



Fairgrounds Road
C H U R C H O F C H R I S T

MESSENGER

"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – April 24, 2022

To Know Christ...

Can you imagine hearing someone say they love God, but seeking to kill God's Son? In John chapter eight, Jesus is having a conversation with a group of Jews who had believed Jesus. However, because they refused to believe that Jesus was God in the flesh, they would die in their sins. (v24) Jesus said, **"For unless you believe that I AM, you will die in your sins."** In Exodus 3:14, God spoke to Moses from the burning bush, declaring, **"I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"** Moses, another of God's prophets sent by the Lord, was also rejected by His own people. Moses was sent to lead God's people out of Egyptian bondage. Jesus was sent to lead us out of bondage from sin.

In John 8:28, Jesus said, **"When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I AM, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me."** The definitive point of unveiling Jesus, the Son of Man (as well as the Son of God), as the "I AM" would be clarified by His crucifixion. {And it was; See Matthew 27:54 & Mark 15:39} Later in John 12:32-33, Jesus states, **"And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself.' But He was saying this to indicate the kind of death by which He was to die."** Jesus knew who He was, He knew the impending death by crucifixion, and He knew God's people would reject Him, but He also proclaimed FREEDOM from sin through belief in the I AM. And that is why they wanted to kill Him, because He was the I AM! **"Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I AM.' Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple."** (John 8:58-59)

When Jesus clearly stated Himself as the Son of God, the I AM, even the religious Jews who claimed to believe in Him sought to stone Him. We love God, but want to kill God's Son? How do you expect souls who desire to live a genuine, godly life to be received among the religious crowds today? If we believe & obey the commandment of Jesus as the I AM, we are assured release from dying in our sins. We will meet God completely clothed in Christ Jesus, the I AM. (Galatians 3:27) **"For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ."** But if we seek to dishonor Him & His ways within our lives, we are picking up the stones seeking to kill Him, the Son of God. He will never die, but we will die in our sins. Our daily decisions genuinely reveal our conviction concerning Eternal Life or Death. Put the stones down and raise Jesus, the I AM, all your remaining days!

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