

GOSPEL PEARLS

Die for Napoleone?

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The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?" The Jews answered him, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God." Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your Law, 'I said, you are gods'? If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken— do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'? If I am not doing the

works of my Father, then do not believe me; but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father.” Again they sought to arrest him, but he escaped from their hands. He went away again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing at first, and there he remained. And many came to him. And they said, “John did no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true.” And many believed in him there. (John 10: 31-42)

Jesus' enemies understood very well that He proclaimed His divine nature. It is precisely this that provoked their hatred of Him. This is, therefore, the reason that led to Jesus' death. What distinguishes Christians from other people is their commitment to the revealed fact that Jesus is God. Even today men and women who, two thousand years later, are willing to give their lives to Jesus. For what other historical figure is this the case? Who today would be prepared to die for Napoleon or Julius Caesar? This is a sure sign that, unlike all other historical figures, Jesus is still alive today. Let us treasure His presence in our lives.