



## Unrecognized By the World

December 15, 2002

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### Introduction:

People who are important are known because of what they have done and who they are. If I were to say to you the MONA LISA – many of you would identify the painter as Leonardo da Vinci. If I were to say the Messiah, many of you would identify the composer as Handel. If I were to say to the current president of the United States, you would say – George W. Bush. World leaders are known, artists are known, physicians are known, and musicians are known. People are often *known* by what they do or what they have done.

### TEXT: [John 1:10-12](#)

He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

Our text says this about Christ. He was in the world. The world was made by Him, yet it did not recognize Him.

#### I. In the World - Unrecognized

How tragic that the creator of life, the author of light, was not known. The Word, that expression of God in the form of Jesus as Savior and Redeemer was unrecognized. The Person that had caused the world to come into being was in the world, revealing God's love to them, but the creation was without perception of who He was and unclear in their understanding of what He came to do.

Obviously there are some who did not recognize Him because they were ignorant of the prophecies about Him. There were others who did not recognize Him because of their pre-conceived ideas of how He would come. The people were expecting and looking for a deliverer. They were thinking in terms of an earthly kingdom, and political changes. They had the notion that when Christ came, He would deliver them from taxation etc.

Can you imagine being alive at the time when Jesus lived, and not knowing who He was? But why

should that puzzle us? There are people today who don't recognize Jesus as the Son of God, as the Life, as the Light.

#### II. Not Received By His Own

To belong is important. Self-worth and significance are often connected. When people are rejected, it is hard to deal with. Even the term, reject is not pleasant sounding.

In the 60's and 70's stereos had turntables. One could stack several albums, or records one on top of another, and they would drop down one at a time on the turntable and play. There was a button called reject. If you pushed that button, the arm of the stereo would lift off the record and the next album would drop down and it would begin to play. The album that had been playing was rejected for another one.

All of us, to one degree or another, face rejection in life. Some of us do more than others. I remember

how I felt the day I got a rejection letter from one of the colleges I applied to go to. I was somewhat insulted and rejected in the same letter. To be rejected hurts.

I think of individuals like Sir Isaac Newton and Galileo who thought differently and correctly but they were rejected by many of the people who lived at the time. They were rejected and their ideas were ridiculed, but eventually came to be accepted.

Some people here have been rejected by peers, by parents, by siblings, by spouses, by children. Some have been rejected by organizations for a job...and on and on I could go. It hurts.

Jesus understands, because He was not received by His own. He was rejected by men. People rejected His teaching, His lifestyle, and His claims about who He was. People rejected His divinity, His authority, His love. People still reject Him today. The One who is rejected, suffers.

### **Isaiah 53:3**

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

He came to His own and His own received Him not. They did not associate or come near. They were distant toward Him. Most likely the people who did not receive Him probably would not even identify that He was Jewish like they were.

Part of the gospel is the giving part, the part where God gave Jesus to save us from our sin. The giving part of Jesus coming is only part of the story. A gift can be given, but for it to bless those to whom it was given, it has to be received.

### **John 3:16-17**

God loved the world this way: He gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but to save the world.

Jesus was sent, but still there were people who would not receive Him as King, Savior, Redeemer, For-giver, Healer, and the only way to the Father.

To receive Him *we have to admit our need for Him*. We have to admit our sinful nature. We have to be sorry and turn from things that would hinder our receiving from Him.

There are some things that keep people from receiving - pride, stubbornness, denial.

Within the gospel message that John preached, was the message of repentance. He was not the messiah, but was one who was sent ahead of Christ to prepare the people for His coming. His message was that Jesus was coming and they were to repent and change their ways. The gospel message is still the same.

We want to be ready for His coming. We must take time to prepare. In that preparation, we need to honestly face our fallen nature, and deal with that in light of God's truth and word. We must turn away from darkness and ways that seem right in our own eyes.

### **Proverbs 14:12-16**

There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death. Even in laughter the heart may ache, and joy may end in grief. The faithless will be fully repaid for their ways, and the good man rewarded for his. A simple man believes anything, but a prudent man gives thought to his steps. A wise man fears the LORD and shuns evil, but a fool is hotheaded and reckless.

The other part of the gospel is the receiving part. As many as received Him to them gave He power to become the sons of God.

Don't hide behind your flesh as an excuse to not become the son of God He wants you to be. We will never do what He wants us to do, if we do not become what He wants us to be. If we become what He empowers us to become – HIS sons and daughters, then we can accomplish what He wants us to do on this earth.

### **III. The Empowerment of Receiving Him**

To receive Him means we take hold or seize Him. To receive Him requires faith. Those who receive Him as an act of faith are given freedom - freedom from sin and the eternal consequences of it. People who act in faith are given authority and privilege, to become the sons of God.

When we receive Him, we receive power. This is power to *come into being* and to *pass from death to life*, power to *become what He wants us to be*, power to *become His sons*, power to *live in victory*, power to *overcome sin*, power to *die to self*. We do not have that power within our selves. If we did, He would not have to give it to us when we receive Him.

The empowering that He gives us brings freedom to us. Before we receive Him we are bound as slaves to sin, and we are helpless spiritually. When we receive Him, He frees us from the sin that has keeps us bound. There is no sin that is too great for Him to break the power of it. There is nothing that can hold us in bondage unless we yield and surrender our hearts and minds to its authority.

**Conclusion:**

Have you recognized the giver of life? Have you recognized the light of the world? Is He familiar enough to you that when you see His work, when you hear His voice, when you are close to Him, that you recognize Him?

Some are here that may be struggling with sin issues – something that needs to be repented of. Some here may be deciding to receive God’s gift of forgiveness and the power to become a child of God. Whatever you are dealing with, don’t reject His love, His life, His light.

When we receive Him we surrender to His authority in our lives. Because we become one of His children, we can come to Him and expect Him to meet our needs. We can come to Him and expect Him to provide for all our needs.

That word power also means privilege. We have the privilege of coming before our Heavenly Father with boldness. We have the privilege of authority to use His Name in advancing His kingdom and work on earth. We have the privilege of access to His promises. We have the privilege of His guidance and wisdom. We have the privilege of walking with Him in new life.