

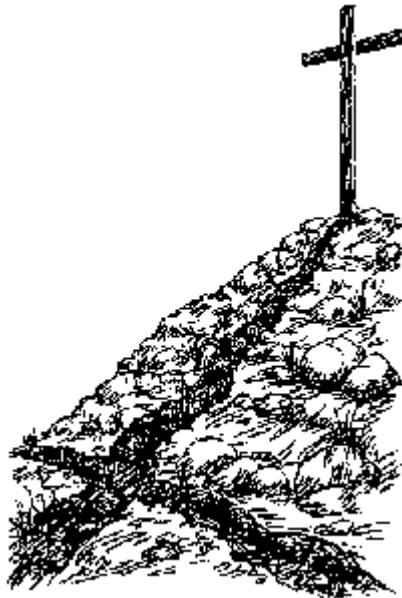
Glorify Jesus

John 1:10-14

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(John 1:10-14 KJV) "He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. {11} He came unto his own, and his own received him not. {12} But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name: {13} Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. {14} And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

Introduction

When we were **stationed in England** for the United States Air Force we had the wonderful opportunity of riding the big red double decker buses in London. As a family we'd always go to the top of the bus – the upper “uncovered” floor, and enjoy a wonderful view as we rode around town. There were many times when we were at a bus stop and, much to my dismay, the bus passed us by without stopping. Someone complained about this to the **London Transit Authority**, the organization that maintains the London City

Buses. The London Transit Authority issued a public paper that stated the following:

“It is impossible for us to maintain our schedule if we are always having to stop and pick up passengers”.

Obviously, the London Transit Authority **forgot what its purpose is**. Without passengers, it makes no money. Without passengers, why even operate a bus? The business of the London Transit Authority is to take people around town in buses.

And the **business of the Church is to lift up and promote Jesus Christ as Savior to a lost and dying world**. To pass on the light of salvation, a light that can only be found by faith in Christ.

We are God's *chosen messenger* to tell others about the Messiah. The very **nature of the world we live in** demands that we **be faithful in doing** what we are commissioned to do – to magnify and promote Jesus as the *only means of salvation* and the *only Savior*, regardless as to whether the world agrees with us or not.

1. Jesus Is Not Glorified By The World

(John 1:10 KJV) "He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not."

When Jesus Christ came into the world, born of a

Virgin, He did not suddenly “come into being”, nor was He “born” as a baby is born. Jesus came into the world a baby, wrapped in swaddling clothes, with a feed pen for His bed – but this was **merely the outward package that God chose to wear**.

John chapter 1 verse 10 *emphasizes* Jesus and His relationship with the *world*. The Bible uses the word “world”, the Greek **KOSMOS**, **three times** in verse 10. Jesus was in the KOSMOS, but He was not of the KOSMOS, for He *made* the KOSMOS. John 1:10 shouts out a terrible message, one that is even true today. Almighty God, Jesus the Creator of all things, the Maker of this world and this universe, lowered Himself to walk among His creation. Just as God walked in the Garden of Eden, speaking with Adam, God now lowers Himself to walk among His fallen creation as man Himself.

Jesus made the world – Jesus walked in the world – **Jesus was not glorified by the world**. Why is Jesus rejected by the world? Everywhere He walked the Glory of God shined round about Him. He **touched, caressed, loved, healed, replaced, raised** – Jesus Christ walked this earth as a perfect expression of God in the flesh. He healed a number of people in His earthly ministry, and **not one of those He healed stood by Him** as He went to a garbage dump called Calvary.

When the world *does* recognize Jesus, it is with the caveat that He is **merely one way among** many ways to God. The Church is rebuked if we are *intolerant*, and refuse to bow to worldly opinion. Yet there are sound Biblical reasons why the world *rejects* and *continues to reject* Jesus.

a. Adam's fall in the Garden brought **spiritual death on mankind**. The Bible teaches that man was made by Jesus – we saw that in our focal verse – and was made in **three parts: body, soul, and spirit** (1 Thessalonians 5:23). The Bible says:

(Colossians 2:13-15 KJV) "And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; {14} Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; {15} And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it."

Mankind, because of its spiritually dead state, does **not see the need** to accept Christ as Savior. Thus unsaved man, a spiritual corpse, needs to be pointed to the Cross of Calvary.

b. The world, dead in its sin, is further *blinded*

by Satan and his dominion:

(2 Corinthians 4:3-4 KJV) "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."

The world is dead in sin. Every person on this planet who has not been “born again” by faith in Christ is dead in their sins, lost, blinded. They **cannot see the glorious light of Christ**, the Glory of God.

C. Quite simply, Jesus is rejected because mankind – the **world – loves the corruption** of sin. We are told in John 3:19-20:

(John 3:19-20 KJV) "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. {20} For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved."

You see, even though *salvation is free* to all who will accept it, you **must repent** or turn away from sin and – with arms wide open – **accept Christ as Savior**. Most people would become “Christians” if

they were told what they did *really didn't matter* – that all they need to do is join the Church. And many people do this. They join the Church then walk away, feeling that they have purchased some sort of heavenly fire insurance. But God *demands* a turning from sin and to Christ for salvation to ever occur.

Exhortation: As Christians in this evil world we must be careful to keep pointing to the Cross of Calvary. The world is spiritually dead – but if you are a Christian you are a child of God. The world loves sin - but as children of God we must shun sin. Christ cannot be seen by those dead in their sins – but we who are Christians, born again by the Blood of the Lamb, need to keep telling people about Jesus.

If we who are saved do not lift up and explain Jesus to the world – then who will tell them?

2. Religion Without Relationship Does Not Glorify Jesus

(John 1:11 KJV) "He came unto his own, and his own received him not."

What a sad statement! Jesus came to His own Nation, a Nation He led out of Egypt, and this Nation rejected Him.

When God called out a nation for Himself and named this nation “Israel” after its father, Jacob,

God wanted His people to magnify and glorify His name on the earth. Israel was a beautiful *fig tree* that God planted in the rich soil of the Promised Land. Israel was a place where God had His Temple built, a wonderful place of blessing. Israel knew that the Messiah was coming, for God promised Israel that He would send His Son *through the line of David*.

Psalms 89:3-4 "I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant, Thy seed will I establish for ever, and build up thy throne to all generations. Selah."

Israel should have known Jesus when He came. They should have known that He was born of a Virgin Woman, of the line of David. They should have seen his miracles, the wonders of His power, and known that this was God in the Flesh. But Israel *forgot their calling*, and began to worship *religion* rather than a relationship with God. Jesus warned Israel when He said:

(Luke 13:5-9 KJV) "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. {6} He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. {7} Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? {8} And he

answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: {9} And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down."

Israel, born as a nation when God led them out of Egypt – Israel, who received the Writings of Scripture, The Law and the Prophets – Israel, Whom God fed with manna and water drawn out of desert rock – Israel walked away from God and into darkness. Why did Israel *miss Jesus*, as it were?

a. Israel missed Jesus because this was, after all, a **fulfillment of prophecy**. The Scripture says:

(Isaiah 53:2-3 KJV) "For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. {3} He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were *our* faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not."

Israel rejected Jesus because it was prophesied, but the prophecy did not mandate their actions. Prophecy never makes a person do something – it is a person's will that makes them fall.

It was necessary for Jesus to die for our sins, but it was not forced or coerced of God that Israel, His people, His Created Thing, be the ones who crucified Him.

Jesus created Israel, and Israel repaid Jesus by refusing to glorify Him. They treated Jesus as if He were a **tramp at the door begging for a handout**. Israel rejected Jesus in the most unjust manner, turning away from Him while embracing the criminal Barabbas.

b. Israel missed Jesus because they began to **focus more on themselves** and less on their Creator. Israel forgot that she was created to *worship and glorify God our Savior*.

Israel existed for the glory of God, and Israel existed because of the glory of God. Israel began to worship the Law rather than the Lawgiver. Israel began to love the Ritual rather than the Relationship. It is sad that God placed salvation in Israel's grasp:

(Isaiah 46:12-13 KJV) "Hearken unto me, ye stouthearted, that *are* far from righteousness: {13} I bring near my righteousness: it shall not be far off, and my salvation shall not tarry: and I will place salvation in Zion for Israel my glory."

Exhortation and Illustration: As Christians in this evil world we *must be careful* to keep our Church centered on glorifying Jesus, our Blessed Savior. We must encourage one another to walk as the Scripture commands the children of God to walk, in Love to both God and Man. Many churches have become entertainment factories, as divorced from Christ as the Israel that rejected Him. Many who claim Christ as Savior no longer support God's Church with either attendance or tithe. Yet the Church, as was Israel in the Old Testament, is God's means for evangelizing the Lost while glorifying the Savior Jesus Christ.

During World War II every building, every Church house in Ireland was kept in “blackout” conditions after a certain time every night. Preachers spoke to congregations in darkened buildings. Lights were extinguished, lest the Germans see the light and drop bombs on the church buildings in town. One preacher, Donald Grey Barnhouse, was speaking when someone accidentally turned the lights on in the church. The congregation gasped, and Barnhouse stopped speaking. One man cried out “What happened! Why did he stop preaching?” Someone had to explain to that man what happened, because, you see, that man was blind. He couldn't see the lights go on. The Church had to tell him about the Light.

As Rock Hill Baptist Church we must, we must tell others about Jesus. We must glorify Jesus. We

must be faithful to Jesus, serving Him – for the world cannot see the Light of God in Christ.

3. Sons of God By The Blood of Christ

(John 1:12-13 KJV) "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: {13} Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

The wonderful truth is this: **When we glorify Jesus, God glorifies us!** When we lift up the name of Jesus God lifts up our Church and our families. This is the promise of God. The Scripture says:

(Hebrews 6:10-15 KJV) "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have showed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. {11} And we desire that every one of you do show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: {12} That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises. {13} For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself, {14} Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee.

{15} And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise."

Israel the nation started with Abraham and Sarah. Abraham believed God, and God counted it for righteousness. God promised Abraham glory if Abraham did as He commanded. Abraham lifted up and glorified God and was blessed.

The Church that glorifies Jesus is the Church that grows. Eleven glorified Jesus on the Day of Pentecost, and those eleven became three thousand. It pleases the Father that the Son be lifted up. It pleases the Father that the Son be glorified. When we glorify Christ, we fulfill our calling as His Church.

(John 17:9-10 KJV) "I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. {10} And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them."

God is **glorified by submitted lives and saved souls**. We are sons of God by the Will of God, by the Cross of Christ.

a. A son of God is born **not of blood**. Israel made this mistake. You are *born* into the *human race*, but you are only a Christian when you are *born again* by faith in Christ. Salvation in an *individual choice you must make*. Jesus tells us:

(John 3:7 KJV) "... YOU must be born again."

b. A son of God is born **not of the will of the flesh**. Children are born to people when a man and woman unite in love. But you cannot be born into the Kingdom of God this way. I have told my children that they were born "Buffaloes", but unless they are *supernaturally born of God by faith in Christ* then they are not born "Christians". As Jesus clearly stated:

(John 3:6 KJV) "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."

C. A son of God is born **not of the will of man**. I cannot make you be saved. I cannot do as the Muslims used to do, ride up with a sword and say "Repent or die". As much as I'd love to see every soul on this earth in Heaven, you must make the choice. I pray you choose to believe in Jesus.

As that old song asks:

"Do you know, my Jesus?"

"Do you know my Friend?"

"Have you heard He loves you?"

"And that He will abide till the end?"

If you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior,

