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John 10 - Part III

Believe the Works

John 10:22: *And it was at Jerusalem the Feast of the Dedication, and it was winter.*

This 8-day feast in Hebrew is *Hanukkah*, also called *Festival of Lights*. It begins on the 25th of the Jewish month of Kislev, which occurs some time between our late November to late December. This was not one of the feasts given by Moses, but was implemented during the intertestamental period after the Jews drove out the Greeks, who under Antiochus Epiphanes had polluted the altar by offering a pig on it. Each day one of the lamps on the Menorah is lit. The holiday represents the re-dedication of the temple.

John 10:23-25: *23. And Jesus walked in the temple in Solomon's porch. 24. Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long do you make us to doubt? If you be the Christ, tell us plainly. 25. Jesus answered them, I told you, and you believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me.*

Tell us plainly - How had Jesus told them plainly? Here are some references and the Jews reaction: **John 8:12-13, 42-43, 48:** *12. Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that follows me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. 13. The Pharisees therefore said unto him, You bear record of thyself; your record is not true.... 42. Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. 43. Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word.... 48. Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that you art a Samaritan, and have a devil?* Much of what Jesus stated about himself were metaphors that the Jews could understand, if they would hear. When he spoke to the disciples and the Samaritan woman at the well, he gave them a direct answer (Matthew 16:13-17; John 4:25-26) because they had ears to hear.

John 10:26-29: *26. But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. 27. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28. And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. 29. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.*

Here is a solid and precious promise - followers of Jesus hear his voice, and they are given eternal life, a quality of spiritual life that lasts forever. NO MAN can pluck the sheep out of the hand of Jesus or his Father. What is eternal life? **John 6:63:** *It is the spirit that is giving life; the flesh profits nothing: the words that I speak to you are spirit and are life (Greek Interlinear).* The words Jesus speaks to the heart are eternal life. It is the spirit of the Father that draws us to Christ, and it is the spirit of Christ that reveals to us, the Father.

John 10:30-31: *30. I and my Father are one. 31. Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him.*

The Jews did not accept that Jesus and the Father are spiritually united. Those who teach the Trinity doctrine today, use verse 30 in an attempt to prove that the Father and Son are the same individual. Verse 38 explains this verse: *...believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.* When we walk in the light personally given to us by Jesus, then we become one with the Father and Son: **John 17:21:** *...That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us:* (cf 1Cor 1:10; Gal 3:28)

John 10:32-36: 32. *Jesus answered them, Many good works have I showed you from my Father; for which of those works do you stone me?* 33. *The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone you not; but for blasphemy; and because that you, being a man, make yourself God.* 34. *Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, You are gods?* 35. *If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;* 36. *Say you of him, whom the Father has sanctified, and sent into the world, You blaspheme; because I said, I am a Son of God?*

To Jesus' comments the Jews stated: *you, being a man, make yourself God*. Again, those that teach the Trinity use the same statement attempting to prove that Jesus is the one God. Much of what the Pharisees said, however, was not true, and just like most people today, the Jews did not understand the Father and Son. Perhaps they heard Jesus tell the blind man that he healed that himself was the son of God (John 9:35-37), which from man's perspective puts him on the same level as the Father, but not in their sphere.

Jesus quoted verse 6 from Psalms 82; here is the context: **Psalms 82:1-7:** 1. *God stands in the congregation of the mighty; he judges among the gods.* 2. *How long will you judge unjustly, and accept the persons of the wicked? Selah.* 3. *Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy.* 4. *Deliver the poor and needy: rid them out of the hand of the wicked.* 5. *They know not, neither will they understand; they walk on in darkness: all the foundations of the earth are out of course.* 6. *I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High.* 7. *But ye shall die like men, and fall like one of the princes.* Metaphorically, any person living according to their understanding is a god, good or bad, a mighty one ruling according to their knowledge. It does not mean that the person is on the same level as, or has any of God's powers.

John 10:37-38: 37. *If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not.* 38. *But if I do, though you believe me not, believe the works: that you may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.*

Jesus was saying, at least believe what you can see. He had worked many miracles of healing, breaking bread to feed thousands and turning water to wine, even raising the dead. Yet, most of the Jews did not believe. So what were the works of Jesus that made the sincere into believers?

John 6:67-69: 67. *Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?* 68. *Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? you have the words of eternal life.* 69. *And we believe and are sure that you are that Christ, the Son of the living God.* Of all the people that heard Jesus say *Whoso eats my flesh, and drinks my blood, has eternal life*, only the 12 remained. They did not fully understand then, but they were convinced that Jesus had the words of eternal life. They were willing to hear an explanation when it was time for them to know.

John 10:39-42: 39. *Therefore they sought again to take him: but he escaped out of their hand,* 40. *And went away again beyond Jordan into the place where John at first baptized; and there he abode.* 41. *And many resorted unto him, and said, John did no miracle: but all things that John spake of this man were true.* 42. *And many believed on him there.*

Many who reject the truth, will seek to kill the spirit of Christ in those who see the light, by supplanting truth with their error. Only those with ears to hear will ever come out from wilderness thinking. Notice - John the Baptist did no miracles, yet people were convicted in their hearts. As he had prepared the hearts of the people with his preaching, we can do the same in our witness, and help others be prepared for the return of Christ. The Father says, *This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him* (Matthew 17:5). Amen.