



October 16, 2022

*“Obedience Proves Right Relationship”*

*SS 9:30, Service at 10:30 with King’s Kids.*

*News:*

**Wednesday Classes – Fall Festival Wednesday, October 26, 5:30-7:30**

330 N. Somers Rd. (Mail: PO Box 10626) Kalispell, MT 59904~ (406) 755-1776

Visit the website ~ [www.myaletheia.com](http://www.myaletheia.com)

Like us on Facebook (aletheiachristianfellowship)

Emails: pastor@myaletheia.com, stacey.sundt@myaletheia.com

**JOHN 7:11-14 ~**

The “\_\_\_\_\_” in verse 11 are the same as the “\_\_\_\_\_” in verse 13, as well as the “\_\_\_\_\_” in verse 1 of this chapter. Those who were specifically “seeking to \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.” The “Feast of the Jews” was a feast hosted by those trying to \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.

As you study your Bible keep these contextual \_\_\_\_\_ clear.

**JOHN 7:15-18 ~**

Jesus was an amazing teacher, but they knew that He wasn’t an \_\_\_\_\_ Rabbi. How did this man from Galilee get this knowledge? It was shocking, not just because they couldn’t figure it out, but because the most plausible answer was the answer Jesus actually gave... It was \_\_\_\_\_ teaching.

Jesus chastised them for not knowing God – anyone knowing \_\_\_\_\_, would recognize \_\_\_\_\_.

Then He said that they were actually \_\_\_\_\_ to do God’s Will.

It was their \_\_\_\_\_ to do God’s Will that led to their inability to know God.

*Fill out the other side, detach this part of the page, and place it in the offering plate or the prayer/suggestion box in the lobby or with an Elder or Deacon of the church.*

*God Bless You!*

God is, Who God is. We are the \_\_\_\_\_ and so, we must \_\_\_\_\_ to Him. That creates a conflict between our will and God's Will. The two will never match up in this life – it is a constant war with fresh new battles every day.

When, and only when, a person yields to the power of the Holy Spirit in a genuine desire to \_\_\_\_\_ God, can the person know God.

You see if we are still trying to get \_\_\_\_\_ will done, we will, distort \_\_\_\_\_.

The wise person would strive to maximize their degree of obedience and therefore their degree of \_\_\_\_\_ God more accurately, so that they can \_\_\_\_\_ God more intimately.

The final chastisement is that they speak from their own resources and agenda seeking their own \_\_\_\_\_. Now, in reality, all three chastisements are really the \_\_\_\_\_ thing in the end.

### **JOHN 7:19-25 ~**

This was a charge of legalistic religiosity \_\_\_\_\_ knowing God through the Law and acting the way He would act.

In verse 20 the crowd stepped in to \_\_\_\_\_ their leaders. At this point they still didn't know who Jesus was.

Jesus responded with an allusion to His healing of the man at the Pool of Bethesda on the Sabbath (John 5:1-18). He then went on to chastise them for their \_\_\_\_\_ to that healing.

How do you know which Law is greater? The Sabbath Law, as with all of the Laws, wasn't intended to be a legalistic stick to \_\_\_\_\_ people, it was intended to be a \_\_\_\_\_ to improve the lives of God's children. "Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath?"

When people allow the Father to \_\_\_\_\_ them, they discover Who He is and according to the Bible when we know God, we also know His \_\_\_\_\_. The only way to actively obey God is to know His Will, which is to know Him through His Word, as opposed to knowing His Word as a legal code that He wants enforced.

Write a brief note – detach and place in the offering, or the prayer box, or give it to a Deacon or Elder.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



# Aletheia

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP



**Please Join Us!**

**ALETHEIA'S FALL FAMILY  
EVENT**

**WHEN: WEDNESDAY  
OCTOBER 26<sup>TH</sup> 5:30-7:30**

**WHERE: NEW BUILDING**

### What to bring:

Your favorite Soup, Stew, Chili, or Chowder to share

Kids can enjoy all our fun Fall booth games

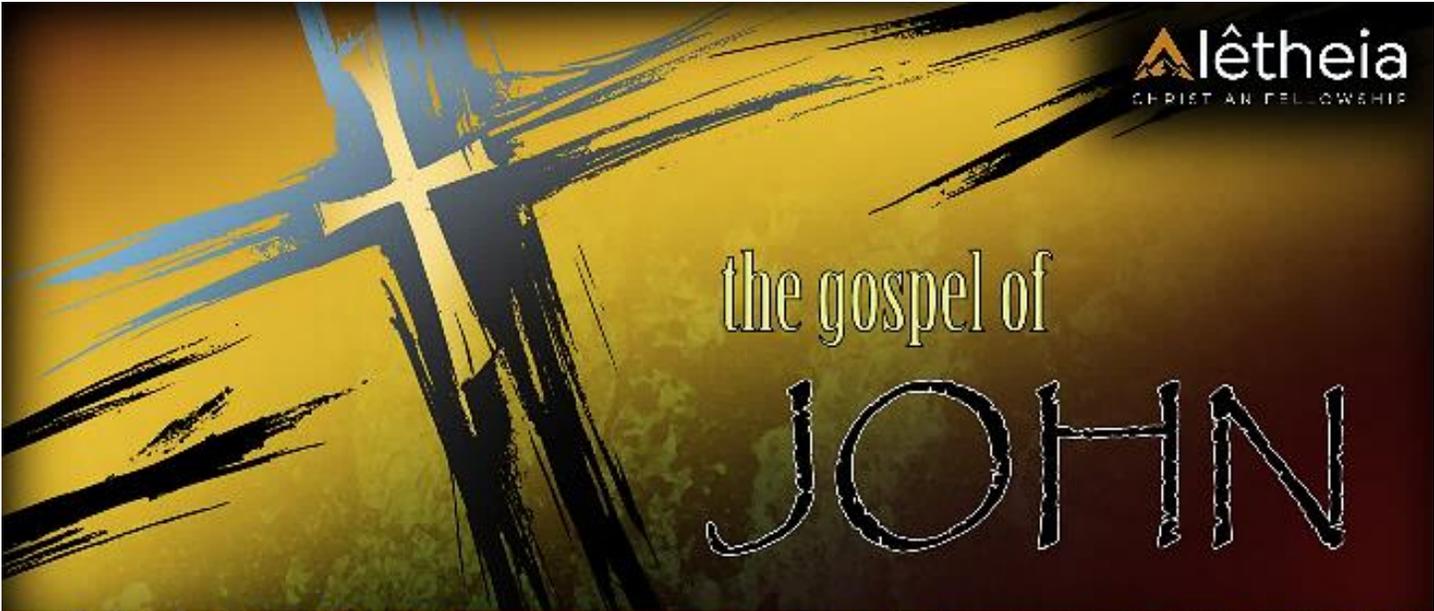
to win Candy & Prizes

Kids, bring your decorated pumpkins for a pumpkin  
contest three categories (Funniest, Most Creative,  
Superhero's)

Adults can enjoy great food, fellowship, music

Come & enjoy great food, tasty desert & hot drinks to  
warm up!





ΕΝ ΑΡΧΗ ΗΝ Ο ΛΟΓΟΣ ΚΑΙ Ο ΛΟΓΟΣ ΕΗΝ ΠΡΟΣ ΤΟΝ  
ΘΕΟΝ ΚΑΙ ΘΕΤΗΝ Ο ΛΟΓΟΣ ΕΣΤΙΝ ΟΣ ΗΝ ΕΝ ΑΡΧΗ ΠΡΟΣ  
ΤΟΝ ΘΕΟΝ ΠΑΝΤΑ ΔΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΕΓΕΝΕΣΤΟ ΚΑΧΩΡΙΣ



Last time we were together we looked at the confrontation between Jesus and His brothers. They chided Him to be the big man and show the whole world Who He was at the “feast of the Jews.” Jesus refused to go up to that feast...



John 7:11-14, 11So the Jews were seeking Him at the feast and were saying, “Where is He?” 12There was much grumbling among the crowds concerning Him; some were saying, “He is a good man”; others were saying, “No, on the contrary, He leads the people astray.” 13Yet no one was speaking openly of Him for fear of the Jews. 14But when it was now the midst of

the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and began to teach.

The “Jews” in verse 11 that we started with are the same as the “Jews” in verse 13. They are different than the “crowds,” of verse 12. It’s two different groups.

<sup>1</sup>After these things Jesus was walking in Galilee, for He was unwilling to walk in Judea because the Jews were seeking to kill Him. <sup>2</sup>Now the feast of the Jews, the Feast of Booths, was near...

<sup>8</sup>“Go up to the feast yourselves; I do not go up to this feast because My time has not yet fully come.”

<sup>11</sup>So the Jews were seeking Him at the feast and were saying, “Where is He?” <sup>12</sup>There was much grumbling among the crowds concerning Him...

<sup>13</sup>Yet no one was speaking openly of Him for fear of the Jews.

The “Jews” here in today’s passage are also the same as the “Jews” in verse 1 of this chapter. Those who were specifically “seeking to kill Jesus.” In addition, the “Feast of the Jews” that John takes pains to mention in verse 2 would then be the feast that those trying to murder Jesus were hosting – that’s the “This feast” that Jesus refused to attend. To be clear, the Feast of

Booths, or Tabernacles, had been entirely corrupted from the Feast that God mandated in the Torah. The proof of that fact, is that the Jews putting on the feast to honor God, were also actively trying to kill God.

Think about the irony. Think about the fundamental concept that I've been trying to hammer away at for over a month. These deeply devout, religiously fervent, piously staunch, Jewish leaders had no idea that they were worshipping a God of their own manufacture – a God so vastly different from the One True God revealed in Scripture, that they not only didn't recognize Him, but they also wanted to slaughter Him...

And why? Because they were so confused with their own opinions, they actually thought doing so would honor God! It's crazy incongruous self-contradiction. I want to kill God, in order to please God because God's power is being used by a person who is not acting like my idea of how a Godly person would act.

Again, the point for us, is make certain that the Jesus you trust, the Spirit you follow, the Father you obey, the

Almighty God you serve, is actually the One True God Who is, and not a distortion of your own desire.

To put a bow on it, Jesus would not attend that corrupted feast put on by those corrupt people and pretend that it honored God. Just as Jesus is not attending church services across the globe today that worship a distorted view of God. A distorted and false god of prosperity. A distorted and false god of political ideology. A distorted and false god of celebrity. A distorted and false god of any number of other man-made things. Now, that was a necessary side eddy from my main point concerning the “Jews” and the “crowds”. It’s the reason that I haven’t left this slide – so let’s get back to it...

Again, the “Jews” in this context are those seeking to destroy Jesus. It’s really important in your study of the Bible to keep these contextual connections clear. Failing to do so, will, as a minimum, give you a wrong impression. When I read the verses, how many thought that the “Jews” and the “crowds” of verses 11 and 12 were the same people?

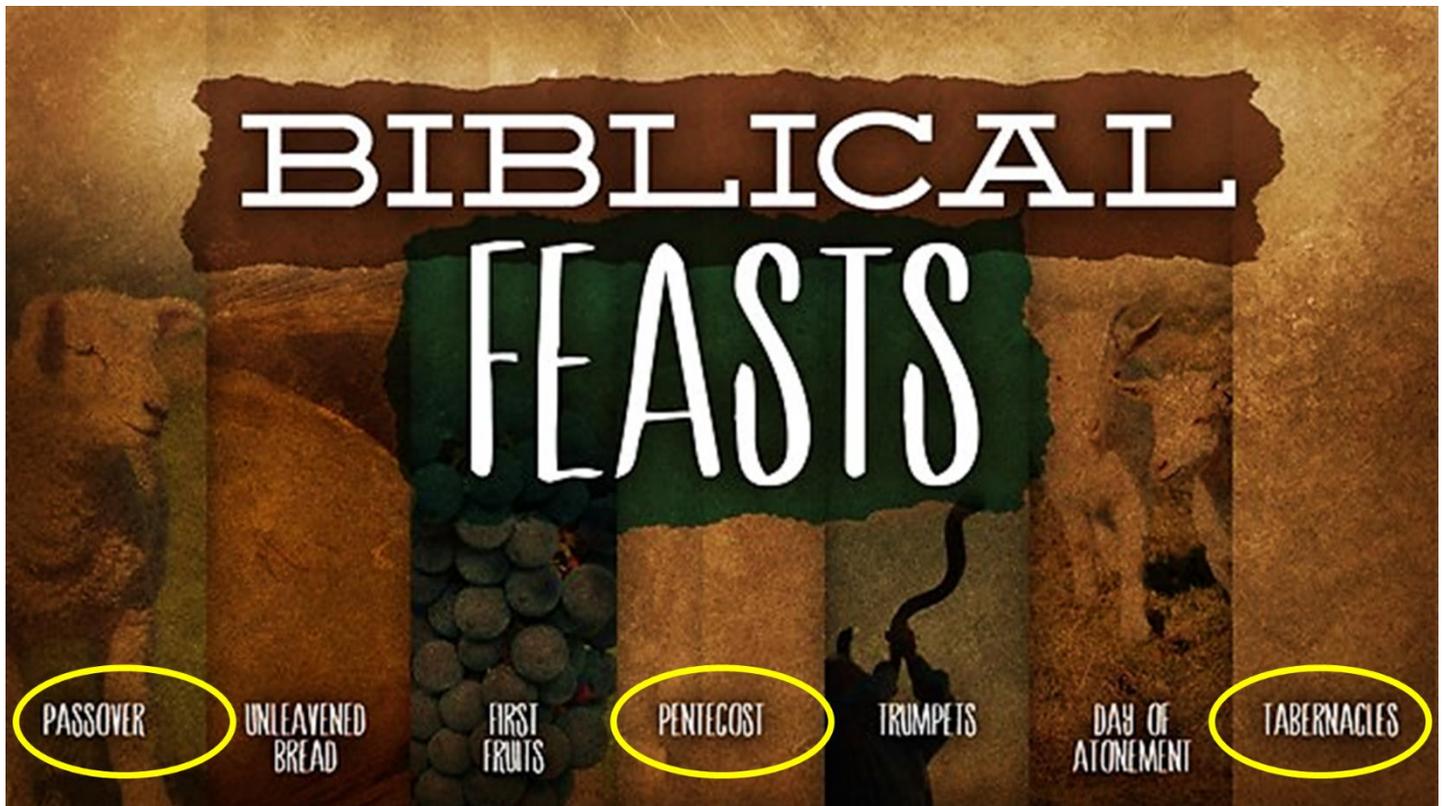
That problem is exacerbated by the translation that obscures a nuance in the question that the “Jews” ask in verse 11.

Their question is rendered “Where is He?” That’s what the words essentially mean, but that’s not the whole story. As it is we get the idea that it’s just curiosity and could easily mistake the Jews of verse 11 with the general Jewish crowds of verse 12. We cannot make that mistake with the original language. So not only do we have a difference between the groups from the context, but we also have a difference between the groups from the grammar of the question asked in verse 11 as well – a difference lost in translation.

Their question would be better translated more literally as, “Where is that man?” In Greek that is an intentional way to ask the question, “Where is He?” in a negative, hostile, and disparaging way – “Where is that man?” It carries a ring of frustration when understood properly. That tells us that the question was asked by the Jews seeking to kill Jesus, not the crowds murmuring about Him.

The “Jews” here, we’ll see later, are primarily the Pharisees associated with the Sanhedrin, the Jewish ruling council. It wasn’t that the Sadducees were not just as eager to assassinate Jesus, it’s just that the overly zealous Pharisees were taking the more active role of trying to capture Him. The Sanhedrin as a whole had already determined that Jesus was a threat Who needed to be eliminated.

The “crowds,” by contrast, were uncertain and secretly discussed many different ideas and opinions about Jesus. They were the common people attending the feast.



You see the people flocked to Jerusalem three times a year for the three most-important religious feasts – the Passover in the spring, Pentecost 50 days later in early summer, and then “this” Feast of Booths in the fall. This one was probably the most joyous of those times. As the people flooded the city the rumors about Jesus and all that He had done were passing through the crowd like wildfire. There was all kinds of chatter, gossip, and speculation. The people knew that the Pharisees were actively trying to arrest Jesus and knew that if their conversation about Him was overheard, they might find themselves questioned, harassed, or even implicated... They speculated about Jesus carefully.

About halfway through the festival Jesus, incognito, without fanfare, without calling attention to Himself, began teaching the people the true meaning of the Tabernacle.



John 7:15-18, 15The Jews then were astonished, saying, “How has this man become learned, having never been educated?” 16So Jesus answered them and said, “My teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me. 17“If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself. 18“He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who is seeking the glory of the One who sent Him, He is true, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

The “Jews” – those religiously educated leaders who were hostile to Jesus were “astonished” by Him in the

way He was teaching. They, like all elites throughout time, knew their own and they knew that Jesus wasn't in their club.

They easily recognized that He was an incredibly wise and knowledgeable teacher, an exceptionally skilled and confident Rabbi, but they also knew that He wasn't an official Rabbi. He wasn't one of them. He wasn't a Herodian Royal, He wasn't a Sadducean Nobleman, He wasn't an Ordained Pharisee, He wasn't the disciple of a respected Scribe, He wasn't a graduate of any Rabbinical school abroad, He wasn't one of them, so, how was this possible?

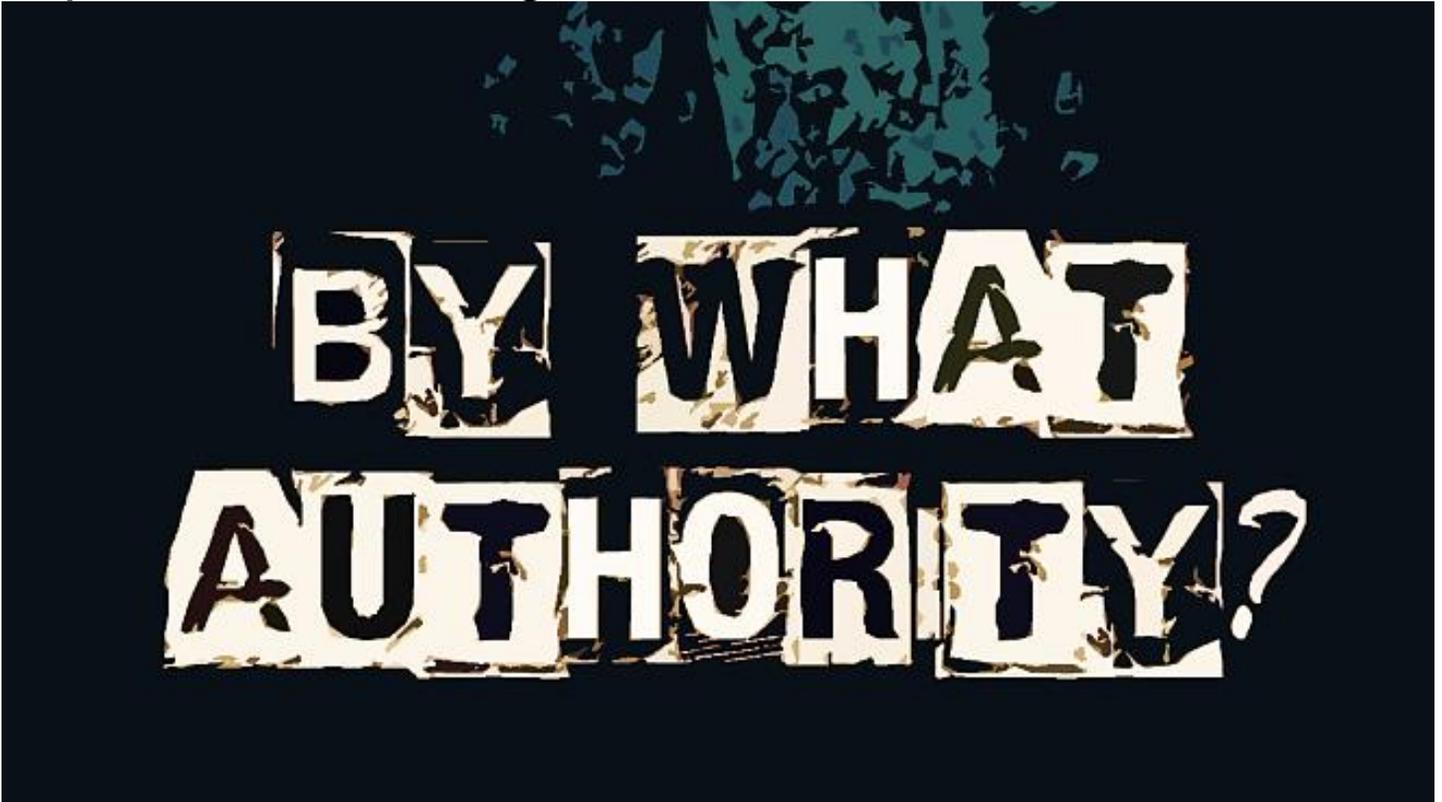


The stunning nature of their confusion is lost on us a bit because we need to remember, this was long before the information age. This was before YouTube, how to, videos. Before online school, before correspondence courses, before mail order home studies, and even before public libraries. In those days even if you were brilliant and deeply wanted to learn, it was impossible to do so – impossible to even learn to read and write, unless you taught by an educator in person – unless you went to a school of some kind, so how did this man from Galilee get this knowledge?

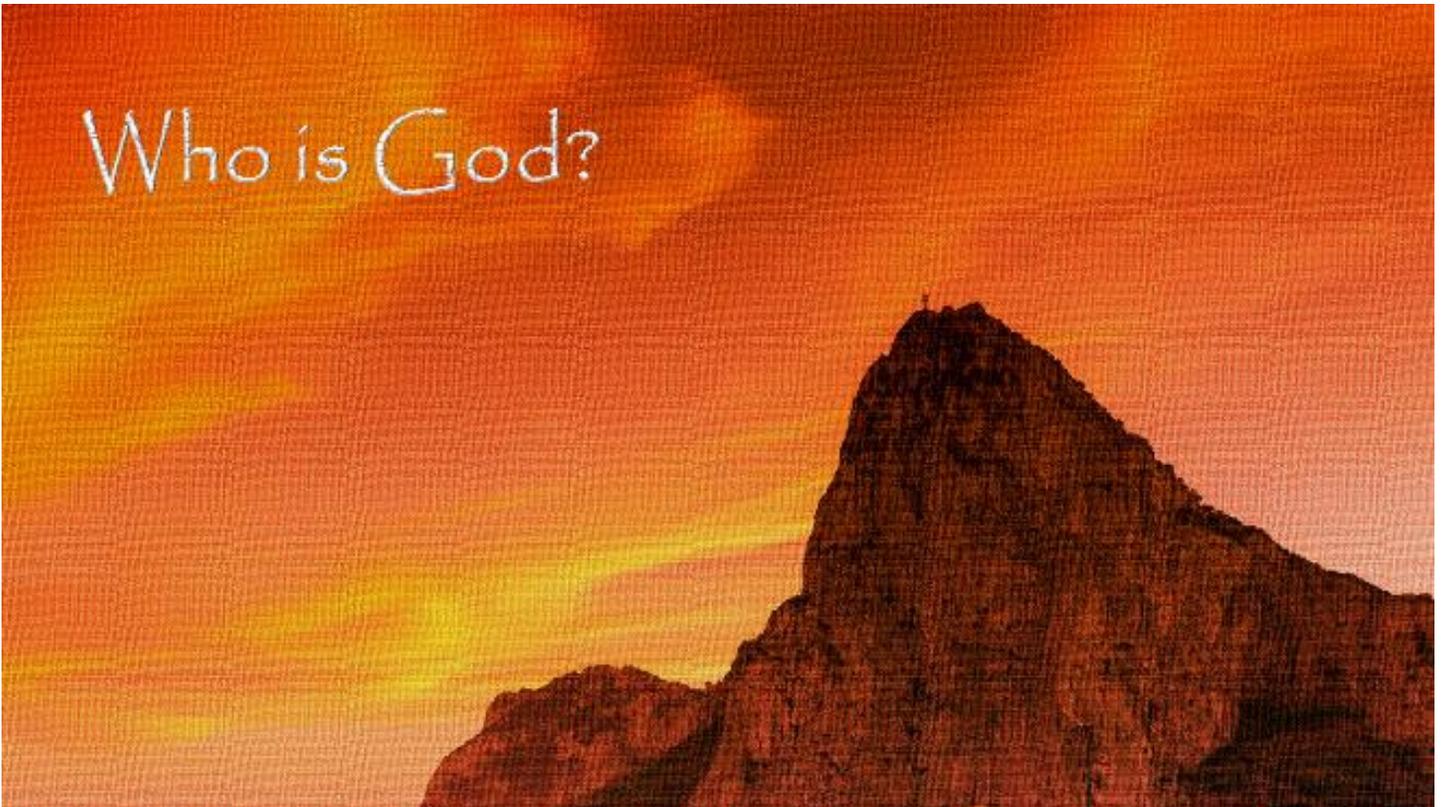
At this point the “crowd” didn’t know that they were listening to Jesus – they hadn’t yet recognized Him as the man that they were all chattering about. Whether the Jews recognized Him at the beginning of the exchange is a bit uncertain. At some point they figured it out, but whenever it was that they recognized Him, they were shocked into inaction by His teaching and the conundrum that it posed.

They were, as noted, “astonished.” It’s the same word used in describing the Apostles returning from getting food to find Jesus alone at Jacob’s Well talking to a Samaritan woman. It was shocking, not just because

they couldn't figure it out, but because the most plausible answer was the answer Jesus actually gave... It was actually a teaching from God – it was a supernatural message - a miracle of God.



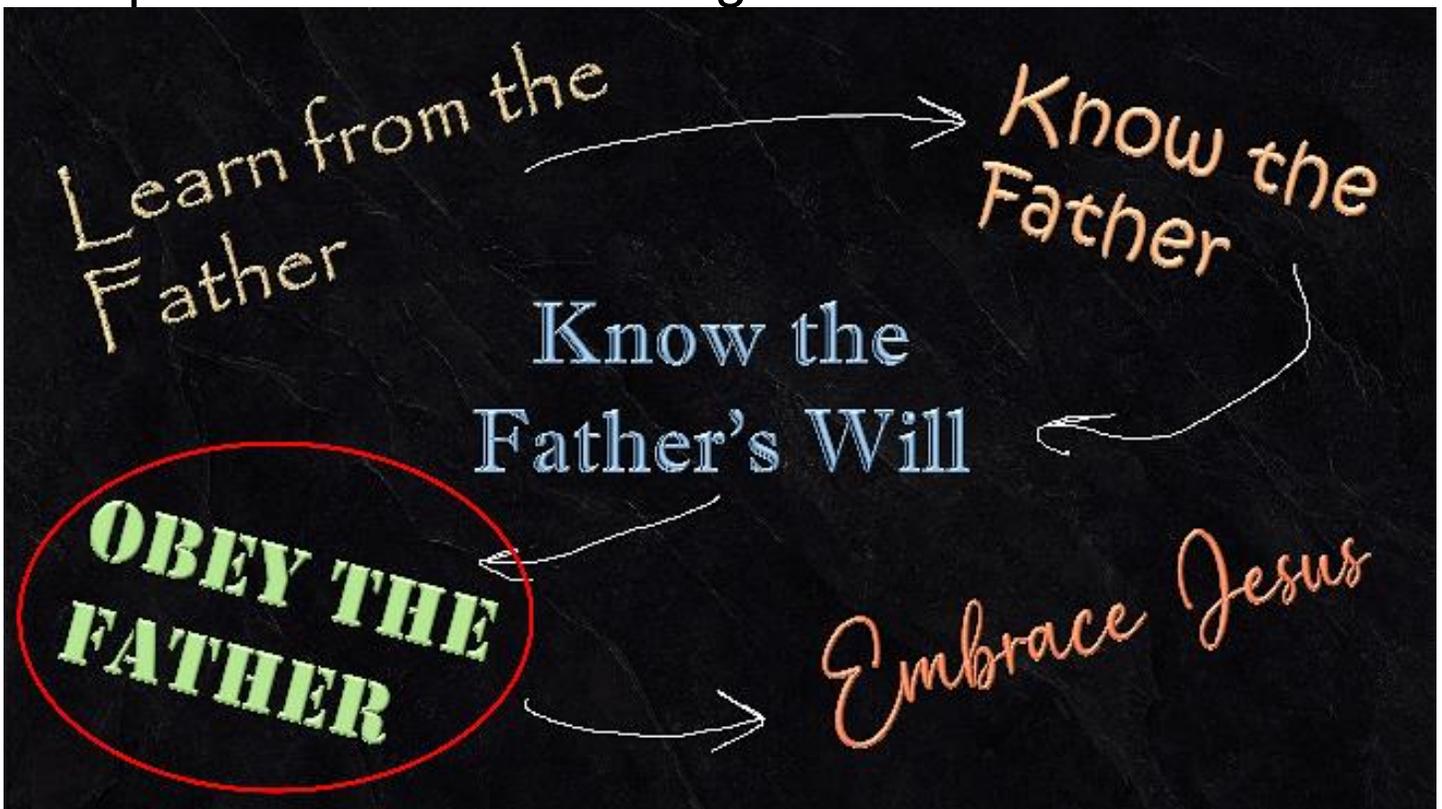
The “Jews” gained their composure and posed the question directly to Jesus. It was probably something like “Where did you get your seminary degree?” It was meant to be disparaging but was also meant to be a challenge to His authority. It is really the same question as “By what authority do You teach these things?”



Jesus responded with an answer that once again proved that the religiously zealous Jews didn't know the God, they thought they served, because they didn't recognize God when He was standing in front of them teaching them His Holy Truth.

He clearly stated that He was on the Father's business and was only doing and saying precisely what the Father desired and as such, anyone knowing the Father would immediately know Him – would know that Jesus was identical to the Father. Since they didn't recognize the Father in Jesus, they had proved that they didn't know the Father at all.

Beyond the chastisement that they didn't know God, is the chastisement that they were actually unwilling to do God's Will. In fact, and this is important for us, it was their unwillingness to do God's Will that led to their inability to know God and so their inability to truly accept Jesus as God Among Us.



Please get that my dear friends. It is our unwillingness to do the Father's Will that prevents us from knowing Him and then prevents us from fully embracing Jesus as our Lord and Savior. It can break down anywhere in the process but when we do not want to obey God, we

psychologically distort Him, so that we can modify His Will, so we can feel okay about rebelling against Him.

How does that work? God is, Who God is. That's more profound than it sounds. God told us that very thing when speaking from the Burning Bush.



Moses asked, “Who shall I say sent me?” God responded with His Word, “I AM, that which I AM,” It is pure existence. Pure existence does not and cannot change.

We have absolutely no experience with existence in that truest sense. As the Greek philosopher Heraclitus

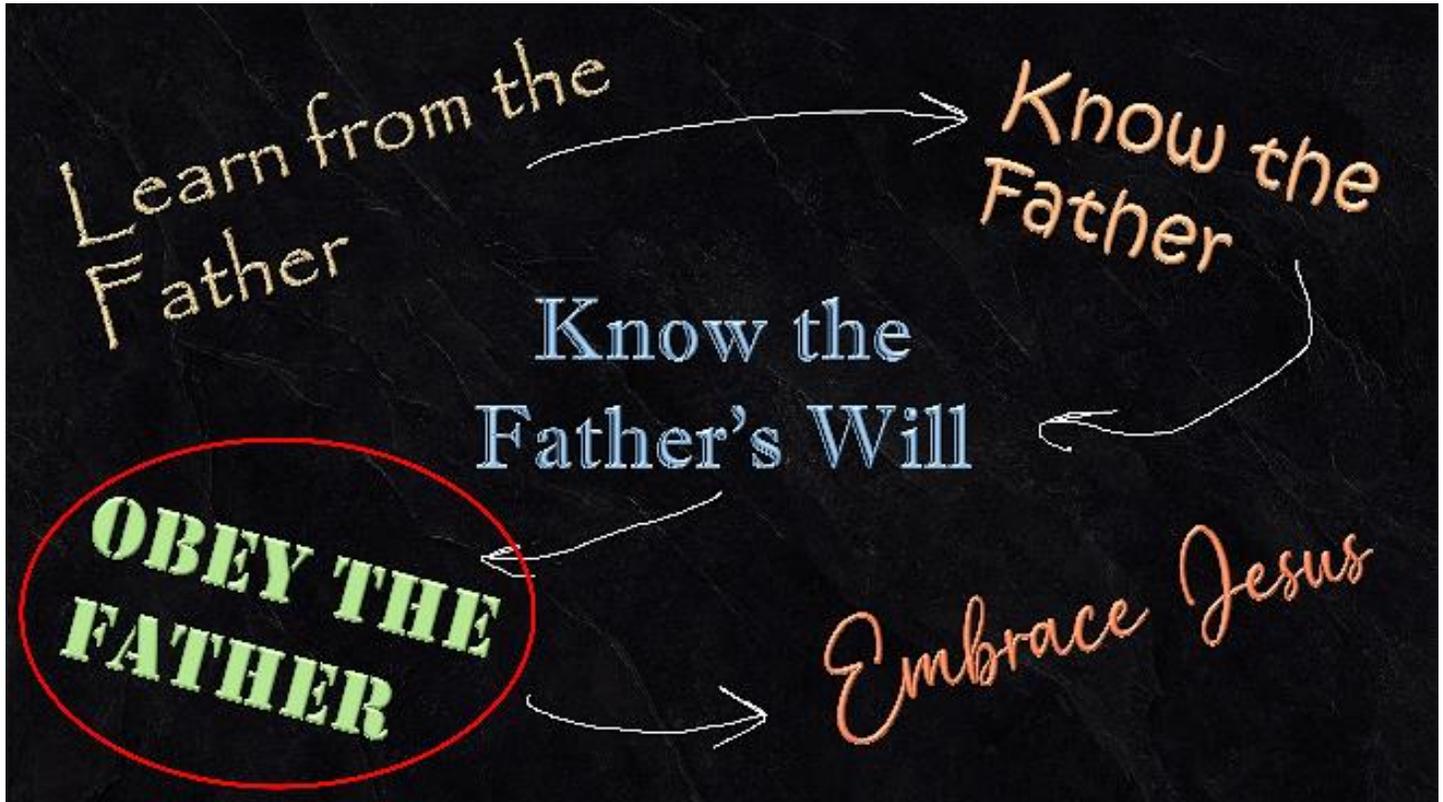
pointed out 25 centuries ago, everything in our universe from the stars to us is in a constant state of flux – always changing, never the same, always becoming, never existent.

God cannot be like that. That's not just an opinion, that's a necessary Truth. The universe as part of an entropic, cyclic, devolving, system cannot exist without a beginning and that beginning cannot itself be entropic. Even Heraclitus knew that.

The God of the Bible alone is the One Who declares that Truth and identifies Himself as that One True unchangeable, immutable, without beginning and without end, the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow, the One and Only eternally existent God Who is that which He is.

Because God is, and will not change... Because we are the opposite and constantly change, we must conform to Him. Because God is perfect and we are not, we must be transformed into what He is – we must be changed.

That creates a war with which all humans are intimately familiar, even if most of us have never acknowledged it. There is a conflict between our wish, will and desire, and God's wish, will and desire.

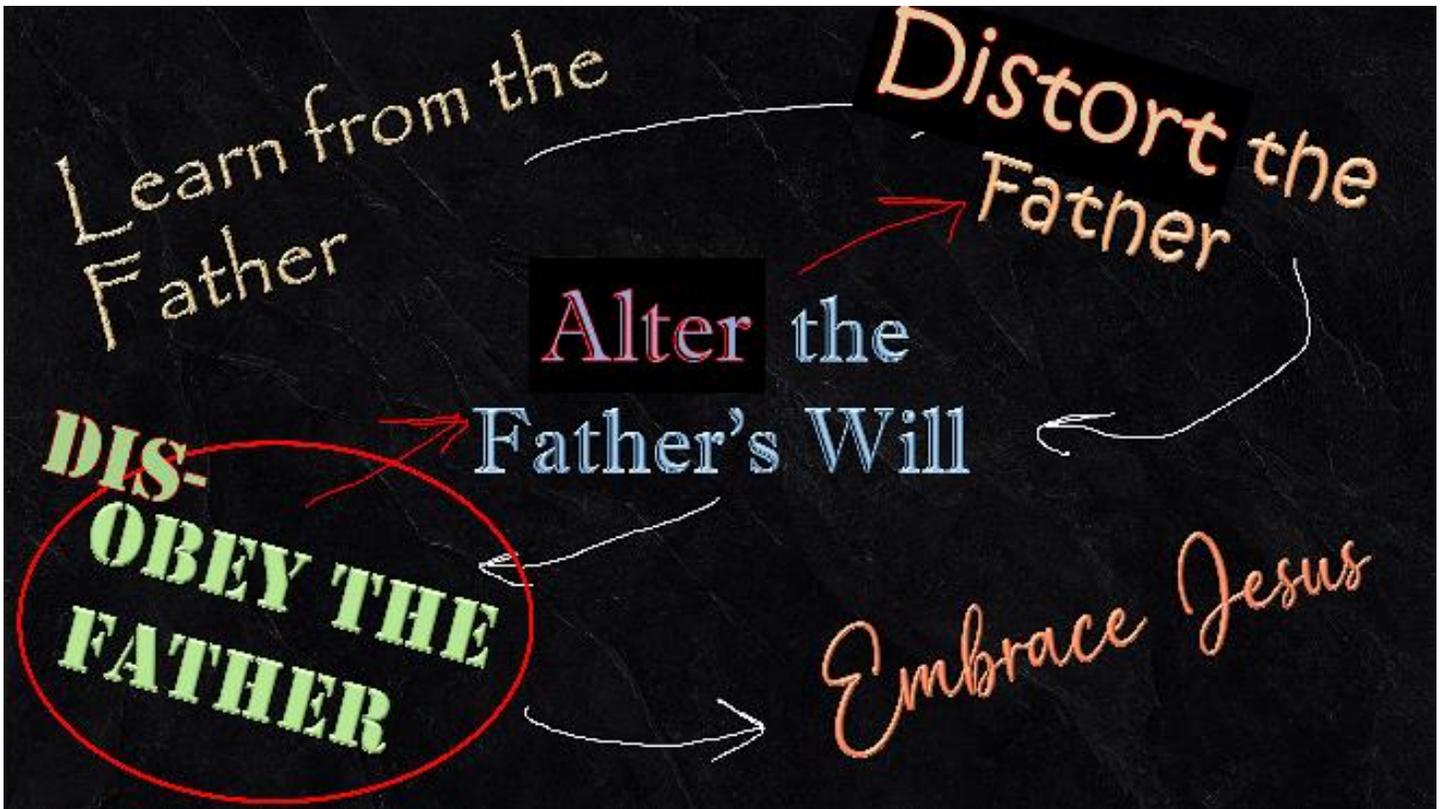


The two will never match up in this life – it is a constant war with fresh new battles every day. Our hopes, dreams, plans and agendas over against God's Divine Will. When a person is "Born again," to use Jesus' Own terminology, we receive the indwelling Holy Spirit and a choice. The choice is to continue to pursue our own will, or to allow the Holy Spirit to aid us in pursuing God's Will.

When, and only when, a person yields to the power of the Holy Spirit in a genuine desire to obey God, can the person know God. You see if we are still trying to get our will done, we will, out of sheer necessity distort God.

Notice that wanting to obey God more than obeying your own lust is the same thing as repenting. See, we are all start out on the path to self-fulfillment and must recognize it as the wrong path – it's our path – it's a rebellion-filled path of distrust, and consciously turn away from it, and pursue the right path – God's path – an obedience-filled path of faith.

Notice that repentance is the same as desiring God's Will done on earth as opposed to our will done in Heaven. Notice that when we are honest about wanting it that way, we are open to Who God really is and we can come to know the True Him better.



Conversely, when I am trying to get my agenda accomplished, I must distort the True God in order to rationalize my irrational choice to act as though I know better than Him.

Our ability to know who God is, is directly tied to our willingness to give up on our ideas and opinions and adopt His – no matter how crazy they may seem to us.

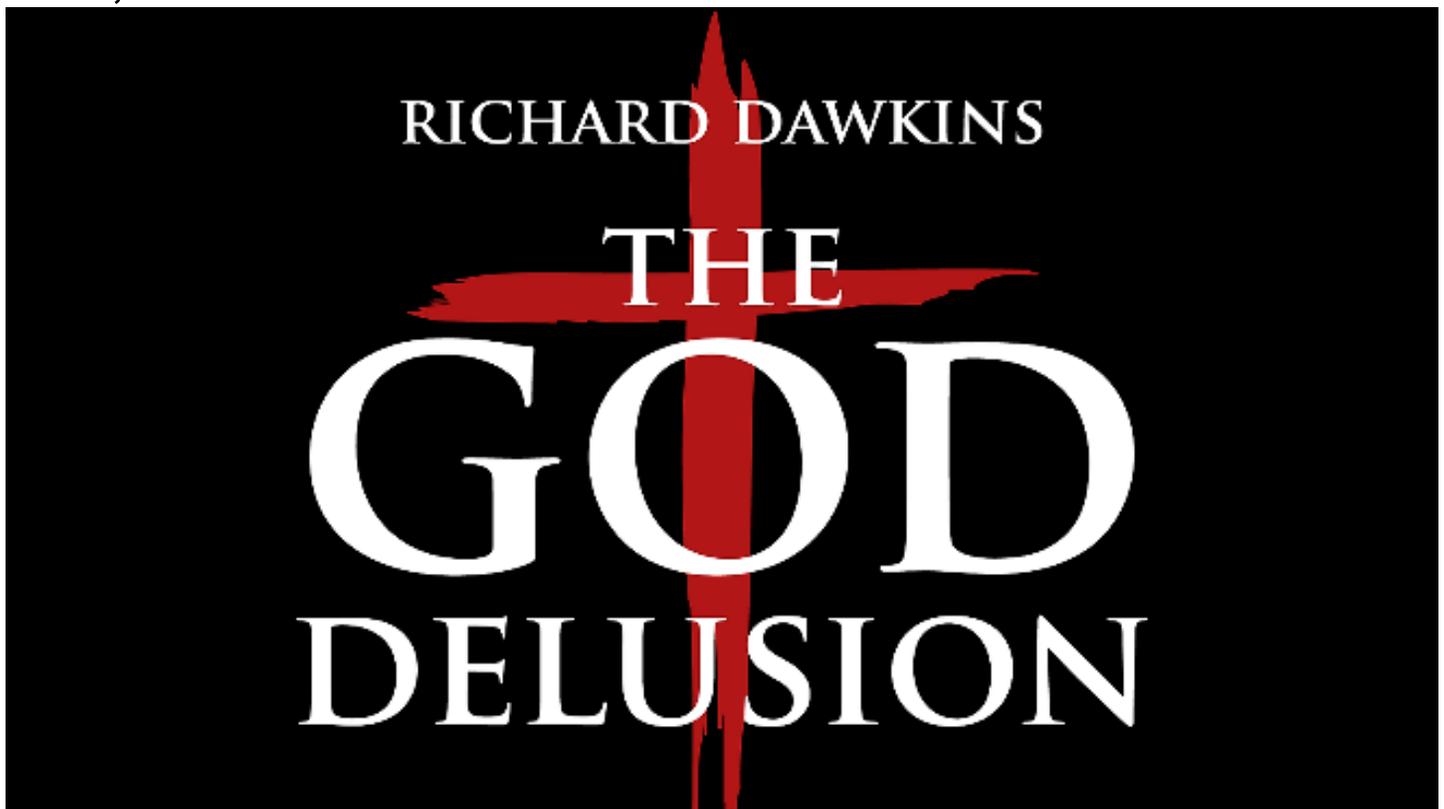
Now that works across the board for all humans in all situations. It just comes down to a matter of degree – what is the minimum degree? Well, I don't know and neither do you, so the wise person would strive to

maximize their degree of obedience and therefore their degree of knowing God more accurately, so that they can know God more intimately.



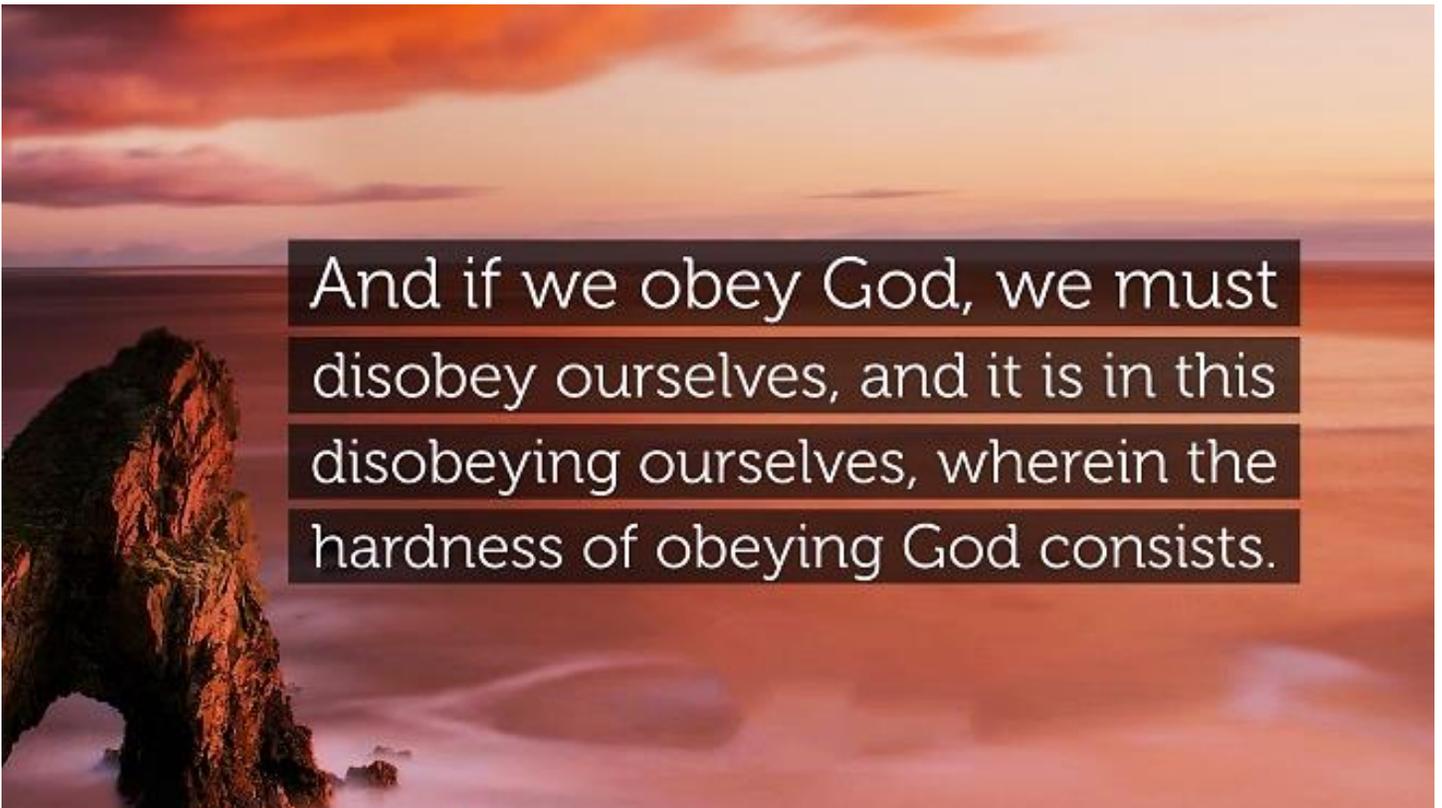
Look, when you get married you don't know the other person nearly as well as you think you do. You know an idealized version that is part them, and a much bigger part, your projection of them. What you love and what you are marrying is an illusion, an artifice of your own desire. After 30 years of marriage together, however you feel about your spouse and your marriage, the Truth is your love for them is far greater than on the day you said, "I do." On that day, the person you loved was yourself, how you felt to be in love, how the other

person made you feel wanted and the distorted image you had about who they were. After 3 decades, nearly all of that has been stripped away and whatever love you have is real because it is actually for them as they are. It's that way with God. When we enthusiastically love our distorted image of God, it's not really love for Him, is it?



I said it works for all people regardless of where they're at. If I'm a non-Christian, I make God a delusion of the masses, or I make Him a lazy god who does not care, or a judgmental god who is impossible to please, or a brutal god allowing evil to flourish. Then my derision of Him is justified in my mind. If I am a Christian, I make

God someone Who wants me to be happy, or rich, or healthy. Whatever our particular projection of God, it is a false God to the degree necessary to allow us to pursue what we want to pursue with a semi-clear conscience. Dawkins is actually right about the God delusion as far as the human proclivity to distort God. What He's wrong about is the fact that just because Truth is hard to find, it doesn't mean that it doesn't exist.



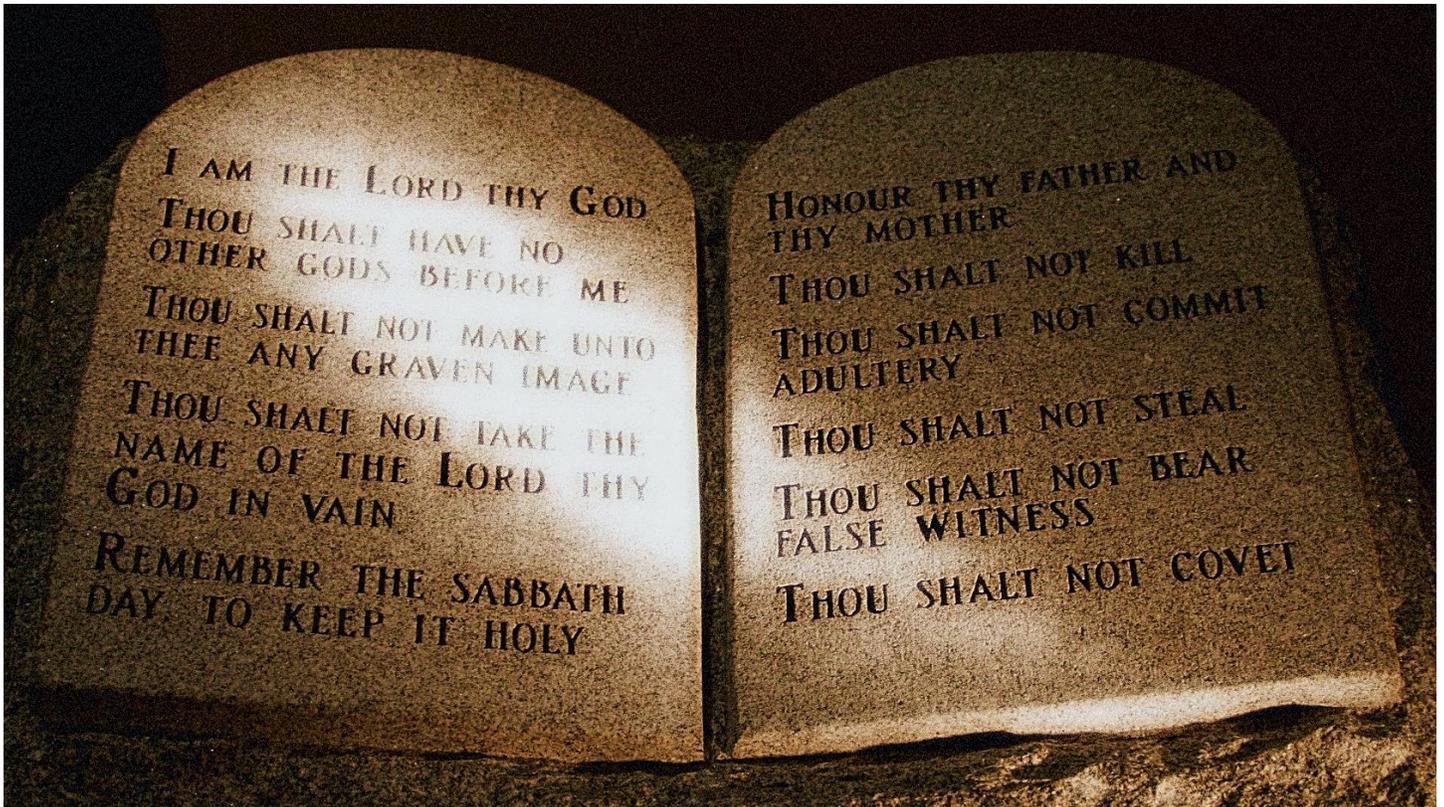
And if we obey God, we must  
disobey ourselves, and it is in this  
disobeying ourselves, wherein the  
hardness of obeying God consists.

Our ability to know God comes down to our willingness to obey Him regardless of how that affects our idea of how things should be. In a word, it is trust. Do you trust the Will of your Heavenly Father? Do you believe in

Jesus as your only Lord and Savior? Will you have enough faith in the Holy Spirit to allow Him to manage your life?

The final chastisement comes as Jesus subtly and yet forcefully tells them that they, in contrast with Himself, serve their own interests, rather than God's interests. They minister, worship, and serve as religious leaders to advance their own position, prestige, and power. They speak from their own resources and agenda seeking their own glory.

Now, in reality, all three chastisements are really the same thing in the end – a self-focus as opposed to a God-focus, even though they dressed it up in a God-focused wrapper. Because of that, their God was a self-made distortion, and their religion was a self-made delusion. They did not know the God they purported to honor at all.



John 7:19-25, 19“Did not Moses give you the Law, and yet none of you carries out the Law? Why do you seek to kill Me?” 20The crowd answered, “You have a demon! Who seeks to kill You?” 21Jesus answered them, “I did one deed, and you all marvel. 22“For this reason Moses has given you circumcision (not because it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and on the Sabbath you circumcise a man. 23“If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath so that the Law of Moses will not be broken, are you angry with Me because I made an entire man well on the Sabbath? 24“Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.” 25So some of the people of

Jerusalem were saying, “Is this not the man whom they are seeking to kill?”

There’s a lot to unpack there and we could spend a great deal of time doing it, but I think you get the gist well enough that I’ll just point out a few details.

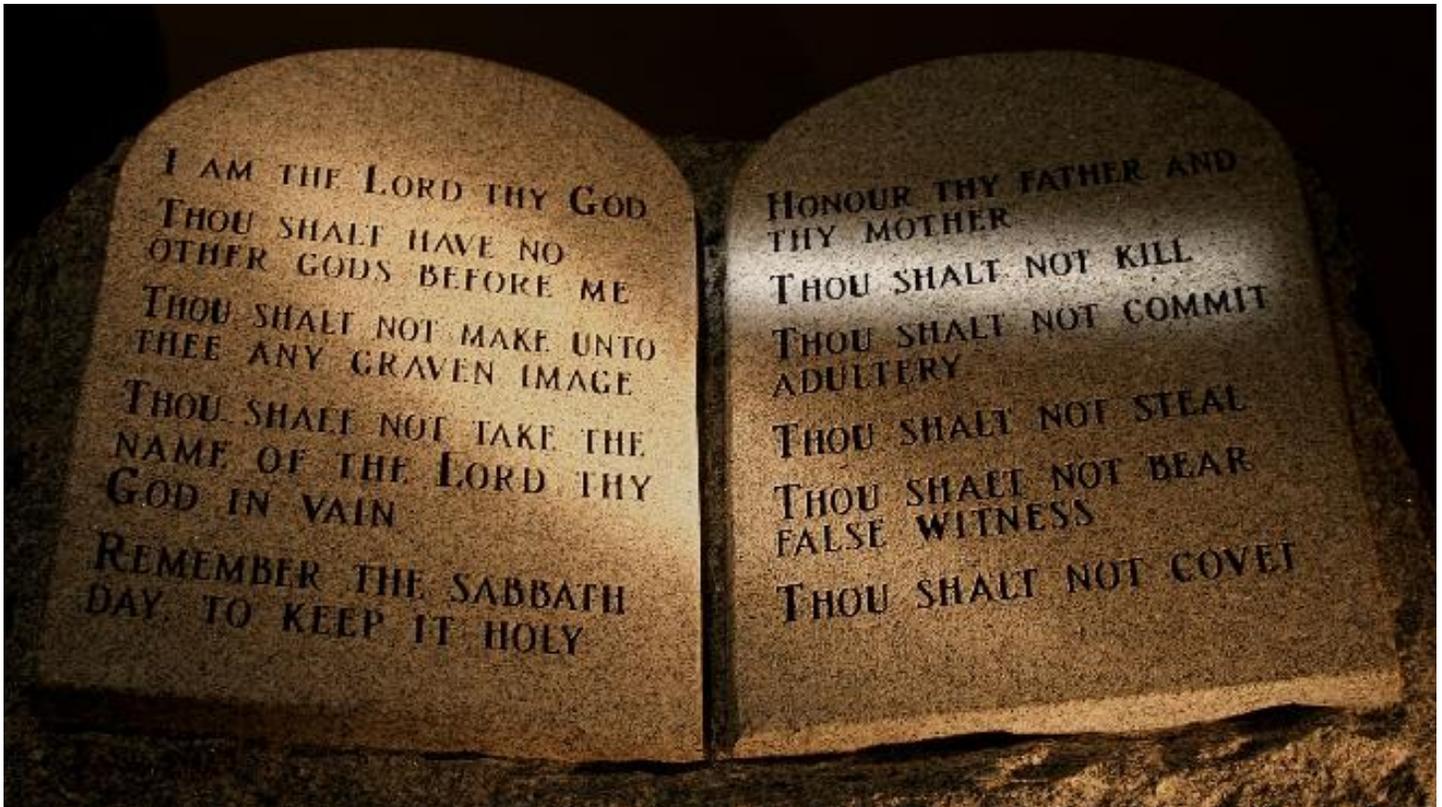
First, in verse 19, Jesus was still addressing the opposition Jews, not the crowd. It was a direct and scathing accusation of disobedience to God’s Holy Law. The NASB correctly renders the first bit as a question, and I think captures the rhetorical nature of it as a given – as a question that functions like a statement. In Greek the answer is part of the question, and it expects an affirmative – yes, Moses gave the Jews the Law. By using a rhetorical question, it gets the Jews invested – yes, Moses gave us the Law.

Jesus mentioned that it was Moses who gave them the Law because they esteemed Moses more than they esteemed God Himself – at least in their actions, and that was the point. They honored Moses and were extremely proud to be the recipients of the Law of God through Him, but they didn’t actually follow the Law they so revered.

This was a charge of legalistic religiosity versus knowing God through the Law and acting the way He would act. It's following the letter of the Law even though doing so violates the spirit of the Law. It is legalism versus justice.

Anytime we have a legal system in place it devolves into precedence, procedure, argument, and interpretation, which becomes cold and calculating, black and white, stark, and unemotional judgment devoid of kindness or mercy. As my Law professor in college said on our first day of class, concerning our legal system, "There is no such thing as justice, there is only the law."

The law can be twisted to such a point that anyone can be destroyed by it regardless of their innocence and anyone can be vindicated by it regardless of their guilt. And it can do that while making those immoral judgments seem justifiable, honorable, and good. The Jews loved the Law and their endless interpretations and extrapolations of it because they were able to wield it as what seemed like a weapon of godly righteousness, that really only served their interests.



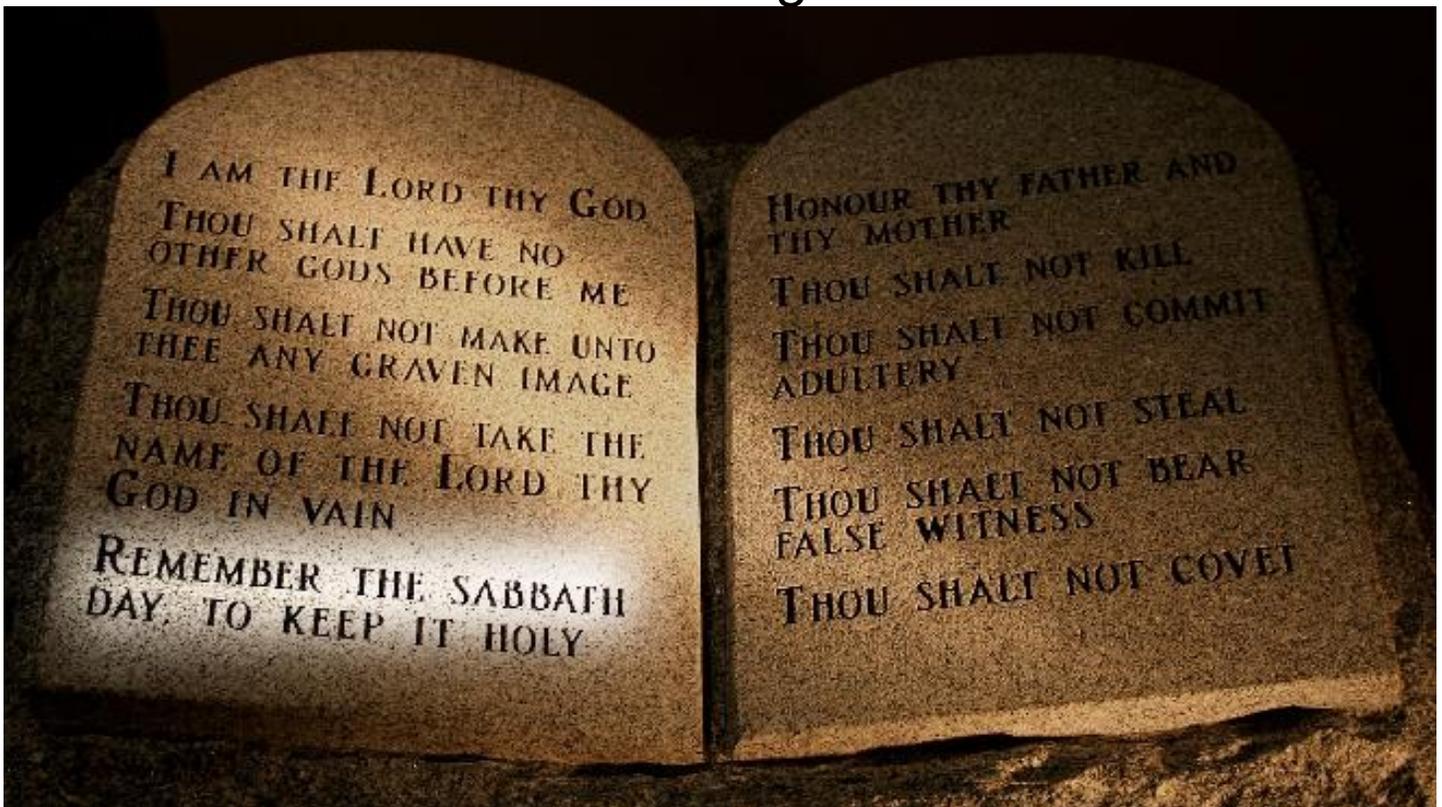
The specific charge Jesus made against them had to do with the Great Commandment “Thou shalt not kill.” It was one example to prove His point.

That’s what Jesus was alluding to, but what everyone standing there heard, was an attack on the religious seriousness of the Jewish leaders. In verse 20 we see that the crowd now stepped in to defend their leaders and by extension themselves.

At this point they still didn’t know who He was – they hadn’t yet connected the dots and realized that He was the Jesus they had all been wondering about.

So, they derided Him as a crazy demon-possessed person for saying that the Jews wanted to kill Him. You're a paranoid conspiracy theorist – no one's trying to kill you! As the guy said, "Just because you're paranoid, it doesn't mean that they're not after you."

Jesus responded with an allusion to His healing of the man at the Pool of Bethesda on the Sabbath that caused so much trouble the last time that He was in town (John 5:1-18). He then went of to chastise them for their reaction to that healing.



It's a classic argument from the lesser to the greater. The concept is that doing no work the Sabbath is one of the Ten Commandments and yet it is properly ignored when a baby boy's eighth day falls on the Sabbath. The principle is that there are times when one of God's Laws must be violated in order to obey a greater Law of God.

How do you know which Law is greater? How can the circumcision of a male infant on the eighth day take precedence over a Commandment that is applicable to all? That's where the principle of knowing God comes into play. God made the Sabbath for man, not the other way around as Jesus Himself said.

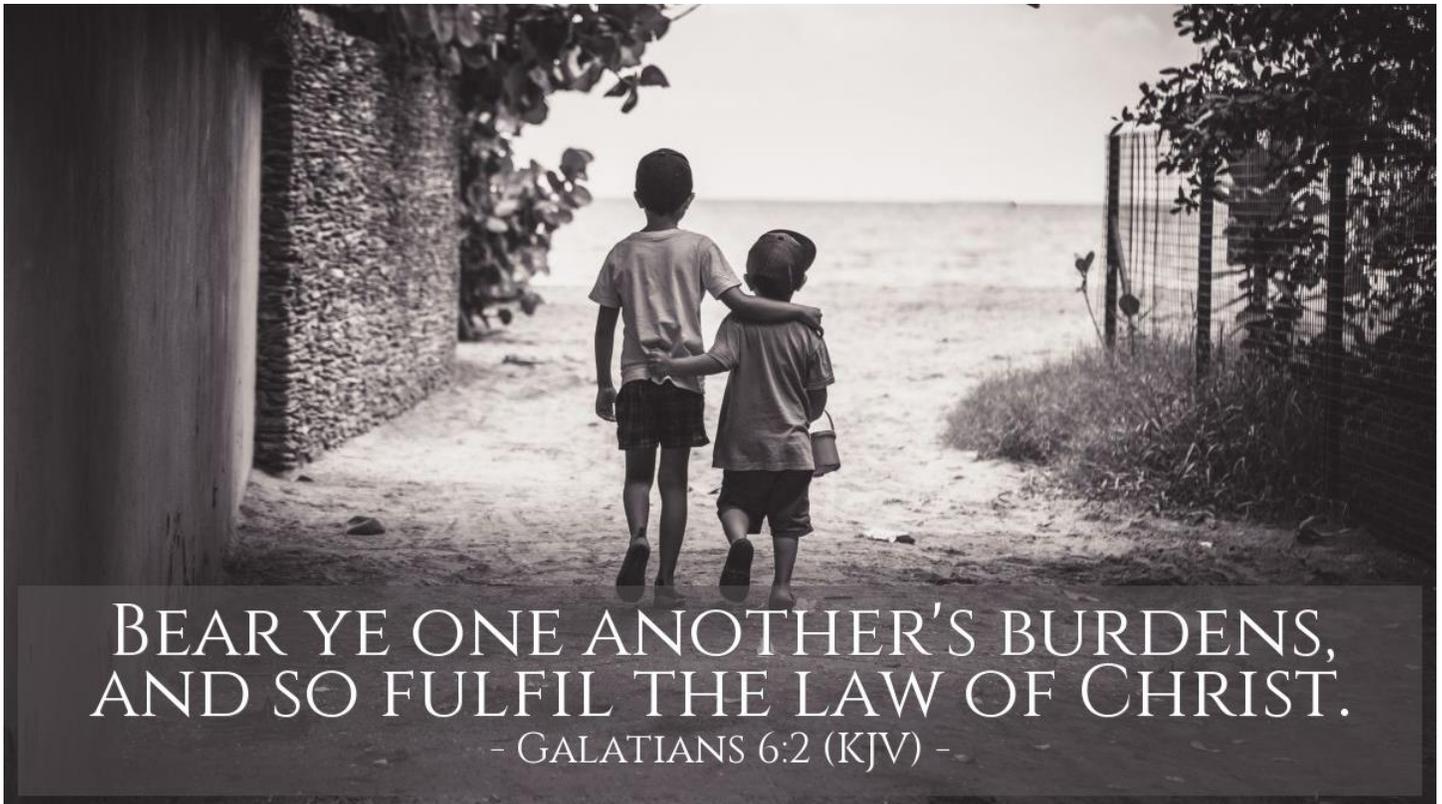
The Sabbath Law, as with all of the Laws, wasn't intended to be a legalistic stick to abuse people, it was intended to be a blessing to improve the lives of God's children. At least one day in seven to physically rest from one's labors. At least one day per week to focus on God and by extension on the people of God.

Jesus asked the Jews elsewhere, "Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath?" If a person knows God, then the answer must be a resounding "Yes!" Jesus' point

was the circumcision took precedence over the Sabbath because it benefitted the child – it blessed one person. Extrapolating that principle out logically, how much better was it to heal a man crippled for almost 40 years?

In verse 24 Jesus gave them a command that is quite emphatic. The NASB once again does a great job of rendering the Greek. First, it's "Do not judge according to appearance." That's an order that essentially means stop it! Stop judging things wrongly. Okay fine, but how do we stop judging the wrong way – by the way things appear?

That's the second part that's so emphatic. "Instead, judge with righteous judgment." Here unnecessarily using both the verb and noun forms of the root word judgment, Jesus highlights the importance of the concept. If He wanted to say it with less stress, He would have simply said "Judge righteously," as opposed to "judge with righteous judgment," like He did.



Still, what does He mean? Once again, it goes back to a person knowing the Father by way of allowing the Father to teach them from His Holy Word. The Word for them as the Old Testament Scriptures and now the Word made flesh teaching in the Temple. For us, the entirety of the Bible in context.

When people, even Jews 2,000 years ago, allowed the Father to teach them, they discovered Who He is and according to the Bible when we know God, we also know His Will. The only way to actively obey God is to know Him through His Word as opposed to knowing His Word as a legal code that He wants enforced.

That's the difference between religion and relationship. Even today, so many people take the Bible to be a set of rules, and regulations, rituals, and rites, ceremonies, and sacraments, that must be observed and enforced in order to please God. When what the Bible actually teaches us is Who God is and so, what He's like. Knowing the Father through His teaching in the Bible enables us to know what He wants in each unique situation – how to respond in each distinct circumstance – how to answer the question “what would Jesus do?”



Knowing God and thereby knowing what God wants presents us with the choice of either desiring that or rejecting that. When we desire His Will done in us, we pray for the strength to overcome our own plan for self-preservation and trust that He will preserve us. See, that's scary. I know what I believe is in my own best interests and I know that God will lead me in a different direction. The question is who do I trust more – me, or God?

Ultimately that's it – it comes down to trusting un yourself or trusting in God – you cannot do both. The Jews trusted in themselves but put on a façade of trusting in God. Jesus called them on it and the crowd came to their defense.

In His response to them, Jesus revealed Who He was and some of them then recognized Him. Well, we look into how that went next time. For now, let the question ring in your ears “who do I trust more – me, or God?”