

## I. Introduction

- A. The grace of God is offensive to the religious.
- B. I mean, the free righteousness that is given to all who believe, which itself is a demonstration of that very grace, is offensive to the person who wants his own righteousness to rival God's.
- C. See Matthew 11:1-6
  - 1. John is considering if Jesus is the Messiah or not.
  - 2. He is not losing faith. However, what he expected is not what Jesus is doing.
  - 3. Jesus tells his followers to go tell John of the miracles that Jesus is freely doing across the country to anyone and everyone.
  - 4. The point of Jesus' teaching is the point of His Words in John today:

Matthew 11:6

- 6 **"And blessed is he who does not take offense at Me."**
  - a) The blessed one is the one who understands Jesus Christ as He Himself taught, not as what they expected Him to be.
  - b) The blessed one is the one who, when Jesus' teaching takes you farther in your commitment to Him and His kingdom than you thought you could go, he continues to believe His Word and does not stumble back away from Christ.
  - c) The blessed one is the one who continues with the Lord despite His demands upon them.
- 5. But, the religious "shrink back":

Hebrews 10:35-39

35 Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.

36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

37 FOR YET IN A VERY LITTLE WHILE,  
HE WHO IS COMING WILL COME, AND WILL NOT DELAY.

38 BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH;  
AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM.

39 But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.

- D. This is where the Jews/Pharisees are now.
  - 1. Jesus has been patient.
  - 2. Jesus has in every way demonstrated to them, by now, 1 ½ years into His ministry, that He is the Son of God/the Son of David.
  - 3. Jesus has never hurt them, or anyone, in any way.
  - 4. Jesus has always been faithful to the Father, Who sent Him.

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5. Jesus has shown grace, mercy, kindness, and love to all.
- E. So, the question remains: "Why don't they believe yet?"
- F. It is the same reason people don't believe you after years of explaining, serving, loving, and helping-they are not from God.

Jesus spoke truth-V. 45

Jesus lived truth-V. 46

They are not of God-V. 47

## II. V.45 "But that I speak the truth, you do not believe Me"

- A. Is this a statement or a question?
- B. Is He telling them or asking them?
- C. This seems to be rhetorical.
  1. He knows the answer, as He gives it in v. 47.
  2. He is asking them for their consideration.
  3. He continues to ask in v. 46.
- D. This sets up the scene for the Jews/rulers to walk into.
- E. "But that I speak the truth..."
  1. Jesus is capable of speaking like this because everything He said was true/truth.
  2. This became the issue with Pilate as well:

John 18:37-38

37 Therefore Pilate said to Him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say *correctly* that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

38 Pilate \*said to Him, "What is truth?"

And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews and \*said to them, "I find no guilt in Him.

- a) Pilate's response was what the Pharisees were thinking, but were too religious to say it.
3. Other ways Jesus referred to His own words:
  - a) v.28 "the things the Father has taught Me."
  - b) vv. 31, 37, 43, 51, 52 "My Word"
  - c) vv. 40, 45-46 "truth"
4. This is contrast to the lies that:
  - a) The rulers speak.
  - b) Satan speaks.

**Commented [CF1]:** This whole chapter hinges on the Words of God, which Jesus spoke.

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- F. "...you do not believe Me.."
1. This is their obvious condition.
  2. see vv. 45-52.

### III. V. 46 "What/which of you all convicts me concerning sins? If I say/speak truth, because of what (then) do you all not believe (in) Me?"

- A. "What/which of you all convicts Me concerning sins?"
1. *ἐλέγχει* = conviction upon examination; expose.
    - a) Matthew 18:15 = fist step in living as a church family.

John 3:20-21

20 "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.

21 "But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

- b) 1 Corinthians 14:24-25.
- c) 1 Timothy 5:19-20
- d) Titus 1:10-15

2. Therefore, which of those men took the time to search Him out and find an accusation against Christ that would need to be exposed for condemnation?

NONE.

3. This question is probing and serious.

4. Why did He say this?

- a) To exalt Himself as the sinless One.
- b) To expose their own sin as compared to Himself.
- c) To demonstrate that their desire to kill Him was not according to conviction of the Law of Moses.

5. But there is more here that we can learn from.

- a) This is also the pattern of ministry in this life for His people.
  - (1) Consider:

**(a) HOW THE CHURCH RELATES TO THE WORLD: ABOVE REPROACH**

- (i) Matthew 17:24-27
  - (a) "So that we do not cause them to stumble"

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- (b) This means that we don't do anything in the world that would incite the world to further sin; against us, or themselves.
- (c) This is a means of preservation.
  - (i) But it is also a means of letting the "coals" be upon their own heads (Romans 12:17-2).
  - (ii) "Leave room for the wrath of God."
  - (iii) In your ministry, you must not pull the wheat up with the tares:

Matthew 13:29–30

29 "But he \*said, 'No; for while you are gathering up the tares, you may uproot the wheat with them.

30 'Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn." ' ' "

**Romans 13:1-7;**

Colossians 1:21–22

21 And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds,

22 yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach—

Colossians 4:5–6

5 Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity.

6 Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

- (ii) Titus 3:1-3
- (iii) 1 Peter 2:11-17
- (i)

**(b) HOW BELIEVERS MINISTER TO ONE ANOTHER: ABOVE REPROACH.**

- (i) Matthew 18:1-10

**(c) HOW PASTORS LEAD THE CHURCH: ABOVE REPROACH**

- (i) John 21:15-17 = Jesus Christ is the pattern for the elders of the church.
  - (a) Jesus navigated through ministry in this world without blemish.
  - (b) Therefore, He is the perfect example of how a pastor should lead the church.

1 Peter 5:1–4

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Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as *your* fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to *the will of God*; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

Acts 20:25–28

**25** “And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will no longer see my face.

**26** “Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men.

**27** “For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God.

**28** “Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

(2) 1 Timothy 3:1ff.

(3) Titus 1:6-7

(4) The pattern that we have in Jesus Christ is that of spotless leadership

(a) Not so that that person can be held up as supreme in the church.

(i) Although the mature people of the church should be recognizable and be patterns for the weaker, less mature.

Philippians 4:8–9

**8** Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

**9** The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

II. 1 Thessalonians 1:2–7

**2** We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention *of you* in our prayers;

**3** constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father, knowing, brethren beloved by God, *His* choice of you;

for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.

You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

Far too many think little of imitating the stronger brother.

➤ It is humbling.

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(i) But, so that the leader can also navigate through his life and ministry with the most effectiveness in the Word of Christ as possible.

(ii) Therefore, Jesus demonstrated to the Jews the life they themselves should be living as well.

b) "If I say/speak truth, because of what (then) do you all not believe (in) Me?"

(1) "Then..."

(2) If Jesus cannot be convicted of sin, then why aren't they believing Him?

(3) We want to say the same thing to people as well.

#### IV. V. 47 "The one being from God hears the words of God. Because of this you do not hear because you are not from God."

- A. This is a simple statement.
- B. There is nothing really glamorous, startling, nor elite-sounding.
- C. These are the facts for anyone:
  1. The only ones who will listen to the Word of God are those who are God's children.
  2. The others will not listen and believe.
- D. Who is the "one being from God"?
  - This is not the person who convinces others he/she is a Christian.
  - This is not the person who makes themselves a Christian (at least in their own minds).
  - This is not the person who changes the description of God to another god in order to fit in.
  - This is the person whom God Himself elects, chooses, and calls.
    - a) John 1:12-13

Romans 8:28-30

**28** And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

**29** For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

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30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

Ephesians 1:9–12

He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him

with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, *that is*, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him

also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,

to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.

1 Corinthians 1:20–21

20 Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not *come to* know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

2. The verification of their belief is that they do not want to hear, obey, the words of Christ.

3. The verification that they do not want to hear, obey, the words of Christ is their unbelief.

John 13:12–17

So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined *at the table* again, He said to them, "**Do you know what I have done to you?**

**"You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am.**

**"If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.**

**"For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.**

**"Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him.**

**"If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.**

a) It is the same in the church today as well.

(1) The dividing line between a truly regenerate person and a professing one (whom God has not called) is the Word of Jesus Christ.

(2) A person should know well the OT.

(3) However, there is a major distinction between the OT and the NT/the words of Moses and the Prophets and the Words of Christ.

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b) Jesus said,

John 5:24

24 “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

John 5:45–47

45 “Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; the one who accuses you is Moses, in whom you have set your hope.

46 “For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me.

47 “But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?”

John 6:66–71

66 As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.

67 So Jesus said to the twelve, “You do not want to go away also, do you?”

68 Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life.

69 “We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God.”

70 Jesus answered them, “Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?”

71 Now He meant Judas *the son* of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray Him.

John 12:49–50

49 “For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment *as to what to say and what to speak.*

50 “I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me.”

*And, if a person knows the OT, AS IT IS WRITTEN, then the Words of Christ will have even more depth and there will be greater understanding of His teaching.*

➤ See Matthew 13:51-52

## V. Conclusion

The purpose of the church is to proclaim and explain the truth to those who believe so that they can be taught how to obey Jesus Christ’s Words. Any other purpose, or motivation, is not the will of God.