

John 10:22-30

“The Christ”

April 17, 2016

In our text, the Jews were asking Jesus if He was the Christ or Messiah. Jesus pointed to the miracles that He had performed and said that the miracles spoke for Him. Jesus went on to say at the end of our text that “I and the Father are one.” The rest of the story is found in the words after our text. The Jews understood that Jesus was telling them that He was God. So the Jews picked up stones to kill Him, but He asked for which of the miracles were they stoning Him. Then He escaped their grasp and went away.

The problem is that the Jews were looking for the Christ or Messiah to be a physical king like King David. Their hope was that the Christ would overthrow the hated Roman rule. Likewise their fear was that Jesus was the Christ and that He would fail to overthrow the hated Roman rule and they would end up destroyed. They had good reason to fear because after their rebellion in 70 AD, the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple. This eliminated the Jewish leaders who killed Jesus.

We are here today because we believe in the Triune God. For God has revealed to us that He is one being and three persons within that being. The three persons of the Trinity are the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Therefore when

Jesus said that He and the Father are one, He is referring to their being one God and He is referring to the three persons in that one God. To this day, the Jews and many others do not understand this idea and therefore reject Christianity because they cannot believe in the Trinity. Why do we believe in the Trinity? First, we believe in the concept of the Trinity because of the witness of God through the Bible through texts like today's. Second, we believe in the concept of the Trinity because of the witness of the Confessions of the early Christian Church. Today we confessed one of those confessions. We call them the Apostle's and Nicene Creeds. Remember how Jesus told the Disciples that the Holy Spirit would come and reveal all things to them. We believe the confessions come from the work of the Holy Spirit.

So what does that mean for us? The Bible witnesses to us that Jesus Christ is God! The Bible witnesses to us that the Christ was there at Creation and helped form all that exists. The Bible witnesses to us that the Christ as man was on the Cross at Calvary to pay for our failure to live up to God's expectations. The Bible witnesses to us that the Christ as God opened the doors of heaven to all who believe in Him. That the Bible teaches us how to freely live our lives in a way that gives glory to God and encourages the faith life of each other.

Our text reminds us that many in our world are like the Jews of Jesus time. The Jews had a world view that did not allow them to see Jesus as the Christ and as

God. Rather than submit to God, they imposed upon God their views. Jesus said that you must eat my body and drink by blood. They could not accept that teaching and left Him. We now know that Jesus referred to the eating of bread and drinking of wine which He in a holy and spiritual way made into His Body and Blood.

We can expect our society to be no different than the Jews. God performs miracles and some cannot accept it. God is the Creator and some cannot accept it. God asks us to come to church and worship Him and some find all kinds of excuses not to come to worship Him. God gives us all kinds of opportunities to show our thanks for His many gifts to us and some ignore them and focus upon meeting our needs wants and desires. We can question the meaning of the teachings of the Bible, but some go beyond that and question whether the Bible is even God's Word and did He really mean what He said.

Our God is God and His Son is Jesus Christ. Our God has opened the doors of His heart for our prayer and He invites us to approach Him in prayer. Our God offers us the strength to keep the faith through the Lord's Supper and it is ours to take advantage of it. Our God offers us freedom from guilt and it is ours to accept it through the forgiveness found on the Cross at Calvary. Our God is even the one who called us to faith in Him because on our own we could not know Him. Our God is God and He asks us to be His servants through Christ. Amen.