

## Week of April 3rd, 2016

This Week's Focus: Jesus is the Son of God who was sent by the Father to graciously reveal the Father's will to rebellious humanity and to atone for the sins of the world.

This Week's Text: John 7:16-36

"God's will is not simply to be thought about and assessed, as if God is the object we may politely examine, dissect and discuss, picking and choosing what we like of him. The faith commitment envisaged [pictured] here, this moral choice, is properly basic, and renders impossible any attitude that sets us up as judges of God's ways." D. A. Carson

"Christ is our attorney and his portfolio is his propitiation. He stands before his Father in heaven, and every time we sin, he doesn't make a new propitiation. He doesn't die again and again. Instead he opens his portfolio and lays the exhibits of Good Friday on the bench before the Judge. Photographs of the crown of thorns, the lashing, the mocking soldiers, the agonies of the cross, and the final cry of victory: It is finished." John Piper

## Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What are your general impressions about this week's sermon?
- How did Jesus reveal his identity in verses 16-24? How did Jesus substantiate the truth of his teaching? Why was this important, and what does it teach us about the will and glory of God?
- How were the Jewish leaders breaking God's law? Reference verse 19. Explain why the law of God is good, necessary, and useful but is unable to save. Reference Romans 7:7-12.
- How and why did the Jewish leaders justify circumcision on the Sabbath and yet condemn Jesus' healing on the Sabbath?
- Why didn't the Jerusalemites recognize Jesus as the promised Christ, the Messiah (verses 25-30) \$

- Discuss how this passage reveals Jesus' identity and divine commission by God the Father through truth, eternality, authority, and providential protection.
- What does Jesus' death, resurrection, ascension and promise to return mean for us? What does it mean for those who do not believe?
- How does the passage encourage you to declare and demonstrate the gospel in your community and spheres of influence?