

“Our Controversial Christ”

John 7:40-52

I. Christ _____ a great divide.

- A. Because the enemy knows that Christ alone can break the _____ of sin.
 - 1. Hebrews 2:13-14- We were slaves to sin on death row.
 - 2. Revelation 1:18- Christ can open the prison doors and remove the chains.
- B. Because the truth doesn't allow for _____.
- C. Because man wants to _____ glory for himself.
 - 1. Jesus was proclaiming a message that put all of mankind on equal footing.
 - 2. Jesus posed a threat to their power, prosperity, position, and popularity. Gal. 3:26-28
- Pride was the downfall of Satan, and humanity! God opposes it because it keeps us from coming to finding life in Him. The gospel opposes pride.

II. The mixed responses of a conflicted _____.

- A. We cannot remain neutral when confronted with the _____ of Jesus.
 - 1. Partial faith is not saving faith. Jesus isn't part of the process, but rather the entire Payment for our sin.
 - 2. They were willing to concede that He was a Prophet, but were not embracing Him as the Son of God. Deut. 18:15- They were told to look for another prophet to arise, but also told to thoroughly examine prophets.
- B. False _____ based upon ignorance. (Examine the written word)
 - 1. Jesus was right there, and yet they never asked Him where He was born.
 - 2. Some listened and believed! When he came they were united in unbelief, but when He was done they were divided. Luke 12:51-53
- C. The attempt to _____ and kill.
 - 1. It's not enough for some to dismiss Him, they want Him removed.
 - 2. When Jesus would not adapt they became aggressive.

III. False Charges, failed attempts, and faith.

- A. _____. How do we respond to it?
 - 1. The Word of God is able to pierce to the heart. Hebrews 4:12
 - 2. They came to arrest and man, and left believing that He was God in the flesh.
- B. _____ "the feeling that a person or a thing is beneath consideration, worthless, or deserving scorn." 2 Timothy 3:4-6
 - 1. Determined disbelief leading to mockery.
 - 2. Desperation leading to lies.
- C. The _____ to stand for truth.
 - 1. Nicodemus was the only one who was willing to investigate the claims of Jesus to this point, and had found that He was the Messiah.
- At some point Joseph of Arimathea would also come to Christ, and later Paul.