

The Book of John - 46

Introduction - In **verses 11-13** and also in **verses 25-27**, we discovered that many were discussing the Lord Jesus Christ. As stated in the last lesson, a discussion is not needed, but rather a personal decision to receive all that God has revealed to us about His wonderful Son. In this lesson, we will see **the revealing of the Lord**.

Read John 7:14-24.

In **verses 11- 13** we see:

f. The _____ of the people **vss. 11-13**

But then, here in **verses 14-24**, we see:

g. The _____ of the Lord incognito. **Vss. 14-24**

In **verse 14**, the Bible declares that Jesus went into the temple and taught. This reinforces the idea that the Lord operated according to His perfect will. In **verse 15**, the Bible says, *“the Jews marvelled...”*

The question is then posed, *“How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?”* The fact is that the Lord took His place in the Temple just the same as the rest of the rabbinical teachers. The substance of His message was so assertive and with such authority that even the enemies could not deny truth. However, do you see their test for receiving what the Lord stated? How knoweth this man letters? Having never learned? This statement revealed that **they were more interested in what man had to say than what God had to say**.

One expositor stated, “Education is a blessing, but it is better to be taught by God than to borrow the ideas of men. Christ’s doctrine comes from heaven; man’s teaching comes from his darkened mind. Paul warns of what is falsely called “knowledge [science]” (Wiersbe)

Wiersbe then cited these verses:

1 Timothy 6:20 *“20 O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science[**knowledge**] falsely so called:”*

The word ‘science’ means knowledge. My friend, some will approach you and claim to have discovered new knowledge that is **hidden from the rest of the world**.

Colossians 2:8-9 *“8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. 9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.”*

You and I ought to thank the Lord that He has recorded His Word for us and promised to preserve it, for without the Word of God, we would be left to the traditions of men.

Psalm 119:160 *“Thy word is true from the beginning: And every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.”*

The Lord in His teaching — at least the parts that you and I have recorded for us here reveal several things:

- They assert His **authority. vs. 14**
- They assert His **subordination. vs. 16**
- They assert **God’s way to truth. Vss. 17-19**
- They assert **His revelation of man’s inconsistency. Vss. 21-24**

His Authority

John 7:14 *“14 Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and taught.”*

The Lord did not hesitate to proclaim truth. In the midst of this feast, He went up into the temple and taught. After the Lord enters into Jerusalem that final week before He was crucified, the chief priests and elders ask this very question in **Matthew 21:23** *“...By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?”*

The question they pose betrays their disbelief. There is no higher authority than God. He asks for permission from no one, for He cannot and does not ever need to.

His Subordination

John 7:16 *“16 Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.”*

Man has many doctrines... in the plural. This is how the Bible presents the teachings that originate with man. Notice the following verses:

Matthew 15:9, *“9 But in vain they do worship me, **teaching for doctrines** the commandments of men.”*

Colossians 2:22 *“22 Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and **doctrines of men**?”*

1 Timothy 4:1 *“1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and **doctrines of devils**;*”

Hebrews 13:9 *“9 Be not carried about with **divers and strange doctrines**. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.”*

Whereas the Bible uses the singular form to speak of biblical truth:

Deuteronomy 32:2; Proverbs 4:2, Isaiah 28:9; Matthew 7:28, 22:33; Mark 1:22, 27; 4:2, 11:18, 12:38, Luke 4:32; John 7:16-17, 18:19; Acts 2:42, 5:28, 17:19; Romans 6:17, 16:17; 1 Timothy 1:3, 10, 4:6, 13, 16, 5:17, 6:1, 3; 2 Timothy 3:10,

4:2-3; Titus 1:9, 2:1, 2:7, 10; Hebrews 6:1; 2 John 1:9-10.

Man's doctrines are constantly evolving.

Let me give you an example: The Jehovah's Witnesses, whose head is the publication and doctrines producer, "The Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society," have claimed many dates of arrival for their bizarre doctrines.¹

1878: The end of the harvest.

1881: A revised end of the harvest.

1914: The end of human rule.

1918: The new end of human rule.

1925: The resurrection of the patriarchs.

1975: Another guess at the beginning of the millennial reign of Christ.

God's Way To Truth

How are we to know the truth? In contrast to the statement of the Jews (that truth is discovered based on man's pedigree), which begins with man. Notice what the Lord states is the proper way to know God's truth.

John 7:17–19 *"17 If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself. 18 He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him. 19 Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law? Why go ye about to kill me?"*

F.W. Robertson said, "Obedience is the organ of spiritual knowledge." This **is not** an admonition **to work for Salvation**, but rather **an admonition to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ**.

The Lord's revelation of man's inconsistency.

Here is what you will discover, my friend: **Man is inconsistent**. Doctrines that are man-originating **are inconsistent**. Aren't you glad that God is not that way?

James 1:17 *"17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is **no variableness, neither shadow of turning**."*

Malachi 3:6 *"6 For I am the Lord, **I change not**; Therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."*

Proverbs 24:21 *"21 My son, fear thou the Lord and the king: **And meddle not with them that are given to change**:"*

John 7:21-24 *"21 Jesus answered and said unto them, I have done one work, and ye all marvel. 22 Moses therefore gave unto you circumcision; (not because it is of Moses, but of the fathers;) and ye on the sabbath day circumcise a man."*

¹ For More Info On Failed Dates <https://www.jwfacts.com/watchtower/1800s.php>

23 If a man on the sabbath day receive circumcision, that the law of Moses should not be broken; are ye angry at me, because I have made a man every whit whole on the sabbath day? 24 Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment."

The case the Lord presents is their inconsistency in judgment. Truly, **they were respecters of persons**. Jesus states, If you circumcise on the Sabbath day and they did, citing the precedence of the law, how could they then state that the Lord broke the Sabbath by making a man whole on the Sabbath day?

"They pretended to defend the Law by accusing Him of working on the Sabbath; but He showed that their desire to kill Him was contrary to the very Law they revered. How inconsistent are people who oppose Christ and reject His Word!" (Wiersbe)

Notice the sum of the matter in our text, as the Lord gives us such an important statement in **verse 24**.

John 7:24 *"24 Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment."*

a. Their judgment was _____.

b. Their judgment was _____.

How do we know their judgment is self-centered and not God-centered? Notice the indictment given in **verse 19**.

John 7:19 *"19 Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law? Why go ye about to kill me?"*

c. Their judgment was _____.

How do we know this? Because the Lord called on them to make righteous judgment. My friend, the Lord expects His people to judge carefully with **all the facts**. You and I must discern what is truth and right and what is lies and wrong every day. With God's help, we must be able to discern what is right and what is evil. Judgment requires more than just looking at the surface appearances. It requires **us to be students of the Word of God**. Judgment requires us **to be in fellowship with the Lord**, being yielded to the Spirit for **God-directed discernment**.

Consider **Proverbs 18:13** *"13 He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, It is folly and shame unto him."*

Speaking of hearing only one side of the story, we read in **Proverbs 18:17**, *"17 He that is first in his own cause seemeth just; But his neighbour cometh and searcheth him."*