“It is These that Bear Witness of Me”

Intro: As our Lord _______________ was persecuted by the authorities in Jerusalem, and while they were desiring to murder Him for violating their Sabbath tradition and moreover, for calling God His own Father, He in turn seized the situation and used it as a divinely appointed occasion to verified the truth of His _______________ by presenting clear, concise and compelling _______________ of that fact.

A. In merciful kindness Jesus reminded the leaders of the testimony they had received from _______________ the Baptist. At their own official request John _______________ of Jesus pronouncing Him to be the Lamb of _______________ who takes away the sin of the world.

1. Then He pointed to the miraculous _______________ that He worked by the will of the Father, that they bore _______________ of Him; that the Father sent Him.

2. The Heavenly _______________ Himself bore _______________ of Jesus in numerous ways, but specifically when He was baptized, for upon coming up out of the water the Spirit descended as a dove and came upon Him, and a voice from heaven pronounced saying, “This is ____ beloved __________, in whom I am well pleased” (Matt. 3:3:13-17).

B. This morning we will study as our _______________ _______________ His accusers by telling them of their flawed and fatal understanding, lack of belief, and warning them of the coming judgement.

I. Those who persecuted Jesus searched the Scriptures diligently because _______________ that in them they had eternal life.

A. This was a _______________ _______________; this was why the word did not abide in them; this was why they did ________ believe the Father who sent His Son: they believed eternal life came from a knowledge of the Scriptures, rather than understanding and _______________ what the Scriptures said about _______________, who gives eternal life.

1. The MacArthur commentary says, “Clinging to their superficial system of _______________ righteousness by works, in their stubborn unbelief, they became ignorant of “God’s righteousness and [sought] to establish their own (Rom. 10:3). But self-righteousness _______________ anyone, since “all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment” (Isa. 4:6) and because “whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all (James 2:10). Thus, _______________ comes not from “having a righteousness of [one’s] own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis _______________” (Phil. 3:9; cf. Rom. 3:20-30).

B. They missed the role, function, and design of the _______________ entirely; that it _______________ __ __________ as the One the Father sent to be the Savior of the world!

C. In their diligent studies Jesus’ accusers missed that the whole of the Scripture bore witness of Him and thus, were unwilling to come to Him and, in failing to come to Him they failed to come to the ________ who truly _______________ eternal ________.

1. Wycliffe wrote, “... the Scriptures testify of a person! The tragedy was that that very Person was now present, and religious men would not come to him for the life they _______________ _______________ in the letter of the Word (v. 40).”
D. The Lord’s accusers studied the word upon the wrong premise because their _________ was wrong. In contrast to the Lord who did not seek glory from men, they did. They desired the approval of men seeking _________-glory.

E. Jesus dashed their hopes for salvation through their Scriptural knowledge and works by stating that He would not accuse them before the Father, for the very they searched would ___________ them adequately.

1. God did not give us the Law that we might be saved by obeying it, but that by it we might know that we are sinners in ___________ of a ___________ sent from heaven! Therefore, God did not send His Son into the world to condemn us, for there is no need for that, for Romans 2:12 says, “... all who have sinned under the ___________ will be ___________ by the Law.” God sent His Son so the world might be saved through Him. And, that’s why Gal 3:24 says, “Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to ___________, that we may be justified by ___________.”

2. Jesus showed His accusers where they were - ___________! He kindly showed them their sin of ___________, and their utter helplessness, and their absolute to receive Him for who He is, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world - the One who grants eternal life - the ___________ sent from the Heavenly Father.

F. The Lord accusers were lost and did not recognize Jesus to be the Son of God for they ___________ ___________ what Moses said about Him. Thus if the Savior should stand before them, and if they should crucify Him and He arise from the dead, they would not believe! How lost, how utterly lost and in ___________ of the ___________ were they!

Closing: And so, I beg of you, dear ones, friends and family alike, that you reflect upon your own life to see if you believe that Jesus is the Christ! Do you believe this Holy Book of Scripture? I do not ask if you can quote from it, or if you have a good intellectual knowledge of it, but do you ___________ it? Do you believe every line, every word? Do you see Jesus in it? See ___________ and live! Believe that He is the Son sent of the Father, and live!

In Luther’s sermon which I quoted earlier He said, “If I do not study and understand Moses and the prophets as to find that ___________ ___________ from heaven for the sake of my salvation, became a man, suffered, died, was buried, rose, ascended to heaven so that through Him I enjoy reconciliation with God, forgiveness of all my sins, grace, righteousness, and life eternal, then my reading in Scripture is of no help whatsoever to my salvation. I may, of course, become a learned man by reading and studying Scripture and may preach what I have acquired; yet all this would do me no good whatsoever. For if I do not know and do not ___________ ___________, neither do I find salvation and life eternal. In fact, I actually find bitter death; for our good God has decreed that _____ ___________ name is given among men whereby they may be saved except the name of Jesus (Acts 4:12).

Dear church, in this post-modern world which is so marked with confusion and does not know where to find the truth nor even if there is any truth, there is a heavenly book of absolute truth - the ___________, the Holy Scriptures, the very Words of God. And, these words tell of Jesus, that He is the Son sent of the Father to be the Savior of the world! ___________ and be saved!