

**Monday, 3 July 2017** John 12:42-43

*Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.*

The question here that must be faced is whether or not I love the glory of man more than the glory of God. It is easy to say that I love the glory of God, but does my actions and does my conversation with friends, family and acquaintances belie that claim? Isn't today's "being put out of the synagogue" the fear of being the object of derision and ridicule at family gatherings or not being invited to neighborhood picnics? Is not the craving of the acceptance of my family far more important to me than to bask in the glory of God? My belief is flawed.

Forgive me, Lord, for my cowardliness. Fill me with boldness to declare Your grace and mercy everywhere and at all times.

**Tuesday, 4 July 2017** John 12:44-45

*And Jesus cried out and said, "Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me.*

Do I understand that to acknowledge Jesus Christ is to acknowledge the LORD, God, *the Almighty, the Majesty, the Authority, the Power*? Yes, I am acknowledging God Incarnate, but it is far, far more. It is the One who said to Moses that he could not see His face and live. The One whose holiness is so stunningly powerful that a sinful man as I would instantly flash into flames in His presence. But, hallelujah, I am made fit for the Presence by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. I can see the LORD, God, the Almighty and live. Not only live but acknowledge Him as Father. 1 John 3:1

**Wednesday, 5 July 2017** John 12:46

*I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.*

I remember touring Mark Twain's Cave in Hannibal, MO. The guide turned off all the lights at one point to

demonstrate total darkness, the absolute absence of light. It was palpable, pressing down like a stifling wet blanket.

Without the Light that is the Son of the Living God, that darkness was the normal state of my being. But through Him, I have passed from darkness into light, from death into life. Hallelujah.

**Thursday, 6 July 2017** John 13:18-19

*I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he.*

Our Lord had referred His disciples, on several occasions, to prophecies concerning His death and resurrection. Now this final one before they leave the Upper Room for Gethsemane.

These also are for our benefit. We read the record of the prophecies; we read the record of their fulfillment. Do we believe the evidence?

**Friday, 7 July 2017** John 14:1

*"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.*

Isn't this the reverse of John 12:44-45? If I believe in the LORD, God, the Almighty, then I must also believe in His Son whom He sent. Rather makes a hash of the "all roads lead to God" argument.

*John 10:30 I and the Father are one."*

**Saturday, 8 July 2017** John 14:8-10

*Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.*

The works that were accomplished by Jesus verified the divine source of His words. The words spoken by Jesus verified the divine source of His works.

So it must be with me. My words must be consistent with my works; my works must be consistent with my words. My life, in words and work, must glorify the LORD, God, the Almighty.

**Lord's Day, 9 July 2017 Psalm 119:65**

You have dealt well with your servant, O LORD, according to your word.

Absolutely and truly according to Your Word. Your promises are fulfilled, and Your warnings come to pass. The God of Absolute Truth and Justice.

# VOICES TOGETHER

*Daily Meditations from the Scriptures*



*July 3-9, 2017*

**Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: 1 Thessalonians 2:13-16**

We thank You, LORD, for the strength and boldness to speak into the culture in which each of us lives and works. Speaking the message of redemption, of restoration and reconciliation, speaking the offer of righteousness, peace and joy of life in the Kingdom of Heaven. Speaking of Your love, grace and mercy that is offered freely to all mankind.

Let us not be swayed by the wrath and hostility of those who adamantly worship other gods and who are determined to leave no effort untried to prohibit the proclamation of the Gospel. *Amen*

**Creational Theology hint for the week--**There is a geranium plant, just a few feet from where I am sitting, very large and imposing, with several buds forming. We have lost track of when and where the original plant comes from; I'm sure this represents generations of cuttings rooted and planted. But I do know that when these buds begin to open that they will be a delicate pink. They were pink at the last cycle of blooms, and the one before and the one before and ad finitum. There is constancy, predictability, a "the same yesterday, today and tomorrow" that assures me that the LORD, God, the Almighty is in control. Another part of the Creation showing me that His promises are sure.

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