is He and what has He accomplished? How can He make such extravagant claims?
- E. He is a blasphemer (59)

“Kill Him!”

*All these attitudes of unbelievers toward Christ show that they do not know the Father (v. 55). All of the study of the Old Testament Law and Prophets, all of their religious training, all of their interest in and listening to the teachings of Christ had been in vain; they had not come to the truth! **They were in error and were spiritually lost.** They said that God was their God (v. 54). The fact that they do not really know God shows that their religious claims are false—**they are liars!** (v. 55)*

II. THE FATHER’S VIEW OF CHRIST

- A. The Father seeks His glory and that of His son (50)
- B. the Father “judges” those that reject His testimony of His son (50)

III. CHRIST’S VIEW OF HIMSELF

- A. He honors His Father (49)—by doing and teaching exactly what He was sent To do and teach.
- B. He avoids Self-glory (50, 54).
- C. He knows the Father (55)—His intuitive relationship from eternity.

- D. He keeps His Father's Word (55)—His entire message. He keeps it as a rare treasure. He carries out its demands and values it greatly.
- E. He claims **Absolute Deity and Eternity** (58).
 Note the solemn introduction here: "Truly, truly."
 "Before Abraham was, I AM."
 1. Christ Existed before Abraham "came into being."
 2. This statement means more than preexistence; if that was all He meant He would have said, "I was."
 3. He identified Himself with Yahweh of the OT (Ex. 3:14, Is. 41:4; 43:10; 46:4, etc.)—the "I AM". Jesus is **God!**
 4. He asserts His **eternal** existence—"I AM"

This is the most sublime and simple of all the things Jesus said. He is either "God incarnate" or else He is "the most impudent blasphemer that ever spoke." [Morgan, quoted in Morris, p. 473]

IV. THE BELIEVER'S VIEW OF CHRIST

A. Abraham (v. 56)

1. Abraham Joyfully anticipated Christ's day.

. Hebrews 11:13 states that Abraham and others looked afar off and welcomed the fulfillment of the promises in the Christ.

The "Day" spoken of would be the incarnation and all of the events associated with it—including the death, resurrection, and reign.

2. He saw it—and rejoiced.

B. Jesus' followers (51)

1. They "keep" His word—all that He teaches.
 That includes His teaching about **who He is**, and about who man is and what man's response must be to Jesus.
2. They will **NEVER** see (experience) death.
 The original is very emphatic—**Death** they will not ever see; nor will they "taste" it (v. 52—a synonym).

They will have eternal life (John 3:16).

CONCLUSION

Have you "kept His word" in order to have eternal life; if so, you will never see death!

Do you want "joy, real joy, wonderful joy?"

Rejoice in Christ; set all of your hopes on Him.

Don't live for your self and your agenda. Live for Him!