

John 7:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then cried Jesus in the temple as he taught, saying, Ye both know me, and ye know whence I am: and I am not come of myself, but he that sent me is true, whom ye know not.

Analysis

Then cried Jesus in the temple as he taught, saying, Ye both know me, and ye know whence I am: and I am not come of myself, but he that sent me is true, whom ye know not. Jesus responds to their objection loudly ('cried'—ekraxen). He acknowledges they know His earthly origin but insists they miss the crucial truth: He doesn't come 'of myself' (ap' emautou) but is sent by the Father who is 'true' (alēthinos). The final phrase 'whom ye know not' (hon humeis ouk oideate) is damning—they claim to know God but don't recognize His sent one.

Historical Context

This continues John's theme that knowing Jesus means knowing the Father (8:19, 14:7-9). The Jews' claim to know God while rejecting Jesus proves they don't truly know God. First-century Judaism emphasized knowing God through Torah and tradition, but Jesus insists He is the ultimate revelation. Not knowing Christ means not knowing God, regardless of religious pedigree.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. Can someone claim to know God while rejecting Christ?
2. What does it mean that Jesus is sent by the Father?
3. How does recognizing Jesus as God's sent one change our understanding of God?

Interlinear Text

ἔκραξεν οὖν ἐν τῷ ἱερῷ διδάσκων ὁ Ἰησοῦς καὶ
cried Then in the temple as he taught G3588 G2411 G1321 G3588 G2424 G2532
G2896 G3767 G1722

λέγων, Καὶ μὲν οἴδατε· καὶ οἴδατε· πόθεν εἰμί· καὶ ἀπ'
saying Ye both know and know whence I am and of
G3004 G2504 G1492 G2532 G1492 G4159 G1510 G2532 G575

ἐμαυτοῦ οὐκ ἐλήλυθα ἀλλ' ἔστιν ἀληθινὸς ὁ πέμψας
myself not I am but is true G3588 he that sent
G1683 G3756 G2064 G235 G2076 G228 G3992

με δὲν ὑμεῖς οὐκ οἴδατε·
me whom ye not know
G3165 G3739 G5210 G3756 G1492

Additional Cross-References

John 8:42 (References Jesus): Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.

John 8:19 (References Jesus): Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also.

Jeremiah 9:6 (Parallel theme): Thine habitation is in the midst of deceit; through deceit they refuse to know me, saith the LORD.

John 8:26 (Truth): I have many things to say and to judge of you: but he that sent me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I have heard of him.

John 8:14 (Truth): Jesus answered and said unto them, Though I bear record of myself, yet my record is true: for I know whence I came, and whither I go; but ye cannot tell whence I come, and whither I go.

Hebrews 6:18 (Parallel theme): That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

John 5:43 (Parallel theme): I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.

John 12:49 (Parallel theme): For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.

John 17:3 (Truth): And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.