

“that you may become sons of Light”

John 12:30-36

30 Jesus answered and said, "This voice has not come for My sake, but for your sakes. 31 "Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. 32 "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself." 33 But He was saying this to indicate the kind of death by which He was to die. 34 The crowd then answered Him, "We have heard out of the Law that the Christ is to remain forever; and how can You say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this Son of Man?" 35 So Jesus said to them, "For a little while longer the Light is among you. Walk while you have the Light, so that darkness will not overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes. 36 "While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so that you may become sons of Light."

These things Jesus spoke, and He went away and hid Himself from them.

In verses 12:31-32, Jesus describes four things which were about to occur:

- /1. The judgment of this world.\
- /2. The casting out of the ruler of this world.\
- /3. Jesus being lifted up from the earth.\
- /4. Jesus drawing all men to Himself.\

We have completed the first two. Today we will consider the last two. A brief review of where we have been:

John 12:31 "Now judgment is upon this world;

The world is the sphere of operations for fallen mankind as it lives in hostility to God. This world had its day of reckoning when Christ died on the cross. Jesus was victorious over the forces of this world the day He died on the cross.

The world still exists, but it was judged once and for all at the cross.

John 12:31 "Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

NOW – the decisive hour when Christ went to the cross – the ruler of this world - the devil - was cast out. Remember that here, “cast out” means being stripped of power and authority.

At the cross, there was a momentous transfer of power and authority from satan to Christ, *Heb 2:14-15, Col 2:13-15.*

*John 12:32 "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself." 33
But He was saying this to indicate the kind of death by which He was to die.*

What did Jesus mean by “I am lifted up from the earth”? Verse 33 clarifies that He was indicating the kind of death by which He was to die. He would be crucified.

/This marks the third time in the gospel of John that Jesus refers to Him being lifted up.\ The first time was in John 3:13-15:

John 3:13-15

13 "No one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man. 14 "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; 15 so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.

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Jesus descended from heaven to do the work His Father gave Him. He died on the cross. Then, He was raised from the dead, and ascended back into heaven.

/ He was lifted up in agony. He finished His work. Then He was lifted up in glory.\

*John 12:32 "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, **will draw all men to Myself.**"*

/Jesus died on the cross for all human beings: Gentile as well as Jew.\

Acts 26:22-23

22 "So, having obtained help from God, I stand to this day testifying both to small and great, stating nothing but what the Prophets and Moses said was going to take place; 23 that the Christ was to suffer, and that by reason of His resurrection from the dead He would be the first to proclaim light both to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles."

*John 12:32 "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, **will draw all men to Myself.**"*

The time came for the Son of Man to be glorified in His death and resurrection.

/At the cross, the world system was judged.\

/ At the cross, the ruler of this world was cast out. \

/The sacrifice of Christ on the cross was for all people, both Jew and Gentile.\

And now Jesus draws all men and women to Himself.

/The word of the cross has the power to attract every human being to Christ.\

A Paul would later write,

1 Cor 1:17-18

17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be made void.

18 For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

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/Each and every man and woman receives the invitation to believe in Christ.\

That invitation is the gospel, the good news that Christ died for our sins and was raised from the dead.

In John 12:33, Jesus confronts the crowd with the word of the cross. How did they respond?

John 12:34 The crowd then answered Him, "We have heard out of the Law that the Christ is to remain forever; and how can You say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this Son of Man?"

/This is how unbelievers act when they try to avoid the implications of the gospel.\

They change the subject. Often, they will do what the crowd does here- raise a side issue about God and hope you take the bait. Jesus didn't take the bait.

John 12:35 So Jesus said to them, "For a little while longer the Light is among you. Walk while you have the Light, so that darkness will not overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes. 36 "While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so that you may become sons of Light."

/The Light is Christ.

/The sons of light refer to believers. They share the likeness of the Light.

Rom 8:29

29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

/They display characteristics of the Light.

Eph 5:8-9

8 for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light 9 (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth),

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/Darkness is a symbol of judgment (including the things worthy of judgment, and the penalty that issues from judgment). \

Luke 23:44-45

44 It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour, 45 because the sun was obscured;

When Jesus was bearing the sins of the world at Calvary, there was complete darkness. Why? /It was the time for judgment.\

Rom 8:3-4

For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit

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/The Father judged sin itself in the flesh of His Son. \

And as we've seen, the cross was also the place of judgment for the world , and for satan, the ruler of this world.

/God has done His mighty work through the blood of His Son.\ He has removed every impediment that had stood between Him and the entire human race.

/All are free to come to the Light, both Jew and Gentile.\

John 8:12

12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

Anyone who hears the message of the gospel and believes it has eternal life, and will never come into judgment.

/ But what about those who refuse to believe? \

John 3:18-21

18 "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. 20 "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. 21 "But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

/People remain in the darkness because they choose to do so.\ They choose to reject the Light of Christ. They prefer the darkness to the Light.

2 Cor 4:3-4

3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

/Those who choose to remain in darkness are perishing.\ The gospel is veiled to them. Satan has blinded their minds that they might not see the light of the gospel.
/But all they have to do is turn to the Lord and that veil will be taken away.\

John 12:36 "While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so that you may become sons of Light."

These things Jesus spoke, and He went away and hid Himself from them.

Jesus issued this grave warning to the crowd of Jews who had assembled for the Passover. But by and large they did not heed that warning.

/“Now” is the time of decision for all men and women. \

This morning, you too have been warned.

/Jesus is in heaven now. Here on earth, the light is the gospel of the glory of Christ (2Co 4:4).\

If you have not believed in the good news of the death and resurrection of Christ, now is the acceptable time to do so. You do not know what your life will be like tomorrow.

Heb 9:27

And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,
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You only have the light of the gospel for a little while longer. Once you die, it will be too late.

/Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved!\

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Rom 1:16

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

2 Cor 4:3-6

3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

Eph 1:13

13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation — having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,

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James 4:13-14

13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit." 14 Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

Isa 40:6-8

voice says, "Call out."

Then he answered, "What shall I call out?"

All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field.

7 The grass withers, the flower fades,

When the breath of the Lord blows upon it;

Surely the people are grass.

8 The grass withers, the flower fades,

But the word of our God stands forever.

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