

Honoring the Son

Sunday, August 15th, 1993

John 5:23

“That all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honoreth not the Son honoreth not the Father which hath sent him.”

I would like for you to open your Bible today to the Book of John. I'm going to be speaking from the Fifth Chapter of John. This is a powerful portion of the Word. Throughout this Fifth Chapter of John, the Lord Jesus Christ reveals His greatness, deity, power, and so many things about Himself.

Here, in verse 23, He says this (and this will be my subject for today), “ALL MEN SHOULD HONOR THE SON,” (the Lord Jesus Christ). Now, notice carefully what follows: *“Even as they honor the Father.”* If you will look at the verses above this passage, you will notice that in the same way, these Jews got angry with Him because He made Himself equal with God.

In John, Chapter 6, *“They took up stones to stone Him,”* because He said, *“I and My Father are one.”* He said, *“Many good works have I done among you, for which of these do you stone Me?”* They said, *“We are not stoning you because you do a good work, we are stoning you because you are a man and you claim to be equal with God.”*

Our Lord says here, *“All men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father, and he that honoreth not the Son, (with full honors and full glory and worship) honoreth not the Father who sent Him.”*

Now, in this same Fifth Chapter, I want to go back to where our Lord came to a pool called Bethesda (verses two through thirteen). There was a man lying there on a makeshift bed, a portable bed that someone brought with them, and he had been lying lame on this bed for 38 years (just think what condition he was in after lying immobile for 38 years).

Our Lord Jesus looked at this lame man and asked this question, He said, *“Will you be made whole?”* the man replied, *“I have no one to help me!”* (there was a tradition that an angel would come down at a certain time and would trouble the water, and the first one in the water was made whole). The man said, *“I don’t have anyone to help me; I’m a lame man; I’ve laid in this bed for nearly 40 years; every time I get down to the water, someone has already beat me to the water.”*

Our Lord said to him, *“Rise, take up your bed and walk”*, and the scripture says, *“Immediately he was made whole and took up his bed and walked.”* His legs had been strengthened and he was so empowered by the Lord Jesus Christ that he took up his bed and walked by himself, carrying that bed on his shoulders.

Here is a significant statement, *“And it was the Jewish Sabbath day.”* So, down the street he goes carrying this bed. He was leaping, rejoicing and praising God. Everyone was looking at him and pointing to him and calling attention to him. He had been lying there 38 years by that pool and everyone knew it.

He met some of the religious fellows (these religious Pharisees from the synagogue) who saw him carrying his bed. But instead of marveling at the miracle, and at a lame man made whole, they said, *“It’s not lawful for you to carry your bed on the Sabbath day.”* There

traditions were more important to them than this man and his happiness or health. They didn't want him to violate their religious traditions. They would defend them at any cost; *"It's not lawful for you to carry your bed on the Sabbath day."*

He replied (and I want you to see this), *"He that made me whole, the same said to me, take up your bed and walk."* This is what he is saying: "I am carrying this bed because He told me to. He that loved me and cared for me, when no one else did, in my weakness and infirmity, He told me to carry this bed! He came to me in my need, when no one else could help me, He told me to carry this bed. He spoke to me in power and grace, He told me to carry this bed and to walk. He by His mercy made me whole, He told me to carry this bed. He gave me power to walk He said to me, *'Take up your bed and walk.'* I intend to do what He says; I intend to obey His Words. I take my orders from Him. If, what He says is a conflict with what you think, or what anybody thinks, it makes no difference; I believe that He is the Son of God and His Word is my law. He that made me whole, told me to take up my bed and walk; and I intend to do what He says."

That is what I am saying to you, *"Honor the Son."* It doesn't matter the cost, whoever the opponent maybe, *"All men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father."*

My friends, I would like for you to consider five scriptures. There is no conflict here. There is no danger that we are going to give too much glory to the Father or too much glory to Jesus Christ. There is no way that we are going to rob God the Father of any glory, by giving glory to the Son. The scripture says, *"Honour the Son as you honour*

the Father.” It says, “All men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father.” If you honor the Son, you do honor the Father.

Our Lord prayed: *“Father glorify Me with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was.”* When you honor the Son as you honor the Father, you are not robbing honor from the Father, you are giving honor to the Father. Actually, He said, *“He that honoureth not the Son, honoureth not the Father.”* You can’t give Christ too much glory. There is no way that we can praise Him adequately; there is no way that your tongue could ever praise Him like He should be praised. You can never think thoughts too highly of Christ or exalt or magnify His name enough. *“God has given Him a name above every name, that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow.”*

I want you to listen to this scripture, John 15:23, *“He that hateth the Son, hateth the Father.”* Do you have low thoughts about Christ? If so, you have low thoughts of God. *“He that hateth the Son hateth the Father also.”* Listen to First John, 2:23, *“Whosoever denieth the Son the same hath not the Father.”*

When a person puts doubts on Christ, He puts doubts on the Father. He that denies the Son (the Lord Jesus), denies His deity, eternity, incarnation and His sacrificial work; in denying the Son He denies the Father. He does not know the Father, *“No man knows the Father but the Son and He to whom the Son will reveal Him.”* I am telling you the truth.

I want you to listen to First John, 5:10, *“He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself, and he that believeth not the Son of God hath made God a liar, because he does not believe the record God gave of His Son.”*

When I (or any person, whoever it is), put doubts on Christ or question Christ's effectual atonement, the person, work or whatever, when I don't believe in Christ, I am calling God a liar. The reason this is so is because I do not believe what God said about Christ. It is God that said it, not you or I.

In Second John verse 9, the scripture says (look at this carefully), *"Whosoever transgresseth and abideth not in the doctrine of Jesus Christ, hath not God."* I know preachers who preach God, but they don't preach Christ; they do not preach the true God either. I know people, who believe that salvation is in a church, or salvation is in the Virgin Mary, or salvation is in works or salvation may be in Muhammad, Confucius, or family ties or heritage. They may talk about God the Father, but they don't give any glory to Jesus Christ. *"Whosoever abides not in the doctrine of Jesus Christ,"* the doctrine of His eternity, His covenant mercies, His incarnation, His righteousness, His death on the cross, His burial, His resurrection, His exaltation, His second coming, if a man does not abide in the doctrine of Jesus Christ, *"He hath not God!"* He does not know God because He does not believe the record that God gave about His Son. He has made God a liar. The God that he is talking about is not the God and Father of Jesus Christ. He's not the God of creation, and He's not the God of the Bible; He's another God.

We might as well take a penknife and design our own God because we aren't talking about the living God. Listen, in Second John verse 9, *"He that abides in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son."* The way to know God is to know Christ. The way to worship God is to worship Christ. The way to believe God is to believe Christ. That's right!

What do you think of this? I want you to listen to this scripture and tell me what you think, it is in Isaiah Chapter 9:6, *“Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given.”* What is this: *“A child is born, a Son is given?”* It is the man-child, a son, and a child of earth, and the Son from heaven. This is the Lord Jesus Christ who is man and God; also, He’s the Son of Man and the Son of God. *“The government shall be on His shoulders”* and His name, what is the name of this man-child? What is the name of this Son of man, Son of God? What’s the name of this child and Son who was given, a child born and sent? His name is, *“Wonderful; Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace, Emanuel, God with us. Whosoever transgresseth and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ has not Christ.”*

Don’t be afraid of the word doctrine; it’s the teachings of Christ, it’s the character of Christ, it’s the truth of Christ. It’s the revelation of Christ. It’s the record of Christ; that’s all, the doctrine of Christ is the truth about Him. If we don’t abide in Him and in the doctrine of Christ, we have not God. *“He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ has the Father and the Son.”* Listen to the Father, *“Unto the Son he saith, Thy throne O God is for ever and ever; let all the angels of God worship Him.”* That is the Father speaking, the God of heaven and earth. The Father is speaking about His Son, *“Unto the Son the Father saith.”* God saith to the Son, *“Thy throne O God, (there’s just one God) is for ever and let all the angels of God worship Him.”* You don’t worship anybody but God. We worship Christ because He is God.

The apostles went upon the mountain. There were Peter, James and John, along with Jesus Christ. The scripture says that God brought Moses and Elijah back from heaven. They sat there and talked. The

disciples saw Moses representing the law and Elijah representing the prophets; they were sitting there talking with Jesus of Nazareth.

What did they talk about? They talked about His death. This was the summit meeting of all summit meetings. There was the law, the prophets, and the Son of God to whom the law and prophets bear witness. They talked about His death and in a moment, Moses was gone and Elijah was gone and Christ was the only one there. The glory of God glistened upon Him, His clothes glistened, the scripture says, *“His raiment was white as the light.”* It also says that a voice from heaven came and said, *“This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, hear ye Him.”* We want to listen to the prophets, we want to listen to the law. Oh no! You listen to Him. *“God who at sundry times and in divers manners spake to our Fathers by the prophets, (by the law), hath in these last days spoken by His Son.”* You hear Him!

What I’m trying to say is this; it is what the Lord taught the disciples; *“I and my Father are one.”* One of them said to Him, *“Just show us the Father, we’ll be satisfied.”* He said, *“Have I been so long time with you and you don’t know me? He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father. I and my Father are one.”*

So, my friends, without reservation, without hesitation, without apology, without fear, I boldly declare unto all of you; who hear me, that Jesus Christ of Nazareth, Jesus born in Bethlehem, Jesus who walked this earth and died on a cross, Jesus Christ is none other than God Almighty in human flesh, who came to this earth to redeem a people for His glory and for His kingdom. There is no controversy about it! This is what the Bible teaches and it is what the Word of God teaches and it is the truth. If you don’t believe that, just take your

Bible right now, and throw it out the window or set it on fire because there is no way for any human being to know Almighty God except in Christ. He's the only revelation of God in human flesh. *"In Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily."* That is right and I am telling you the truth.

"God has appointed a day in which He is going to judge this world by that man Jesus Christ." People talk about going to the judgment, going to the judgment, and going to the judgment. *"God the Father judgeth no man, He's committed all judgment to the Son."* Judgment will be based upon who He is, what He did, why He did it and where He is now. Judgment is going to be based entirely on how you honor the Son and how I honor the Son.

I can stand up here and brag on you and you can brag on me and we can brag on each other and we can talk about our great denominations and our great programs and our great buildings. We can talk about this being great and that being great, (this, that and the other). You are going to find the only thing great in this world is Jesus Christ. God is going to honor the Son.

That whole judgment, everything about it, is not going to be about how many watermelons you stole or if you stole more watermelons than anyone else or how many this, that and the other sins you did or committed, the answer is: *"What think ye of Christ?"* Whose Son is He? Do you have a Mediator, do you have a Redeemer, do you have a Justifier, do you have an Advocate, do you have an Intercessor, do you have a sin offering and do you have someone to put away your guilt? That's right!

Our hope for participation in that kingdom and to be among those people out of every tribe, kindred, nation and tongue under heaven is to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, to receive Him in our hearts, to honor the Son, bow to the Son and to know the Son, just to have Him call my name, to know me.

“If thou shall confess with thy mouth, Jesus to be Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, and God made Him Lord and Christ, thou shalt be saved.” Honor the Son!

Take your Bible and turn to Second Corinthians 5. I'll spend the last few minutes on this scripture. Turn to Second Corinthians 5:18. Let's look at it together. It is very clear, very plain and very necessary. Number One: *“All things are of God.”* All things in creation, all things in providence, all things in salvation are of God. Do you see that?

Watch the next line: *“Who hath reconciled us,”* Who hath brought us back into fellowship, Who hath drawn us back who went astray. Who has forgiven all our iniquities; He hath reconciled us; He hath destroyed the enmity between Himself and us. He hath reconciled us unto Himself. He hath accepted us unto Himself. How has he done this? The answer is by Jesus Christ.

It is not by some water that they put on my head when I was an infant. It wasn't by some promises that I made at a rededication. It was because of some commitments that I made at a revival meeting, but it was by Jesus Christ.

You see, God is Holy and we are sinners. God came to this world in Christ and lived for us that He might impute to us perfect holiness and

He died for us that He might put away our sin. *“He hath reconciled us to Himself.”* It wasn’t by our act but it was by an act of Christ. It wasn’t by our works, but it was the work of Jesus Christ.

Look at the next line, *“And He hath given (to us this gospel), this Word of reconciliation,”* this good news of reconciliation. What is the good news? What is the gospel? What is the testimony? What is the witness? Look at verse 19, *“To wit (namely), that God was in Christ.”* This is what I’ve been saying through this whole message; God was in Christ.

When He was born in Bethlehem, God was born in human flesh. When He walked this earth, it was God. The scripture says, *“Without controversy, great is the mystery of Godliness; God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of the angels, preached to the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”* This is God! That’s right!

He hath given us this gospel of reconciliation, namely that Almighty, *“God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself.”* God was in Christ satisfying His own law, honoring His own commandments, doing His own will, glorifying His own commandments, honoring His own justice and dying to satisfy His own requirements. God was in Christ!

You see; He’s the only one that can honor His law. He had to be *“Made of a woman, made under the law”* because He’s the only one who could honor the law. *“What the law could not do, because it was weak in the flesh, God sending His own Son, in the likeness of sinful flesh, condemned sin in the flesh.”*

Let me say this carefully and I want you to listen. You who won't bow to Christ and consider Christ Jesus or honor Christ Jesus or believe Christ Jesus or receive Him as your Substitute, who is going to honor the law for you? It has to be honored. Who is going to obey God's commandments for you? They have to be obeyed. Who is going to bear the judgment and justice of God for you? It has to be borne. No one but Christ can bear it. God was in Christ honoring His law for those who believe. Who can satisfy His justice? God did it and He's the only one Who can keep His law. He's the only one Who can satisfy His justice. How could one man suffer for so many? The reason is because of who He is; He's God!

The scripture says, "*Not imputing their trespasses to them.*" The word impute means charge. Have you ever gone to the store and bought something and said, "Charge that to me?" That means that it will be put on my account and I will pay for it. Believe me, you don't want sin put on your account, because you can't pay for it. Have you ever bought something that you couldn't pay for? It will put you in a pit won't it? Some say, "I've overextended my plastic card; I over extended my credit, I just can't pay; I'm sorry, I'll have to take bankruptcy. If you take spiritual bankruptcy, you are going to hell!"

That is what we have done; we have overextended. I can't pay. So, God didn't charge it to me; He charged it to Christ. He can pay. He came to save the chief of sinners. "*He's able to save to the uttermost, them that come to God by Him.*" He's able to pay any debt. You can't overextend credit with Christ Jesus. There is no sin that He can't put away, none; charge it to Me. He's not imputing their trespasses unto them, but is charging them to Christ. Let me tell you:

Jesus paid it all

All the debt I owe.
Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow.

He hath committed to us this gospel. God calls and sends preachers to preach this gospel. Some of them dare to do it and some are not bold enough to do it. Some of them are consecrated, and dedicated enough to do it. Some of them don't care for the things of this world, and they want to honor God and they want to preach this gospel; they are going to dare to preach it. Paul said, "He's committed me to do it."

"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God."

Who is speaking? Well, it's Brother Mahan speaking; that is only half of it. If Mahan is telling the truth, God is speaking. If Mahan is preaching the Bible, he's not the only one speaking; God is speaking. We are ambassadors of Christ. *"As though God did beseech you by us."* How else is God going to speak to you if He doesn't speak through a man? *"Be ye reconciled to God."* What is He saying? He's saying, "Lay down your shotgun, put down your sword, stack your arms, surrender and bow to the Lord Jesus Christ." *"Be reconciled to God. There's no other name given among men whereby we must be saved."*

Now, watch this last verse; there are three people that I want to make mention of. *"He hath made Him to be sin for us."* He the (Father), has made Him, (the Son), to be sin, (to be a sacrifice for sin for us). Here are three people (Father, the Son and the sinner), *"That we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."* That is the gospel and *"He that honoreth the Son, honoreth the Father."* The person who sits

there, wherever you are, and whatever time it is, wherever you are listening, it is not saying that I am right, it is saying that the gospel is right, and the scriptures are right. God is also right and the truth is right.

What that man is saying is so. I am a sinner and God is Holy. The only one who can take care of my sins and put away my guilt and reconcile me to God and restore my soul is the Lord Jesus Christ. It is because the Father hath made Him sin for us. *“He was made flesh and dwelt among us.”* He made Him to be sin for us in order that we might be made the Holiness of God in Him.

Honor the Son! *“That all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honoreth not the Son honoreth not the Father which hath sent him.”*