1 "That You Might believe" Studies in the Gospel of John

"Man's Response to The Gospel" [John 1:9-13]

- 2 Three of the most important teachings to be developed in this Gospel
  - · The glory of Jesus Christ;
  - · The Total Depravity of man;
  - · The necessity of God's sovereign and unconditional election as the basis of our salvation.
- 3 <a> The Total Depravity of Man</a>
  - · John 1:10 A verse which shows that men are spiritually blind
  - "He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him."
- 4 <a> Why was it that the world did not know and recognize Christ?</a>
  - · First answer: Because the world did not want Him!
  - John 3:19-20 "This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed."
  - Isa. 53:3 "He was despised and rejected by men ..."
  - Rom. 8:7 "... the sinful mind is hostile to God ..."
- 5 The world into which Jesus was born did not want to be disturbed by a visit from the Son of God
  - · The innkeeper did not want Him
- 6 The world into which Jesus was born did not want to be disturbed by a visit from the Son of God
  - · Herod did not want Him
- 7 The world into which Jesus was born did not want to be disturbed by a visit from the Son of God
  - The religious leaders of Israel did not want Him
- 8 The same spirit of opposition to the truth of God and His light which shines into the darkness of this world still exists in the world of today!
  - · And, men do not want Jesus Christ!
- 9 A second reason why the world did not recognize the Son of God when He came into the world, was because of spiritual blindness!
  - Il Cor. 4:3-4 "And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has
    blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the
    image of God."

- I Cor. 2:14 "... The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they
  are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned."
- - · Man fell upward!
  - · He only fell part way!
  - · Man fell over the edge but that he got stuck on a ledge half way down!
  - When man fell he fell all the way to the bottom, where he lies hopelessly lost, blind to all spiritual truth, and unable to help himself
- 11 Why John the Baptist had to appear!
- 12 The Greatest Proof of Man's Total Depravity
  - · John 1:11 "He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him."
- 13 Matt. 21:33-43 In the parable of the landowner
- 14 <a> The important principle is this</a>
  - "... the reaction of Israel is only typical of the reaction of all mankind to Christ's coming." James Boice
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- In other words, the natural inclination in the hearts of all men is against the Creator [Rom. 8:7 "hostile toward God";5:10 "enemies of God"]
- Psalm 14:1-3 "... there is no one who does good. The Lord looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. All have turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one."
- 16 And so the question is this:
  - · If the world "knew him not," and Israel "received him not," ...
  - · was the purpose of God defeated? Did Christ suffer in vain?
- 17 🗔 The necessity of God's sovereign and unconditional election as the basis of our salvation
  - Verse 12 "Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become the children of God."
  - A. W. Pink says: "This tells us of the human side of salvation, what is required of sinners.
     Salvation comes to the sinner through 'receiving' Christ, that is by 'believing on his name."
  - [re. a 'human side' and a 'divine side,' see Phil. 2:12-13!]
- - "Just as verse 12 gives us the human side, so verse 13 gives us the Divine. The Divine side is the new birth: and the taking place of the new birth is 'not of blood,' that is to say, it is not a matter of heredity, for regeneration does not run in the veins; 'nor of the will of the flesh,' the will of the natural man is opposed to God, and he has no will Godward until he has been born again; 'nor of the will of man,' that is to say, the new birth is not brought about by the well-meant efforts of friends, nor by the persuasive powers of the preacher; 'but of God.' ...

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- ... The new birth is a Divine work. It is accomplished by the Holy Spirit applying the Word in living power to the heart. The reception Christ met during the days of his earthly ministry is the same still: the world 'knows him not;' Israel 'receives him not;' but a little company do receive him, and who these are Acts 13:48 tells us 'as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.' And there we must stop." A.W. Pink
- 20 John MacArthur
  - Though people cannot be saved until they receive and believe in Jesus Christ, ..." [NOTE the 'human' side of salvation here] "... salvation is nonetheless a sovereign work of God on the dead and blind sinner. John simply states that no one would come to believe in Jesus unless He gave them the right to become children of God. They are saved entirely by "grace ... through faith; and that not of [themselves], it is the gift of God; not as a results of works, so that no one may boast" (Eph. 2:8-9), because "God has chosen [them] from the beginning for salvation" (2 Thess. 2:13). ...
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- ... Thus they were born again (John 3:3,7; 1 Pet. 1:3,23) not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ... Because all bear the guilt of unbelief and rejection, the phrase 'but of God' means that salvation, that is, receiving and believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, is impossible for any sinner.

  God must grant the power supernaturally and with it the divine life and light to the lifeless, darkened sinner."
- 22 James Boice
  - "It is true that a person must believe in Jesus Christ in order to become a Christian. ..." [NOTE again, the 'human' side of salvation] "... John says that Jesus gives power to become children of God 'even to them that believe on his name.' You must believe. At the same time, however, you must know that if you do believe, it is only because God has already taken the initiative to plant his divine life within you. ..." [cf. I Cor. 4:7]. "... In other words, you must learn that man never makes the first move toward God and that no one would be saved unless God operated in this way."