

## **A DEVOTIONAL SERIES ON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN ABOUT JESUS CHRIST**

### **JESUS IS SAVIOR AND LORD**

John 8:58 “Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.’”

The Pharisees wanted nothing to do with Jesus. They did not accept His message that He existed from eternity. They did not believe He was true God. They rejected He was the only way to heaven. They hated Him so intensely that verse 59 says, they wanted to kill Him. “They picked up stones to throw at Him. . .”

Peter, in 1 Peter 2:4-8, describes how the true believer and how the unbeliever view Jesus, “As you come to Him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word . . .”

As hard as it might be for you to imagine that Jesus is “a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense” to anyone, this word of God is true. As I shared in a recent devotion, many in this country and throughout the world reject that Jesus is the Son of God and Savior of the world. They do not believe that faith in Him alone merits the forgiveness of their sins and is the only way to heaven. For the almost 90% of the U.S. population who believe they are going to heaven, not quite half believe they will go there with Jesus having nothing to do with their doing so.

The teaching of the Gospel is simply, “For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person— though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by His blood, much more shall we be saved

by Him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life.” (Romans 5:6-10)

Prayer: Holy Spirit, light Divine, create in me a clean heart and renew in me a right spirit. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Holy Spirit, light divine, Shine upon this heart of mine;  
Chase the shades of night away, Turn the darkness into day.

Let me see my Savior’s face, Let me all His beauties trace;  
Show those glorious truths to me Which are only known to Thee.

Holy Spirit, pow’r divine, Cleanse this guilty heart of mine;  
In Thy mercy pity me, From sin’s bondage set me free.

Holy Spirit, joy divine, Cheer this saddened heart of mine;  
Yield a sacred, settled peace, Let it grow and still increase.

Holy Spirit, all divine, Dwell within this heart of mine;  
Cast down ev’ry idol throne, Reign supreme, and reign alone.  
(LSB 496)