

The Gospel of John

Christ vs. The Pharisees – Part II

John 8:33-59

We continue from our previous lesson as the Pharisees continue to debate Christ. The last half of this debate is mostly on who it is that truly follows God.

The Setting

- The same as last week as Christ continues teaching in the Temple.

The Fifth Exchange

- In reference to vs. 32, Pharisees ask why they need to be free – vs. 33
- They need to be free from sin – vs. 34-36
 - The Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Commentary paraphrases this section:
 - "And if your connection with the family of God be that of BOND-SERVANTS, ye have no natural tie to the house; your tie is essentially uncertain and precarious. But the Son's relationship to the Father is a natural and essential one; it is an indefeasible tie; His abode in it is perpetual and of right: That is My relationship, My tie: If, then, ye would have your connection with God's family made real, rightful, permanent, ye must by the Son be manumitted and adopted as sons and daughters of the Lord Almighty."
- Christ again reveals their hatred of Him – vs. 37-38

The Sixth Exchange

- They appeal to being children of Abraham, physically and spiritually – vs. 39
 - Remember the Jews' disdain for the mixed race Samaritans to understand how cutting the accusation is to them
- Christ exposes their hypocrisy that, though they may be physical heirs of Abraham, they do not have his faith – vs. 39-41

The Seventh Exchange

- They heighten their appeal to legitimacy by claiming God as their Father – vs. 41
- Christ says they would love Him if they truly loved God - vs. 42
- Christ reiterates that they are spiritually the children of the devil – vs. 43-44
- Had they truly loved God they would have received the truth Christ spoke – vs. 45-47
 - "For every reasonable soul is a debtor to truth." – Matthew Poole

The Eighth Exchange

- They resort to an *ad hominem* attack, accusing Christ of being evil and a liar – vs. 48
- Christ responds that to attack Him is to attack the Father who sent Him – vs. 49-50
- Christ clearly states that those that follow Him will receive eternal life – vs. 51

The Ninth Exchange

- They confuse spiritual death with physical death – vs. 52-53
 - Christ is Lord over both!
- Christ boasts of knowing the Father, whom the Jews knew not – vs. 54-55
- Christ states that Abraham looked for the coming of Christ and rejoiced – vs. 56

The Tenth Exchange

- They ask how He could possibly know Abraham – vs. 57
- Christ claims deity – vs. 58
 - “Before” implies the pre-existence and eternalness of Christ – Psalm 90:2
 - “Before” implies greater importance than Abraham.
 - “I am” echoes Exodus 3:14
- They try to stone Him but He escapes through the crowd unscathed – vs. 59