

# Two Voices, Three Lies

John 15:18-27



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**FOCAL Read Responsively** John 15:18-27<sup>KJV</sup> If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. (19) **If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.** (20) Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. (21) **But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.** (22) If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloak for their sin. (23) **He that hateth me hateth my Father also.** (24) **If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father.** (25) But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause. (26) **But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:** (27) And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.

Last week the Savior taught us that we were to *rest, abide, or dwell* in His love. This is a blessed message. Jesus has paid the penalty for sin. If you have accepted Him as Savior, *you are saved* - and you are to rest on that love. Now, however, the Lord tells us something disturbing, yet something that we know is very true.

The Lord tells us that there are *two voices* on planet earth, always vocal, always present. One voice - the voice **of darkness**, called in this text **the world** - is the voice that stands opposed to the voice **of light**.

There are only two voices, one good, represented by God in Christ. The other voice, that *of the world*, is evil, and is represented by the world and by the *god of this world* known as Satan:

**2 Corinthians 4:3-7 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: (4) In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. (5) For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. (6) For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (7) But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.**

**The Big Lie: God Is Just Like Us**

The *master lie* the world tells us that God is just like us, that He is a type of glorified human, and that He can be understood with our limited mortal minds.

This is the biggest lie that Satan has sold this world. God is *not* like us, and cannot be easily understood.

And that's perfectly natural! If we could explain God then, dear friends, He wouldn't be God. People need to understand what our Creator has said:

**Isaiah 55:8-9 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. (9) For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.**

God is *immense* - all powerful, all knowing, always present - and totally unexplainable. We cannot understand God, nor can we understand His ways. The Apostle said:

**Romans 11:33-34 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! (34) For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counselor?**

When God, at the end of Job's trials, went to that dear saint our Lord explained Himself in a majestic way. The Almighty told Job:

**Job 38:4-11<sup>HCSB</sup> Where were you when I established the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. (5) Who fixed its dimensions? Certainly you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? (6) What supports its foundations? Or who laid its cornerstone (7) while the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy? (8) Who enclosed the sea behind doors when it burst from the womb, (9) when I made the clouds its garment and thick darkness its blanket, (10) when I determined its boundaries and put its bars and doors in place, (11) when I declared: "You may come this far, but no farther; your proud waves stop here"?**

Our God is awesome, powerful, unexplainable, so much so that we must come to Him as *little children*.

The world hates God because the world, in it's so called *wisdom*, believes that all things, if they are true, must be defined. Yet Jesus Christ tells the believer that we are to **become as little children and trust God**, else we shall

**not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.**

**Matthew 18:3 ... Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.**

Let's be childlike - nothing wrong with that - and let God be God. Let's quit trying to explain God, or put Him into some mortal box so we can define Him. God is *not* like us, nor does He think like us, nor is He as limited as we are. He is God - not human.

One of the first lies that humanity has developed is that God is One like we are one. God is not One like we are one - He is a Trinity, three Divine and Equal Persons and yet One God.

### **Rejecting The First Lie - God Is Not Like Us The Doctrine of the Trinity**

The Bible teaches that God is One, but not like we are one. God is Three Persons, all co-equal and all co-eternal. We call this compound unity of God *The Trinity* or *The Godhead*.

Who were the false ministers who introduced the lie that "God is like us" in the early Church?

In the early Church two false ministers rose up and

proposed that the Doctrine of the Trinity was a lie. These men, **Arius of Alexandria (circa A.D. 336)** and **Sabellius (circa A.D. 320)**, were rejected by the early Church as early as the Council of Nicea as *heretics* or *those who were perverting the faith*. One view, that of Arius, made Jesus and the Holy Spirit out to be *created beings*, designed by God specifically to carry out humanity's redemption. All forms of *Unitarianism*, including the *Jehovah's Witnesses*, follow after the teachings of Arius. The second view proposed by Sabellius taught that there is only One God, but that this One God takes many different *forms* or *modes* of expression. Because Sabellianism teaches that God *models* different persons, this form of belief is called *modalism*. The teachings of Sabellius are found today in the United Pentecostals, the Jesus Only movement, and in the teachings of the man known as T.D. Jakes. These heretical views of God developed because people tried to bring God down to our level, to make Him like us. Yet, in attempting to redefine God, these people make our Lord Jesus out to be a liar or a lunatic.

Is the word "Trinity" in the Scripture? Does it make any difference to the doctrine if the specific word is not there? Why or why not?

A number of people make a big argument that the word "Trinity" is not in the Scripture, and therefore cannot be a Biblical doctrine. The word "Trinity" may not be in Scripture, but the concept is clearly presented even in our focal text. Jesus said:

**FOCAL** John 15:26-27 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: (27) And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.

Jesus spoke of *three Distinct Persons* - Himself, the Holy Spirit or the Comforter, and the Father. The Trinity of God is found throughout Christ's ministry.

At His baptism we read:

**Matthew 3:17** And lo a voice from heaven, saying, **This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**

At the **Mount of Transfiguration**, we read:

**Luke 9:35** And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, **This is my beloved Son: hear him.**

It is the **Father** Who sent the Son to die for us. We read these astonishing words:

**Isaiah 53:4-10 KJVR** Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. (5) **But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the**

**chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. (6) All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. (7) He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. (8) He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. (9) And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. (10) Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.**

Evangelist Pat Robertson said:

"The suffering of Jesus Christ was foretold by Isaiah the prophet. A sinless one would come. He would be beaten beyond recognition. But the sins of all of us -- our inequities, our sicknesses, and our diseases were laid on Him, and it pleased Jehovah God to bruise Him. It wasn't the Jews. It wasn't the Romans. It wasn't anybody. It was God Himself that brought this

about. Why? So that you and I could know salvation."<sup>1</sup>

Who is the *second Person of the Trinity*? Why is He important to Christians?

The second Person of the Godhead is **God the Son**. It is God the Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who willingly came to make payment for the sins of the world. In the Book of Hebrews we see the Father telling the Son:

Hebrews 1:8-10 But **unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever: a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of thy kingdom.** (9) Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. (10) And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:

The Apostle tells us in the Book of Philippians that Jesus Christ - very God of very God - took on humanity for our sake. We read:

Philippians 2:5-7<sup>NIV</sup> Your attitude should be the same as that of **Christ Jesus: (6) Who, being in very nature God, did not consider**

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.patrobertson.com/Teaching/Isaiah53ThePassion.asp>  
NIV

**equality with God something to be grasped,** (7) but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

Who took Jesus' life? Did **God the Father** make **God the Son** die on that Cross?

Absolutely not!

**John 15:12-13** This is my commandment, That ye love one another, **as I have loved you. (13) Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.**

**John 10:17-18** Therefore doth my Father love me, because **I lay down my life, that I might take it again. (18) No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.**

Jesus Christ - Almighty God the Son - did not lay down His life because *He was forced*. The Father sent Him to die for us, but He *willingly and with full consent* laid down His life for us.

The *third* Member of the Trinity is **God the Holy Spirit**.

It is God the Holy Spirit Who indwells the believer, living inside of us. The Holy Spirit is not a *thing*, but a Person. He is not a lesser god, but *fully equal God with both Father and Son*.

Who is the *third Person of the Trinity*? Why is He important to the Christian?

The Holy Spirit has been called the **Spirit of Truth** and the **Comforter**:

**John 14:16-18** And **I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; (17) Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive,** because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for **he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. (18) I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.**

Jesus Christ sent the Spirit just as the Father sent the Son. The Spirit of Truth, the Comforter, the **Spirit of Christ**:

**Romans 8:9** But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that **the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.**

The **Spirit of God** - also known as the **Spirit of Christ**, **the Spirit of Truth**, **the Spirit of the Father**, **the Spirit of God** - lives inside of every believer. This is an absolute truth of Scripture - if The Comforter *is not inside you, guiding you in all truth, speaking to your hearts of Jesus* - then you are none of His.

Why do you think the Spirit of God has so many titles? Why do you think that the Holy Spirit has not been given a Name?

Can we understand the Trinity of God? Absolutely not! Yet the Trinity is *absolutely necessary for your salvation*. Look at our focal text:

**FOCAL** John 15:18-19, 26-27 **If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. (19) If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. .... (26) But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: (27) And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.**

First of all, Jesus warns us that the world will hate the Christian **because it hates Him**. The world has always hated the Light of God. Jesus said **if you were of the**

**world, the world would love you.**

Why does the world hate the Christian? Because *you are an alien, a stranger in this world*. Why are you a stranger?

Because of what the Triune God has done in - and continues to do - in your life. When you...

**... confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and .. believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved (Romans 10:9)**

Your simple act of faith sets the Triune God into motion in your life. Faith in God the Son causes God the Father to *justify* you, declaring you righteous because of Christ. God the Holy Spirit enters your life, beginning to teach you of Jesus. Because God the Father has accepted you as a son because of God the Son, and because God the Spirit has entered your life in a real way, you are *set apart* or *sanctified* by God. Now a son of God, you are taught daily by the Word of God to be like God the Son in all that you say and do.

A Christian is not only an alien, a foreigner in this world - but you are *dynamically more an alien with each passing day*. This is the real teaching of Christianity. We do not teach that you receive salvation so you can ignore

God and live your life without fear of hell. We teach that you who believe have no fear of hell and of death because *God's children have no place in hell, in death, nor in this world.* You would not expect to see God the Son burning in hell, nor subject to death, nor following the godless ways of the world. In the same way the Triune God does not expect His children to be subject to any of these things.

In our focal text we can see clearly that:

**FOCAL** John 15:26-27 **But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: (27) And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.**

Jesus spoke of sending the Comforter **from the Father**. The Comforter is spoken of as **He** who **shall testify of Christ**. Jesus referred to the Father, the Comforter, and Himself as *three distinct and separate Persons - and yet we see no diminishing of these Persons nor modalism as Sabellius taught.* Because the Comforter is come, the Bible teaches that:

**1 Corinthians 3:16 ... ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?**

Because individual Christians are the temple of God, we are drawn together to serve God in this living organism

called *the Church*.

The Spirit of God - Who was sent by Jesus and Who proceeded from God - gifts us so that we can work together for God's glory. And because the Spirit of God **testifies of Christ** our services always exist to glorify God and testify of Christ.

Our goal and purpose is to love God and to be like Christ, to tell others of Christ, to woo others to join with this Body of Christ.

When people downgrade God, lowering Him to make Him more explainable, they always harm themselves. Once you understand that God is God, and therefore *not meant to be fully understood*, you can live the life of faith you were meant to live. The Holy Spirit indwells us, Christ died for us, the Father watches over us and provides for us, yet there is only One God. God the Son prayed to God the Father Who sent us God the Holy Spirit:

**John 14:16-18 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; {17} Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. {18} I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.**

How long is *forever*? How long will the Spirit of God dwell with us? What are the implications of this truth?

Who abides with us *forever*. This means that we are forever saved, forever supplied, and forever secure. If He, God the Spirit, abides with us forever, then we who believe are *locked into His family*. Rejoice in this, seek His face, and learn to be more like Jesus!

### **Doctrine of the Sovereign Providence of God: God Is In Control**

The second lie Satan has told against Christianity - often embraced by so called theologians - is the attack against the **Providence or Sovereign Power of God**.

The Bible teaches that the world hates the Christian because it hates Christ. Light and darkness always oppose. Jesus said:

**FOCAL** John 15:18-21 **If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. (19) If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. (20) Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you;**

**if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. (21) But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.**

Jesus warned us that we would be in the midst of a battle. However, the battle we are in the midst of is still *controlled by God*. Jesus said:

**FOCAL** John 15:21 **But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.**

The early Church went out and told others about Jesus, violating Roman Law and inviting death, knowing that God was and will always be in control of all things.

Once the Christian understands the Sovereign Providence of God he ceases to worry - and begins to live his life for Jesus. People do not like that concept, the idea that God is in control. Jesus tells us **I have chosen you out of the world**. We who belong to Jesus by faith are set apart to know of God - but while we are in this life we will never fully comprehend all that is God.

God the Holy Spirit indwells the believer to help us understand the deeper things of God - but we will never know *all* of God. He is too immense!

**1 Corinthians 2:9-10 "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the**

heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But **God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.**"

God must declare God, God must teach us of God. This is why the Spirit indwells us, to teach us of God and to teach us to be like Jesus.

But we are still human. We, like Job, must cry out:

**Job 11:7-9 "Canst thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection? It is as high as heaven; what canst thou do? deeper than hell; what canst thou know? The measure thereof is longer than the earth, and broader than the sea."**

When man begins to try and explain things, we come up with idiotic solutions like *evolution* and other nonsense. What we need to understand is that *we do not understand*. I know that hurts your pride - tough - get over it! He is God and we are not! Ray Pritchard writes<sup>2</sup>:

**"No one gives God advice. No one can trace His path across the starry skies. Everything is from Him,**

everything is through Him, and everything is to Him. And He alone gets the glory. *"In Him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of Him Who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will"*. Paul is praising God for choosing us in Christ according to His predetermined plan. Nothing ever just happens, and nothing is caused by someone or something outside God's control. Some things He directly causes; other things He allows to happen. But all things are controlled by God."

We live our daily lives with the confused idea that we are masters of our destiny, captains of our souls. When a tragic accident happens to someone, the usual remark is "Oh, how unlucky".

We all need to understand that there is no Lady Luck, no superstitious trick we can exercise to insure a good life. The Bible tells us that the same God who created us is the same God that controls all things by His sovereign will.

**(Proverbs 16.33) "The lot [literally, dice] is cast into the lap, but the whole disposing [outcome of the throw] is of the Lord.."**

God is in control! He controls nations, directing kings and presidents according to His own will:

**(Proverbs 21.1) "The king's heart is in the**

<sup>2</sup> *He's God and We're Not*, Ray Pritchard, Masterwork series, page 74, Lifeway Publishers

**hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water:  
He turneth it whithersoever He will..”**

God alone controls life and death. His hand controls all things, even the length of our lives:

**(Job 14.5) “Seeing his days are determined,  
the number of his months are with Thee;  
Thou hast appointed his bounds which he cannot  
pass..”**

When Jesus warned us that the world would hate us,  
He wanted us to know that God was still in control.

Jesus said:

**FOCAL** John 15:21 ... But **all these things will  
they do unto you for my name's sake,  
because they know not him that sent me.**

That's an interesting phrase, **for My Name's sake**. It is faith in the Name of Jesus that brings salvation to humanity. When God in His Sovereign Will called the Apostles, and trained them to minister and to preach His Gospel, they were to go out into a lost world and tell others about Jesus.

As they were persecuted for their faith this  
persecution made news, leading others to accept Jesus

Christ as Savior. They were persecuted, as Jesus said, **for My Name's sake**. God controlled what happened, using even the persecution of the world to spread the Gospel!

When God called Paul to salvation we can see His Sovereign Providence reflected in the Apostle's testimony. Paul said:

**Acts 22:7-21<sup>HCSB</sup> I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?' {8} "I answered, 'Who are You, Lord?' "He said to me, 'I am Jesus the Nazarene, whom you are persecuting!' {9} Now those who were with me saw the light, but they did not hear the voice of the One who was speaking to me. {10} "Then I said, 'What should I do, Lord?' "And the Lord told me, 'Get up and go into Damascus, and there you will be told about everything that is assigned for you to do.' {11} "Since I couldn't see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and came into Damascus. {12} Someone named Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good reputation with all the Jews residing there, {13} came to me, stood by me, and said, 'Brother Saul, regain your sight.' And in that very hour I looked up and saw him. {14} Then he said, 'The God of our fathers has appointed you to know His will, to see the Righteous One, and to hear the sound of His voice. {15} For you will be a witness for Him to all people of what you have seen**

and heard. {16} And now, why delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins by calling on His name.' {17} "After I came back to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple complex, I went into a visionary state {18} and saw Him telling me, 'Hurry and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about Me!' {19} "But I said, 'Lord, they know that in synagogue after synagogue I had those who believed in You imprisoned and beaten. {20} And when the blood of Your witness Stephen was being shed, I myself was standing by and approving, and I guarded the clothes of those who killed him.' {21} "Then He said to me, 'Go, because I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'"

Jesus Christ sent God the Holy Spirit to Paul so Paul could preach the Name of Christ to the Gentiles. God sent the Holy Spirit to you so that you could tell others about Jesus. Though you will be persecuted for His name's sake, the Comforter lives in you to help you do as you are called to do.

God is in control of all things.

**FOCAL** John 15:26-27 But **when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: (27) And ye also shall bear witness,** because ye have been with me from the beginning.

### Why is the Holy Spirit called the Comforter<sup>3</sup>?

This word actually means *One Who stands alongside and consoles or makes intercession for*. It could be rendered, *the Defense Attorney*, though this is not the full measure of it's meaning. The Holy Spirit came to stand by the Christian - ever present because He indwells us forever - for the sake of the Name of Christ. Jesus tells His disciples:

**Matthew 10:18-22** And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. {19} But **when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. {20} For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.** {21} And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death. {22} And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

Though we will be persecuted for our faith, we are to stand up for Christ nonetheless. We are to trust God,

3 G3875, *παράκλητος*, paraklētōs, *par-ak'-lay-tos*, An intercessor, consoler: - advocate, comforter, Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries

Who oversees all things. We are to allow **the Spirit of the Father** (yet another title for the Holy Spirit) to speak through us as we tell others about Jesus.

It is only in recent times that Christians came to love comfort and luxury, expecting to be treated fairly by this evil world. Jesus warned us from the beginning that the world would hate us and stand in opposition to us.

We see more and more of this every day, and will continue to see more and more of it. Remember the words of Christ:

**FOCAL** John 15:18-21 **If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. (19) If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. (20) Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. (21) But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.**

It was expected - known - and even allowed by God that the Christian be persecuted for his faith. This must occur

**for His Name's sake**, that the Gospel go out. Quit being shocked that the world is attacking you. This is natural, even allowed and controlled by God. The movies, the removal of prayer from schools, the negation of Christ in Christmas, every attack was seen by God from eternity past, and is being allowed **for His Name's sake**. When these attacks come - and they will come - we who believe are to stand up for Jesus knowing that God is in control. His providence controls all things. Look at what Jesus said:

**Mark 13:10-13 ... the gospel must first be published among all nations. {11} But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost. {12} Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death. {13} And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.**

Jesus did not say **if they shall lead you and deliver you up**, He said **when they shall deliver you**.

When persecuted, the believer is called to trust in God

the Spirit Who indwells us. God will speak through His believers - God is yet in control. Jesus again says:

**Luke 21:14-19** Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer: {15} **For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.** {16} And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolk, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death. {17} And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake. {18} But there shall not a hair of your head perish. {19} In your patience possess ye your souls.

Again, God is in control of all things. Jesus will guide us in what we speak, God the Holy Spirit will guide us in what we say, the Spirit of the Father will guide us in what we say.

God is in control. He is Sovereign. There is nothing outside of His ability. You are bound by Blood and by Spirit to the Sovereign God. You are His children by faith in Christ Jesus.

What are some of the names of God? How do these names emphasize His power?

The early Church knew God by a variety of names, each name representing the awesome power of our Savior. They knew Him as:

- **EL or ELOHIM**, means “**All Powerful One**”. This name shows our God to be omnipotent, the very definition of power.
- **YHWH or JHWH**, means “**I AM**”. It denotes God as self-existent and self-perpetuating, one who existed from eternity past and will continue into eternity future. He causes all things, but is caused to exist by no one.
- **ADONAI**, means “**Lord**”. It shows God’s kingship over all, and conversely shows the servitude that we should retroactively show our Master.
- **EL SHADDAI**, means “**The Almighty Destroyer**”. It explains that that which God has created, He can also sovereignly and at will destroy. This name of God is used in Biblical contexts where God destroys the enemies of His children.
- **EL ELOINE**, meaning “**The Most High God**”. This name shows God’s preeminence over everything and everyone: He alone is God, and there is no other.
- **EL OLAM**, meaning “**The Everlasting God**”. God in His eternity has always been God, always will be God. He does not “grow” as a god or man. He is complete and an island unto Himself.
- **ADONAI YHWH**, meaning “**Lord Yahweh**”. This name shows God in His absolute immutability. In Genesis 2.4 this name is used to emphasize that He is a covenant-keeping God, and that His promises are unchanging.
- **LORD OF HOSTS**, and its varying applications,

is used to show that God is in control of the angelic armies. He is the supreme “**Commander in Chief**”.

- **THEOS** is the Greek New Testament equivalent for **JHWH** or **YHWH**.
- **KURIOS**, meaning “**Lord**”, denotes God’s superiority and rulership over all. This name is used repeatedly for Jesus (see 1 Corinthians 15.24-28; John 5.22-27; 9.39; Romans 2.3-5).
- **PATER**, meaning “**Father**”. This title for God is used only in the New Testament, as it was the death and resurrection of Christ that led to the adoption of the believer as a “son”.

We who are Christians today have, I believe, lost a sense of the immense providence of God. The ancient Jew and the early Christian addressed God as **Father**, but also knew Him as **Jesus, Holy Spirit**, and by these other names listed<sup>4</sup>.

Each name of God listed in Scripture shows that He is Almighty, the Controller and Maker of all things. Though God does not do evil, He allows evil to happen for a time - though not forever.

Because God is Sovereign and because it is God's Will that the Name of Jesus be published, we know that:

**Romans 8:26-28 ... the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for**

<sup>4</sup> I did not list every name by which God is known in Scripture, just a few of the more prominent names

as we ought: but **the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. {27} And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. {28} And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God,** to them who are the called according to his purpose.

God is in control, God allows or directs anything that happens, all things work together for our good, and all things work together **for Christ's Name's sake** so that others may be saved.

God is in control!

Isaiah 14:24-27 " The **LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand: That I will break the Assyrian in my land, and upon my mountains tread him under foot: then shall his yoke depart from off them, and his burden depart from off their shoulders. This is the purpose that is purposed upon the whole earth: and this**

**is the hand that is stretched out upon all the nations.** For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?"

There are many instances in Scripture where God moved the hearts of kings and of people so they would do His bidding.

Ezekiel 29:19 "Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, **I will give the land of Egypt unto Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; and he shall take her multitude,** and take her spoil, and take her prey; and it shall be the wages for his army."

Daniel 2:21 " And **[God] changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings:** he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:"

We do not have to read very long in the Scripture before we see God presented *as God, not as glorified Man*. He is in control of all things. Nothing happens without His consent or His overview!

Daniel 1:9 " Now **God had brought Daniel into favor and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs"**

Genesis 31:7 " And your father hath deceived me, and changed my wages ten times; but **God suffered him not to hurt me."**

Genesis 35:5 " And they journeyed: and the **terror of God was upon the cities that were round about them, and they did not pursue after the sons of Jacob."**

Genesis 45:5-8 " Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for **God did send me before you to preserve life.** For these two years hath the famine been in the land: and yet there are five years, in the which there shall neither be earing nor harvest. And **God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh,** and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt."

Genesis 50:20 "But as for you, **ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good,** to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive."

Deuteronomy 2:30 "But Sihon king of Heshbon would not let us pass by him: for **the LORD thy God hardened his spirit, and made his heart obstinate, that he might deliver him into thy hand**, as appeareth this day."

Judges 9:23 " Then **God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the men of Shechem**; and the men of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech:"

1 Chronicles 5:26 "And the **God of Israel stirred up the spirit of Pul king of Assyria**, and the spirit of Tilgathpilneser king of Assyria, and he carried them away, even the Reubenites, and the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh, and brought them unto Halah, and Habor, and Hara, and to the river Gozan, unto this day."

2 Chronicles 36:22-23 "Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD spoken by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, **the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom**, and put it also in writing, saying, Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth hath the LORD God of heaven given me; and he hath charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is

there among you of all his people? The LORD his God be with him, and let him go up."

When America turns away from God more and more, we must always remember that God is in control. As His servants and children we are to stand up for Jesus. We cannot understand the relationship all that is God, but we can grasp certain root ideas as truth. God is in control, and we need to heed His Voice! When Israel forgot that God was in control and refused to listen to Him, the Lord punished them by raising up enemies over them.

What did God do to Israel when they forgot that He *was, is, and will always be* God?

We read:

Deuteronomy 28:47-49 "**Because thou servest not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things; Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the LORD shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee.** The LORD shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou

shalt not understand;"

**2 Chronicles 36:16-17 " But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy. Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees,** who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave them all into his hand."

As a Christian I need to remember but one thing: all things work together according to God's purpose and will, and it is God's Will that the Name of Jesus be published. Therefore I will stand for Him, remembering that it is for His Name's sake that I live!

**Doctrine of the Name of Christ:  
Only One Way To Be Saved**

The third great lie Satan has set against Christianity - again often embraced by so called theologians - is the attack against the Name of Jesus.

Is Christianity a *tolerant* faith? It depends in what you mean when you say this.

Christianity is often labeled *intolerant* by the world because it teaches that salvation comes only by believing on Jesus Christ. Christianity is *very tolerant* in the sense that we call all people to salvation. However, Christianity is an *exclusive faith*, and it teaches that there is *only One Way to be saved* - and that is by believing on the Name of Jesus Christ. Jesus told us:

**FOCAL** John 15:18-25 If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. (19) If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. (20) Remember the word that I said unto you, **The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. (21) But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me. (22) If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloak for their sin.** (23) He that hateth me hateth my Father also. (24) If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father. (25) But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause.

Once you believe in Jesus and are saved, Christianity teaches that faith in the Name of Christ always brings about a changed life.

Once you accept Christ as your Savior and Lord, God the Holy Spirit enters your life and begins to teach you how to be more like Jesus. Jesus is *sinless*:

Hebrews 4:14-15 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, **Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.** {15} For we have not a high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but **was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.**

Those who profess Christ *walk in the Light but not in their own power.* The Apostle said:

1 John 1:5-7 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that **God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.** {6} **If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:** {7} But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

A Christian is not sinless, but a Christian is *God indwelt, a Child of the Kingdom.* A Christian is *sin-sensitive* - his conscience is turned toward God.

A Christian is a partial fulfillment of the covenant that God made with Israel, in which He said:

Jeremiah 31:33-34 But **this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts;** and will be their God, and they shall be my people. (34) And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

When Jesus Christ came, He did not come to overthrow Rome and restore Israel to its national sovereignty - at least, not in His first coming.

What are the *three primary things* that Jesus came to do for us?

Jesus came to:

1) Fulfill the Law: Only Jesus Christ fulfilled the Law, so Jesus only is the Savior:

**Matthew 5:17-18** Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: **I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.** (18) For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

2) To apply the merit of the fulfilled Law to our lives, if we believe:

**Romans 3:22-27** Even **the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe:** for there is no difference: (23) For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; (24) **Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: (25) Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;** (26) To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. (27)

**Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.**

3) To send the Holy Spirit, so that we could learn to be more *like Jesus*. This is not something that we do in our own power, but in the power of God!

As Christians we utilize the resources that God has given to us. We are *creatures of faith*, and walk in ways that are pleasing to our Lord. As the power of God grows in your lives, the power of the world will gradually decrease. As you walk apart from this world you will find that the world does not love you - in fact, it will hate Jesus in you. Look at our Lord's words:

**FOCAL** **John 16:1-4** These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. (2) They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. (3) And **these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me. (4) But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them.** And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you.

We live in an age when *professing Christians* walk in darkness, and are often indistinguishable from the world in which they live. Yet this is not the Biblical norm! The professing Christian who walks in habitual darkness is

either a liar, or else in danger of the sin unto death.

God is sovereign, in control of all things, and calls us to righteousness. We do not strive to be better Christians - this is the way of legalism. No, instead we surrender ourselves to God fully.

The Chinese theologian *Watchman Nee* stated:

**There are two aspects of salvation that should be manifest in a Christian's life: the first is the forgiveness of sin; the second is his deliverance from sinning. Anyone who has not experienced both of these aspects in his life is living beneath the privileges that God has accomplished for us in Christ.<sup>5</sup>**

The Apostle said:

**1 Corinthians 11:1 Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.**

The world hates the Christian on two levels. What are they?

The world hates the Christian because we teach first of all that salvation is *only by faith in the Name of Christ*. But we also teach that any life lived *outside of the sphere of the Spirit's control* is abnormal.

**Acts 4:10-12 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. (11) This is the stone which was set at naught of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. (12) Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.**

This type of teaching fairly gags the liberal theologian - and yet is the heartbeat of Scripture. Our focal text says:

**FOCAL John 16:1-2 These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. (2) They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.**

Christianity is not another form of *ritualized religion* in the world of ritualized religions. Christianity is a *new and living faith*, one that you enter in once you surrender your old way of life and call on the Name of the Lord.

Life is *specifically in the name of Jesus*:

**John 20:31 [this is] written, that ye might believe**

**that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.**

Jesus Christ is the *only Source* of eternal life with God. What brings *remission of sins*? The Apostles preached:

**Acts 2:38** Then Peter said unto them, **Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.**

The devil tried to get the Apostles to stop preaching the Name of Jesus.

That old deceiver raised up people who ordered that the Name of Jesus not be spoken - we read:

**Acts 4:17-21** But that it spread no further among the people, **let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name. (18) And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.** (19) But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. (20) For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard. (21) So when they had further threatened them, they let

them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all men glorified God for that which was done.

How did the Apostles respond when they were told to stop using the Name of Jesus? How should we respond when we are told the same thing?

Peter and John were very clear in their answer - "we will listen to God, not to you! We will speak in the Name of Jesus". In the end all these people could do was threaten them and let them go.

Listen Beloved, the devil doesn't want you to use the Name of Jesus - though he doesn't mind you talking about "God". Talk of God all you will. Just do not mention "His Name", else all will be against you. We, like the Apostles, need to speak His Name no matter what. There is salvation in no other Name. If people will be saved, we must preach the Name of Jesus.

**Acts 5:40-42** And to him they agreed: and **when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. (41) And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. (42) And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to**

## teach and preach Jesus Christ.

If the Christian of today will stand up for Jesus and speak of Him no matter what, we would see America turned from its wicked ways.

The Roman Empire was conquered from within as Christ was preached.

**Acts 15:25-26** It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, **to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, (26) Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Acts 19:17-20** And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and **the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. (18) And many that believed came, and confessed, and showed their deeds. (19) Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. (20) So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.**

When Jesus' Name is preached and those who have been saved by believing on Him speak, the **word of God prevails, for God is Sovereign.**

As Christians our action - or reaction - to the world around us will determine whether we win it for Christ, or lose it to Satan. Here are some quotes from the writings of the early Church:

**(Justin Martyr, 103-165 AD)** "There's no people, Greek or barbarian, by whatsoever name they may be distinguished, whether they dwell in tents or wander about in covered wagons, among whom prayers and thanksgiving are not being offered in the name of the crucified Jesus to the Father.."

**(Tertullian, 160-240 AD)** "We are but yesterday but already we fill your cities, islands, camps, palace, Senate, forum. We have left you only empty temples.."

**(Origen)** "in all Greece and in all barbarous races within our world there are tens of thousands who have left their national laws and customary god for the word of Jesus Christ. Though to adhere to this is to incur the hatred of idolaters and to have embraced the word is to incur the risk of death as well. The preaching of the Word has found its way into every part of the world.."

It is the Name of Jesus that changes the life of a person,

turning them from slavery to sin and into glorious liberty. We are told in Scripture:

**1 Corinthians 6:9-11 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, (10) Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. (11) And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.**

God has decreed that

**Philippians 2:10-11 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; (11) And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

There is salvation in no name but the Name of Jesus.

Does this mean that the good Muslim will go to hell? Yes, he will, if he has not believed on the Name of the Only Begotten Son of God. Will the good Catholic go to that place of eternal punishment? Absolutely!! This is

the Word that God has given us, not a word of our design. Jesus alone saves. He alone is the:

**John 14:6 ... way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

These are the words of the Savior. We who profess to be saved by faith in the Name of Jesus need to stop apologizing for what we believe. Like Simon Peter we need to say of Jesus:

**John 6:68-69 ... Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. (69) And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.**

When we waffle and lower the Gospel standard to "there are many ways to God", we are playing Satan's game. **Stand up, stand up for Jesus, ye soldiers of the Cross. Lift high His royal banner, it must not suffer loss!**

May God bless you through this His Word.