

PANORAMA OF THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Increasing Opposition



Gospels



Light

Light illustrates the essence of God –
1 John 1:5.

As the ultimate revealer of the Godhead,
Jesus is the Light – *John 8:12.*

The Gospel is “light” revealing the
message of the Light’s work – 2
Corinthians 4:3-4

Testimony of the Father and the Son

E. The testimony of the Father and the Son – John 8:13-20

1. John 8:13 – Israel's oral tradition rejected the right to speak or vouch for one's self, but just as light bears testimony of itself simply by shining, because Jesus had simply been Himself, His words and works spoke for Him as Messiah.

Testimony of the Father and the Son

2. John 8:14 – Jesus' witness about Himself was true even if it contradicted their technical rules of evidence. As the ultimate standard of truth, no greater evidence exists than His own.
3. John 8:15 – Their standard of evaluation was grounded in the human fleshly nature.
4. John 8:16 – In His first coming, Jesus did not come to judge; but if He judged, His judgment would reflect divine standards.

Testimony of the Father and the Son

5. John 8:17-18 – Jesus presented testimony from two witnesses, Himself and the Father.
6. John 8:19a – The religious leaders were probably implying that He was illegitimate.
 - a. John 8:19b – Jesus indicated that they did not have a relationship with God.
 - b. John 8:19c – If they had a relationship with the Father, they would recognize His Son.

Growing Rejection

F. The rejection of the religious crowd strengthened – John 8:21-59

1. John 8:21 – If they died in their sin of unbelief, they could not enter Heaven as Jesus soon would.
2. John 8:22 – Jesus' audience continued thinking exclusively in the natural realm, not the spiritual. 1Corinthians 2:9-16

Growing Rejection

3. John 8:23 – They were earthbound in their thinking and unwilling to understand the Light of the world.
4. John 8:24 – Everyone who chooses to not believe in Christ is separated from God for all eternity, dead in their sin of unbelief.
John 3:36
5. John 8:25a – The Pharisees' sarcasm showed their contempt for Jesus Christ.

Growing Rejection

- a. John 8:25b - Jesus' reply is tricky to understand in the Greek because it could have been a question, statement, or exclamation.
- b. John 8:25c – If a statement, Jesus said, *I am what I have told you from the beginning.*
- c. John 8:25d – The Pharisees were trying to trap Jesus in a blasphemous statement. He avoided their trap by saying He was who He had been saying He was.

Growing Rejection

d. Using the *I am* statements, Jesus claimed to be God numerous times, but the religious leaders refused to believe Him.

John 4:26, 6:20, 35, 48, 51, 8:12

1) Jesus claimed to perform deeds identical to God the Father's.

John 5:17-18

2) Jesus claimed full deity by calling Himself the Son of God. John 5:19, 25

Growing Rejection

- 3) Jesus claimed to be the source of life and to give life just as does God the Father. John 5:21, 28
- 4) Jesus claimed to have the same power and authority to judge as God the Father. John 5:22
- 5) Jesus claimed to have been sent directly from Heaven.
John 6:29, 38, 51, 57, 7:28-29

Growing Rejection

6) Jesus claimed to be the only one who had seen God and the only one who could reveal God. John 6:46

Growing Rejection

6. John 8:26 – Jesus re-emphasized that His purpose was to proclaim the message that the Father had authorized and provided for Him to give to the world.
7. John 8:27 – The Pharisees didn't understand the message because they didn't realize He was talking about God the Father.

Growing Rejection

8. John 8:28 – Being *lifted up* referred to Jesus' substitutionary death on the cross.
9. John 8:29 – The cross was the Father's plan. Jesus was completely committed to carrying out that plan. Philippians 2:8
10. John 8:30 – The aorist tense of the Greek word *PISTEUO*, meaning to believe, is in the active voice, indicating a onetime moment of faith in Christ. God makes salvation easy because He wants everyone to be saved.
2 Peter 3:9

Growing Rejection

11. John 8:31 – Jesus began teaching discipleship to those He knew had believed.

12. John 8:32 – All believers are delivered from sin's penalty, but only those who abide in Christ are delivered from sin's power. (Phase 1 versus Phase 2 salvation)

13. John 8:33 – The religious leaders interrupted Jesus with an arrogant statement that denied the reality that they were enslaved to Rome at that very moment.

Growing Rejection

14. John 8:34 – The unbeliever is enslaved to sin, but the believer in Christ has the choice to say no to sin and yes to the Spirit. Romans 8:5-13, Galatians 5:16

15. John 8:35 – Jesus contrasted the slave and the son.

a. John 8:33 – Jews considered themselves free because they were descended from Abraham.

Growing Rejection

- b. John 8:34 – Although physical sons of Abraham, they were sinners and, therefore, slaves and not sons.
- c. John 8:35 – Even though Jews were genetic sons of Abraham, they were slaves. Slaves cannot remain in the household forever. They had to be identified with God the Son to be God's children.

Growing Rejection

16. John 8:36 – Jesus invited His enemies to believe in Him.

17. John 8:37 – The religious leaders wanted to murder the very one in whom God fulfilled His promises to Abraham.

18. John 8:38a – Jesus emphasized the intimate fellowship He has with the Father.

Growing Rejection

- a. John 8:38b – In contrast, Jesus identified the religious leaders with their father, the Devil, and his evil deeds.
- b. John 8:38c – The Pharisees demonstrated Satan's nature in several ways.
 - 1) They lied. Genesis 3:4, John 8:33
 - 2) They devised clever schemes.
Genesis 3:1, John 8:6

Growing Rejection

- 3) They maligned God's character.
Genesis 3:5, Matthew 12:24, John 7:49
- 4) They looked for trouble. Genesis 6:1-6,
John 7: 11
- 5) They bore false witness. Job 1:9-11,
John 8:4
- 6) They sought to murder. Genesis 4:8;
John 5:18

Growing Rejection

7) They were arrogant.

Isaiah 14:13-14; John 8:25, 33

8) Proverbs 6:16-18 – It is interesting to compare this list with the Pharisees' activities.

Growing Rejection

19. John 8:39a – Attempting to counter the Lord's argument, they claimed Abraham as their father.

a. John 8:39b – They wanted to clear the allegation that they had learned evil from their father. Abraham was their father; therefore, they weren't evil.

Growing Rejection

- b. John 8:39c – Jesus challenged them to prove Abraham was their father by doing his deed of believing in Him to be saved. Genesis 15:6, Galatians 3:6

Growing Rejection

20. John 8:40 – Abraham rejoiced to see the Angel of the Lord (the pre-incarnate Christ), but the religious leaders wanted to murder Him.

21. John 8:41 – The religious leaders shifted their argument by judging Jesus and claiming God as their father.

Growing Rejection

22. John 8:42 – Jesus explained that if they were of God, they would love Him because He came directly from God with God's full authority. (In the Greek, *if* is in the 2nd class condition, meaning they were not from God.)

23. John 8:43 – The Jewish religious leaders could not understand Jesus' spiritual truths because they clung to their arrogant agenda of self-promotion.

Growing Rejection

24. John 8:44-45 – By rejecting the Truth and seeking to murder Jesus, the religious leaders chose to follow their father Satan.

25. John 8:46 – Jesus made the issue clear; if they had no evidence that He had sinned, they should believe His message. They should stop rejecting Him.

Growing Rejection

26. John 8:47 – They did not understand the Word of God because they had the wrong relationship with God.

27. John 8:48a – Being unable to refute Christ's argument, they resorted to making a false accusation that Jesus had a demon.

a. John 8:48b – The day before, they had called Him a Galilean (John 7:52). Calling Him a Samaritan now seems improbable.

Growing Rejection

- b. John 8:48c – Since in the next verse Jesus answered only one charge, that of being a demon, we can assume they were probably not calling Him a *Samaritan* as translated but rather *ASHMEDAI*, the name of the prince of demons.

Growing Rejection

28. John 8:49 – By insulting God the Son, they insulted God the Father.

29. John 8:50 – In Jesus' first advent, His priority was not to judge but to be judged for our sins. 1 Timothy 2:5-6, 1 John 2:2

30. John 8:51 – The person who believes in Christ will never face eternal separation from God (spiritual death).

Growing Rejection

31. John 8:52 – As usual, the Jews focused on the physical and so could not understand Jesus. They failed to realize that He spoke of spiritual death, not physical death.

32. John 8:53 – Since Abraham eventually died, they thought Jesus was making Himself greater than Abraham.

Growing Rejection

33. John 8:54 – Although Jesus was greater than Abraham, He was not glorifying Himself. God the Father will glorify Him.

Philippians 2:8-11

34. John 8:55 – Jesus told them they were ignorant of the God they claimed to worship.

35. John 8:56 – Since they were related to Abraham, Jesus said they should rejoice to see Him just as Abraham rejoiced.

Hebrews 11:9-10

Growing Rejection

36. John 8:57 – Because the people responded sarcastically, Jesus gave one of the clearest claims to deity in the book of John. *Before Abraham was born, I am.*

37. John 8:58 – Before Abraham came into existence, Jesus existed eternally as God's Son.

38. John 8:59 – The crowd's violent reaction proved they understood but rejected His claim to deity.

Jesus' Claims to Deity

(Two Alternatives)

FALSE

(Two Alternatives)

He knew
His claims
were false.

LIAR

He did not
know His claims
were false.

LUNATIC

TRUE

He is God
and Savior

(Two Alternatives)

ACCEPT

REJECT