



JANUARY 14, 2018

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The Claims of Christ, Part 2

John 7:14-24

I. The Teaching of Christ was Not Like Any Other Man (vv. 14-16)

A. Jesus taught at the temple (v. 14)

B. Jesus never studied in any formal school (v. 15)

C. Jesus' teaching was not His own (v. 16)

II. The Knowledge God Longs to Give Comes Through Obedience (v. 17)

A. Jesus reveals Himself to those who keep His commandments (Jn. 14:21)

B. The Holy Spirit affirms us as we obey (Rom. 8:12-16)

C. God's Word promises that if we seek Him, we will find Him (Deut. 4:29;
1 Chr. 28:9; Psa. 119:2; Jer. 29:13; Jms. 4:8; Lk. 15:20; Matt. 7:7)

III. The Self-Exaltation of Any Speaker Opposes the Humility of Christ (v. 18)

A. False teachers seek their own honor (Isa. 56:11; Ezek. 34:2-3; Rom. 16:18; Phil. 3:19; 1 Tim. 6:5; Titus 1:11; 2 Pet. 2:3)

B. Jesus never sought His own glory (Jn. 5:41; 8:50; Matt. 20:28; Matt. 11:29; 2 Cor. 10:1; Phil. 2:6-8; Lk. 9:58; Jn. 13:4-5)

IV. The Laws of Men Never Outshine the Laws of God (vv. 19-24)

A. _____ the assumption that you know the law and keep it (vv. 19-21) [Mk. 7:6-7, 20-21; Matt. 5:21-22; Jn. 3:20; Jn. 5:5-11, 18]

B. _____ from the lesser to the greater about the Sabbath (vv. 22-23) [Gen. 17:9-14; Lev. 12:3; Lk. 14:5; Matt. 11:28-30]

C. _____ the authority by which you make your judgment (v. 24) [Jn. 8:15-16; Matt. 7:1-2]

TAKE HOME

- Do you see the _____ in the teachings of Christ versus any other man?
- Do you see the _____ of thinking you know the Bible when you really don't?
- Do you see the _____ of making judgments on appearances instead of on the truth?

STUDY QUESTIONS

James 1:22 says, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* These questions are designed to help you apply today’s message to your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a Small Group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please call the church office at (661) 259-2913.

1. Read John 7:14-16. In what way was the teaching of Christ unlike any other man? (Matt. 11:28; Jn. 6:38) How does this help us appreciate Jesus’ teaching and see its importance in our lives?

2. Read John 7:17. What does this second point mean when it says “the knowledge of God comes through obedience”? (Jn. 14:21; Rom. 8:12-16) How can this help you when you are wanting to understand more of God’s Word?

3. Read John 7:18. What was the major difference between the false teachers and the humility of Christ? How should this challenge us in our own teaching?

4. Read John 7:19-21. Did the Jews whom Jesus is confronting really know the Bible? How does Mark 7:6-7 and vv. 20-21 help us see their true hearts? Have you ever assumed you knew God’s law and were keeping correctly?

5. Read John 7:22-23. In what way is Jesus arguing from the lesser to the greater? Why would the Jews allow a work of necessity but not a work of grace?

6. Read John 7:24. What is this verse saying? How does Jn. 8:15-16 and Matt. 7:1-2 give us further insight in to this concept? Do you struggle with judging according to appearances? Give some examples.

7. Read the take home questions. Which one encourages you or challenges you the most? How will you learn to be biblically balanced and follow Christ’s claims in a more pertinent way this week?

“We are often too ready to be deceived by an appearance of good. We are in danger of rating some men as very good Christians, because of a little outward profession of religion, and a decent Sunday formality,—because, in short, they talk the language of Canaan, and wear the garb of pilgrims. We forget that all is not good that appears good...”

- J.C. Ryle, *Expository Thoughts on John*