

# CRISIS!

## GOSPEL OF JOHN SUMMER SERIES

Psalms 95 Hebrews 3:7-19 John 3:16-21

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### Jesus divides people.

Every time someone hears the Gospel promises of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit is right there to create faith so that a person can believe those promises for themselves. God's Will is that all believe in Christ and come to the knowledge of salvation. The Lord wants every man, woman, and child to believe in Jesus and live forever with Him in the Kingdom of Heaven. The Holy Spirit creates faith through the hearing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ! If someone believes, it is by the power and work of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel.

But yet, **Jesus divides people** because each person has the power to **reject** the Words of Jesus. Every man, woman, and child can **harden their heart** and **close their ears** to the Promises of Christ. If someone rejects Christ, that is solely their own work and their own fault.

**Unbelief** is a terrible thing – and it **separates** people from their loving God: their Father in Heaven, and their Savior from sin.

### Jesus divides people.

Biblically, there are only two groups of people: those who believe in Christ and those who reject Christ. Here is how Jesus taught this in the Gospel of John:

And this is the **judgment**: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed . John 3:19-20

That word **judgment** means a division: **Jesus divides people**. The Good News of the Lord Jesus Christ is a **crisis**<sup>1</sup> -- it demands a response! Jesus explain that people love their sin and so they reject him. They do not want to repent, they do not want to turn away from their sinful nature, they do not want to give up the ways of the world. People love the darkness, they love their sin, they do not want to repent. Along with that rejection comes a hostility towards Christ: unbelievers hate Jesus, because He exposes their sin and calls them to repent!

Biblically, there are only two groups of people in the world: those who reject Christ (because they love the darkness) and those who trust in Christ (those who live in the Light of Christ).

This **judgment**, this **division**, this **crisis** lies at the very core of all hatred and persecution against Christ and the Holy Christian Church. Not only do unbelievers **love** the darkness, but they **hate** the light. They hate someone exposing their sin. They have no interest nor intention of repenting. They hate the thought that they need someone to save them. So, they hate Christ, and by extension, they hate His People. Jesus teaches us that if you face hatred and persecution, remember the that the world hated and persecuted Him first!

**Jesus divides people.**

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<sup>1</sup> The Greek word for “judgment” in John 3:19 is “κρίσις --> **crisis**”. It is the idea of separation and division. In context, the Bronze Snake on the pole is the example: it divided those who believed God's promise about the snake (and lived) and those who did not believe (and died). Jesus is now the One who is lifted up among the people, and He creates a “crisis”: a division. Those who believe in Him will live; those who do not will die.

I'm sure you have seen this in your life: with your family, in your circle of friends, co-workers, or classmates. If you talk about Christ, many people react negatively. if you live a holy life, you will be excluded, ridiculed, or persecuted.

### Jesus divides people.

When we, as God's People hear this, it reminds us of the importance of repentance. Unlike the people of the world who love the darkness, *We have learned from God to hate sin, to turn away from our rebellion, and to confess our immorality.* With humble and repentant hearts we confess that we are poor, sinful people who need God's grace and mercy in the Lord Jesus Christ. Today hear these words, and be sure to check your heart. Make sure you are repentant! Turn from your sin! Confess it to God! And believe that your sins are forgiven in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Rather than loving the darkness, we have come into the Light of Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit at work through the Word of God and the Water of Holy Baptism, you know and believe that Jesus is the Light to the World!

In Him was life, and that life was the <b>light</b> of all mankind. John 1:4
Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, <b>I AM the Light of the World!</b> Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the Light of Life." John 8:12
As long as I am in the world, <b>I am the Light of the world.</b> " John 9:5
I have come into the world as <b>Light</b> , so that whoever believes in Me may not remain in darkness John 12:46

Jesus has come into the world to give us life, eternal life. His death on the cross, and His resurrection from the dead, overcomes all darkness, the power the devil, and the sting of death. Salvation is pictured as "Light." In Christ is life, and His life is the Light of the world!

God the Creator of Light has come into His sin-ridden, fallen, and dark world to bring Light of Life to all people. The Light of Christ brings grace and peace and truth to us. Salvation is pictured as a Light as opposed to the darkness of sin, the depravity of evil, and the certainty of death.

The Light of Christ in your life means that *God is present* in your life with His goodness and mercy. God's presence means His strength is at work in your weakness. God is present in your life as you struggle with the sinful nature, you guard against worldly temptations, and you resist Satan and his depraved demons. The Light of Christ means that *He is present* in your life to strengthen you each day!

The Light of Christ in your life means that you *walk in the truth* of God's Holy Word. Holy Scripture is a lamp to your feet and light unto your path. You can discern truth from error, right from wrong, and good from evil. The Light of Christ means that the Word of God is at work in your life *revealing the truth* to you.

The Light of Christ in your life means that you are busy doing *good works and practicing righteousness*. You are concerned about obeying God's Holy Word and Commandments. You glorify God as you love your neighbor. You hear the words of light and you do the works of light. The Light of Christ guides you each day; and you live in holiness and righteousness.

The Light of Christ in your life means that you *Live each day in Grace & Peace*. You do not live in guilt; nor are not burdened with shame. You have confessed your sins and trust in your Savior's forgiveness. Every day is a day of *grace* knowing that you have *peace* with God; and that brings great *joy* into your life.

The Light of Christ separates believers from the darkness of the world. It separates you from the darkness of the world! **Jesus divides people**, especially those who reject Him and love their sin and darkness. But for those who trust in him, who believe his word and promises, the Light of Christ continually shines in your life. **AMEN!**