

A HARMONY OF THE GOSPELS
WWW. Christ's Reliance On His Authenticating Works
(John 10:22-39)

I. Introduction

- A. Israel's unbelieving religious leaders tried to trap Jesus into verbally claiming that he was the Messiah so they might accuse Him before the authorities of making a false claim in their view and thus condemn Him to death.
- B. As they tried to elicit such a direct claim, Jesus instead relied on His prophesied miraculous works to validate His Person, and He explained the unbelief of His critics in a very condemning way in John 10:22-39.
- C. We thus view John 10:22-39 for our insight, application and edification (as follows):

II. Christ's Reliance On His Authenticating Works, John 10:22-39.

- A. Jesus attended the Feast of the Dedication that celebrated the "cleansing and reopening of the temple after its desecration by the Syrian ruler Antiochus Epiphanes in 168 B. C. . . . It is also called the Feast of Lights or Hanukkah. The date falls near the winter solstice, Dec. 22," Ryrie Study Bible, KJV, 1978, ftn. to John 10:22.
- B. As Christ walked in Solomon's porch in the temple area, the religious leaders surrounded Him and asked how long He would keep them in doubt by not stating that He was the Messiah. They asked that He make a clear statement on the matter, trying to get Him to state the claim in order to condemn Him, John 10:23-24.
- C. Jesus replied that He had told them, but they did not believe, for He said His works that He did in the Father's name bore witness of Him, John 10:25. Jesus did this back in John 5:36 when He said, "(T)he works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me."
- D. We know from Matthew 11:4-6 that the works to which Jesus referred were His giving sight to the blind, causing the lame to walk, the lepers to be cleansed, the dead to be raised and the poor to have to gospel of the kingdom proclaimed to them, what fulfilled Isaiah 35:5 and 61:1 of Messiah's appearance in Israel.
- E. Jesus then added that the reason for the religious leaders' unbelief in Him regardless if He fulfilled Scripture prophecies about the Messiah was their not being part of His flock of true believers, John 10:26. The religious leaders were blind to the truth of their own Scripture prophecies, not belonging to the flock of God, so they naturally would not believe in the testimony of His works.
- F. Jesus then described His flock as those who heard His voice and followed Him as their spiritual Shepherd, that He gave them eternal life so that they would never perish, nor would anyone pluck them out of His hand, a clear statement on unconditional salvation security, John 10:27-28.
- G. Jesus added that God the Father Who had given these believers to Him was greater than all, that no man was able to pluck them out of His Father's hand, John 10:29.
- H. After stating this point, Jesus added that He and His Father were One, "in perfect unity in their natures and actions, but the neuter form of 'one'" in the Greek text "rules out the meaning that they are one person," Ryrie, op. cit., ftn. to John 10:30. This statement reflects the fact that Christ and the Father are One God!
- I. Claiming to be One with God the Father was blasphemy in the view of Israel's religious leaders, so they took up stones again to stone Him to death for blasphemy, John 10:31.
- J. Jesus responded to this action by again referring to His many good works that He had shown them from His Father, and He asked for which of those works were the religious leaders going to stone Him, John 10:32.
- K. The leaders replied that they were not stoning Him for any good work, but for blasphemy, that Jesus, as a man, was making Himself out to be God, John 10:33.
- L. Jesus answered that in their Scriptures at Psalm 82:6 that God had said, "I have said you are 'gods,'" and that Scripture could not be set aside as men who were God's messengers were called "gods" (cf. Exodus 4:16; 7:1), so they should listen to Christ as God the Father's Messenger when He claimed to be the Son of God, John 10:34-36. If He did not perform the works of God the Father, Jesus said they should not believe in Him, but if He did such works, though they did not believe Jesus, they should believe His works that they might know and believe that the Father was in Christ and that He was in the Father, John 10:37-38.
- M. The religious leaders then tried to arrest Him, but Jesus supernaturally escaped out of their hand, John 10:39.

Lesson: *Jesus relied on His authenticating works to validate His verbal claims about His Person, and since those works fulfilled prophetic Scripture, He expected people who witnessed them to believe in Him as the Son of God.*

Application: *(1) May we believe in Christ due to His validating works that fulfilled Scripture. (2) May we also evaluate true spiritual credibility and ministry authenticity in fellow believers by their works, cf. 1 John 2:3-4, 6.*