

- I. Prologue: The Identity of the Son of God (1:1-18)
- II. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Public Ministry (1:19-12:50)
 - A. The Son of God Revealed (1:19-4:54)
 - B. The Son of God Rejected (5:1-12:36)
 - 1. Opposition in Jerusalem (5:1-47)
 - 2. Opposition in Galilee (6:1-71)
 - 3. Settled Opposition in Jerusalem (7:1-10:39)
 - 4. Belief across the Jordan (10:40-42)
 - 5. Hardened Opposition in Jerusalem (11:1-12:36)
 - 6. The hour has come (12:20-36)
 - C. Conclusion (12:37-50)
- III. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Passion and Resurrection (13:1-20:31)
- IV. Epilogue: The Future Mission of the Son of God (21)

The Rulers Plot Against His Anointed

Gospel of John, Part XXXVIII

John 11:47-57

Stuart W. Bryan

I. The Seventh Sign

II. The Plotting of the Pharisees

A. Complaint of the Pharisees (47-49)

B. Prophecy of Caiaphas (50-52)

C. Plot of the Pharisees (53-57)

III. Application

A. Our Triune God Rules Over All (Ps 2; Prov 16:4; 21:1; Acts 4:23-31)

So, first, our text reminds us that we should not be surprised by opposition to the Gospel and that such opposition far from thwarting the purposes of God actually _____ His purposes.

²³And being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. ²⁴So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: "Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, ²⁵who by the mouth of Your servant David have said:

Why did the nations rage, And the people plot vain things?

²⁶The kings of the earth took their stand, And the rulers were gathered together Against the LORD and against His Christ.'

²⁷"For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together²⁸ to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. ²⁹Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, ³⁰by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus."

³¹And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

B. Speaking the Word with Boldness (cf. 2 Cor 2:14-16)

Content – What do we speak? The word of God, the truth

Manner – How do we speak? With boldness, courage,

¹⁴ Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. ¹⁵ For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. ¹⁶ To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things?

Through us God reveals the truth of the Gospel *in every place*. We are the means God uses to diffuse the knowledge of God throughout the world: Christ is the Victor over sin and death; God has installed Him as King over all the earth; therefore, we must turn from our sin and turn to God in Christ for forgiveness.

For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. Notice the prepositions carefully: *we are _____ God the fragrance of Christ _____ men...* We offer our labor up to _____ (He is the proper object of our service, devotion, teaching); we perform our labor among _____.

Whereas faithful teaching and service are always a pleasant aroma to God, their fragrance varies among men. *To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life.* For some the Gospel is *the aroma of _____* – spiritual life – *leading to life* – resurrection life. For others, it is the *aroma of _____* – spiritual death – *leading to death* – eternal judgment.

C. Don't Mistake Foolhardiness for Boldness (Pr 22:3 cf. Mt 10:23)

"A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, but the simple pass on and are punished" (Pr 22:3). We are to be _____; we are not to be foolish.

- Acts 9:23-25 –
- Acts 12:19 –
- Acts 19:30 –

IV. Conclusion