

“Valuing The Light” John 12:35-50

**<sup>35</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. <sup>36</sup> While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.”** These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them. <sup>37</sup> But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, <sup>38</sup> that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke:

*“Lord, who has believed our report?  
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?”*

<sup>39</sup> Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again:

<sup>40</sup> *“He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts,  
Lest they should see with their eyes,  
Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn,  
So that I should heal them.”*

<sup>41</sup> These things Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Him.

<sup>42</sup> Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess *Him*, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; <sup>43</sup> for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

<sup>44</sup> Then Jesus cried out and said, **“He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me. <sup>45</sup> And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me. <sup>46</sup> I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness. <sup>47</sup> And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. <sup>48</sup> He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. <sup>49</sup> For I have not spoken on My own *authority*; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. <sup>50</sup> And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak.”** John 12:35–50 (NKJV)

These were the LAST Words of Jesus’ public ministry. Everything beyond this in John’s Gospel is Jesus’ dealing with those closest to Him. Time was short!

I. *The Light, available for a limited time -*

<sup>35</sup> Then Jesus said to them, **“A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. <sup>36</sup> While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.”** These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them. John 12:35-36

1. A little while longer...

*“A little longer is emphatic in the Greek sentence structure.” Newman & Nida  
Jesus is EMPHASING to the crowd, this is their last chance.*

*We don't have forever to get right with God! Remember what Jesus said just a few verses before - <sup>31</sup> Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. John 12:31 (NKJV)*

<sup>2</sup> For He says: *“In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you.”* Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. 2 Corinthians 6:2 (NKJV)

“How did it get so late so soon?”

— Dr. Seuss

2. *What is the Light?*

A. *Obviously, Jesus – His TIME with them was SHORT!*

<sup>12</sup> Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, **“I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”** John 8:12 (NKJV)

B. *Jesus' Gospel, His & God's Word, His teaching – 1 Nun <sup>105</sup> Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path. Psalm 119:105 (NKJV)*

*We profit from time with God / Jesus by understanding His word / teaching and applying it to our lives!*

c. *Specific light neglected right before Jesus' cross, the raising of Lazarus, a Voice from Heaven... These things were EVIDENCE that Jesus was God's Son, their Savior, King of kings / Lord of lords ... yet they were doubtful.*

3. *What we must do –*

A. *Walk in the Light – John 12:35; John 8:12*

B. *Believe in the Light – John 12:36 A*

C. *Become children of the Light – John 12:36 B*

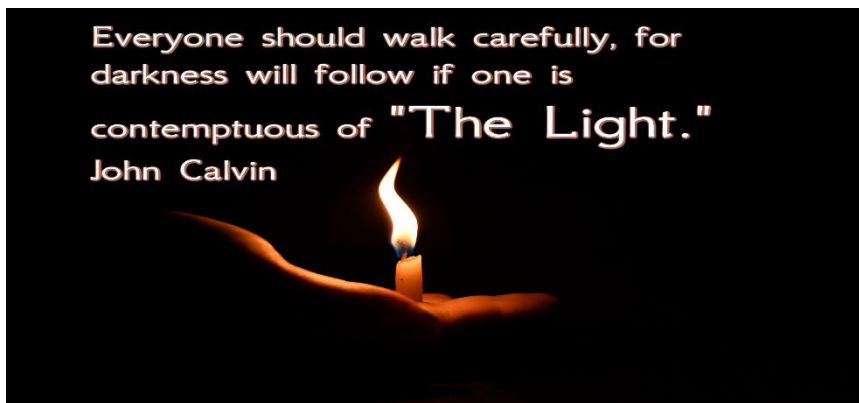
**<sup>36</sup> While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light."**

**<sup>19</sup> "The sun shall no longer be your light by day, Nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you; But the LORD will be to you an everlasting light, And your God your glory. <sup>20</sup> Your sun shall no longer go down, Nor shall your moon withdraw itself; For the LORD will be your everlasting light, And the days of your mourning shall be ended. Isaiah 60:19–20 (NKJV)**

4. *If we don't walk in the Light, darkness can overtake us -*

**Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. John 12:35**

**B**



*I like the word John Calvin uses, "contemptuous." If a person holds the LIGHT in contempt, it means he does not give it / Him serious consideration or*

*thought. Jesus, His Word, His Gospel message, all He does for us, dying on the cross, is worthy of! Our seeking with all our hearts –*

**<sup>13</sup> And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:13 (NKJV)**

## *II. The prophesied judgment for neglecting, rebelling against the Light -*

**<sup>37</sup> But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, <sup>38</sup> that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke: “*Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?*” <sup>39</sup> Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again: <sup>40</sup> “*He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, Lest they should see with their eyes, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.*” <sup>41</sup> These things Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Him.**

**John 12:37-41**

### *1. The first prophecy is from Isaiah 53 –*

**53 Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? <sup>2</sup> For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, *There is no beauty that we should desire Him.* <sup>3</sup> He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, *our* faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. <sup>4</sup> Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But He was wounded for our transgressions, *He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.* <sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.**  
**Isaiah 53:1–6 (NKJV)**

*Not only is unbelief foretold in Isaiah’s prophecy, but the reason for it and the result of it, Christ’s cross, which is also God’s strength for our salvation, is a stumbling block for unbelievers!*

### *2. The second prophecy, the scarier one, is from Isaiah 6:9-10 –*

**<sup>9</sup> And He said, “Go, and tell this people: ‘Keep on hearing, but do not understand; Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.’ <sup>10</sup> “Make the heart of this people dull, And their ears heavy, And shut their eyes; Lest they see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand**

with their heart, And return and be healed.” Isaiah 6:9–10 (NKJV)

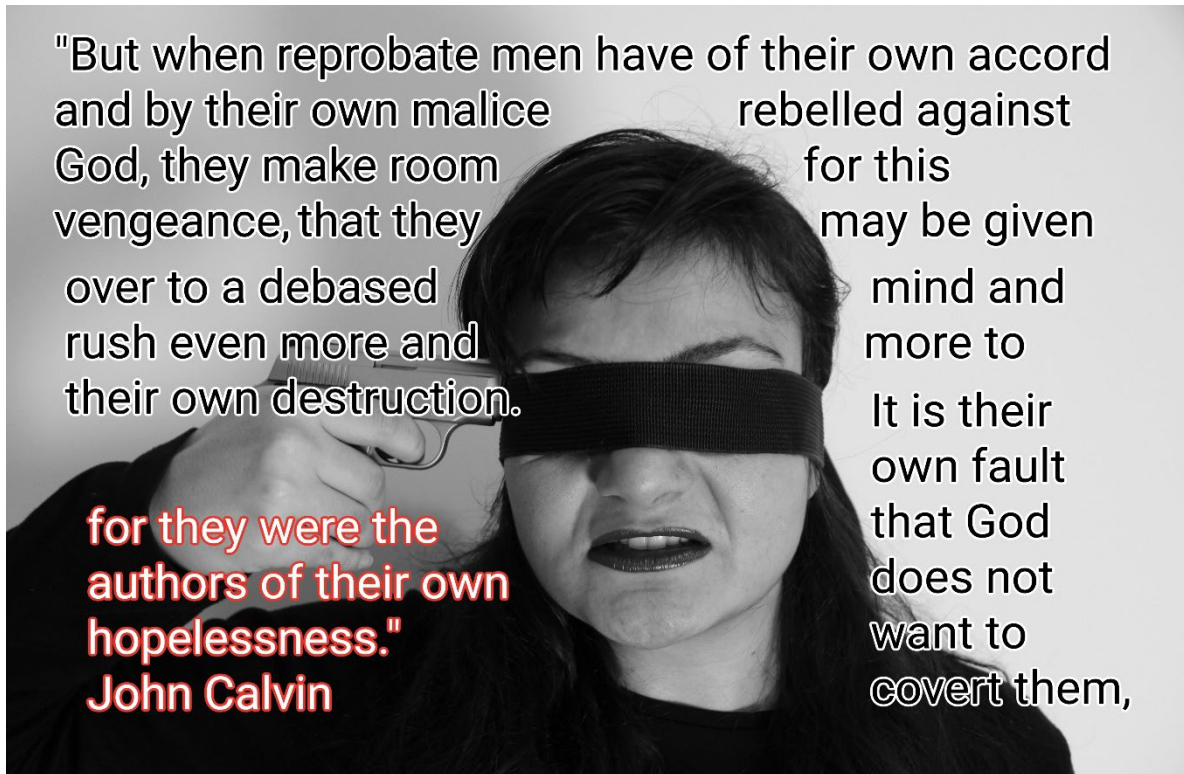
<sup>40</sup> **“He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, ... John 12:40**  
*God blinds and hardens those who don’t believe –*

*Occasionally, I run across a person who thinks it is God’s duty to make everything about salvation SIMPLE & EASY! It is not! God calls for “diligence” and NOW ...*

<sup>20</sup> **Wisdom calls aloud outside; She raises her voice in the open squares. <sup>21</sup> She cries out in the chief concourses, At the openings of the gates in the city She speaks her words: <sup>22</sup> “How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorners delight in their scorning, And fools hate knowledge. <sup>23</sup> Turn at my rebuke; Surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you. <sup>24</sup> Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded, <sup>25</sup> Because you disdained all my counsel, And would have none of my rebuke, <sup>26</sup> I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes, <sup>27</sup> When your terror comes like a storm, And your destruction comes like a whirlwind, When distress and anguish come upon you. <sup>28</sup> “Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me. <sup>29</sup> Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the LORD, <sup>30</sup> They would have none of my counsel And despised my every rebuke. <sup>31</sup> Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way, And be filled to the full with their own fancies. <sup>32</sup> For the turning away of the simple will slay them, And the complacency of fools will destroy them; <sup>33</sup> But whoever listens to me will dwell safely, And will be secure, without fear of evil.” Proverbs 1:20–33 (NKJV)**

*What God gives ...*

- A. A witness and time. **now is the day of salvation. 2 Corinthians 6:2**
- B. An ignoring, contempt, rebellion against or even hatred of the message & Messenger
- C. God’s giving people up to a depraved, reprobate mind!



*III. Even among the rulers (the Sanhedrin / the  
Seventy) many believed -*

<sup>42</sup> Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess *Him*, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; <sup>43</sup> for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God. John 12:42–43

*Were these "rulers" saved? Rulers = Sanhedrin – Nicodemus was one! What about others?*

*J C Ryle wrote*

"Many even of the chief people at Jerusalem believed, in their own secret minds, that Jesus was the Christ. This faith no doubt was only the faith of the head, and not of the heart. But they did believe.

Let us note that there is often far more going on in people's minds than preachers are aware of. There is much secret conviction.

**[but because of the Pharisees they did not confess *Him*.]** They dared not openly confess their faith in our Lord, for fear of the persecution of the Pharisees. They were cowards, and influenced by the fear of man. No wonder that our Lord spoke so strongly in other places about the duty of confessing Him.

**[lest they should be put out of the synagogue;]** The thing that they feared was excommunication. We can have little idea perhaps of the extreme dread with which a Jew regarded exclusion from the visible Jewish Church. Unlike ourselves, he knew no other Church in the whole world. To be shut out of this Church was equivalent to being shut out of heaven. The dread of excommunication in the Irish Catholic Church is perhaps the nearest thing to it in our days.

43.—**[<sup>43</sup> for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.]** St. John here tells us plainly the prevailing motive in the minds of the cowardly Jews. They loved above everything to be well thought of by their fellow-men. They thought more of having the good opinion of man than the praise of God. They could not bear the idea of being laughed at, ridiculed, reviled, or persecuted by their fellow-men. To keep in with them and have their praise, they sacrificed their own convictions, and acted contrary to their conscience. How much this feeling injures the soul is shown by our Lord's words in a former place: "How can ye believe which receive honour one from another?" (John 5:44.) J. C. Ryle

#### *IV. Jesus' last words to the crowd -*

**<sup>44</sup> Then Jesus cried out and said, "He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me. <sup>45</sup> And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me. <sup>46</sup> I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness. <sup>47</sup> And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. <sup>48</sup> He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. <sup>49</sup> For I have not spoken on My own *authority*; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. <sup>50</sup> And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak."** John 12:44–50 (NKJV)

1. *If you believe in Jesus, it is the same as believing in God the Father, the invisible God In Heaven – **John 12:44***
2. *If you have seen Jesus, not physical sight, but spiritual, you have seen the Father / God – **John 12:45***
3. *Jesus came as a Light, to save believers from darkness – **John 12:46***
4. *Jesus did not come to JUDGE, but His gracious words and teaching JUDGE those who reject Him and them – **John 12:47-48***
5. *Jesus spoke with God's Authority and by His command – **John 12:49***
6. *God's command is everlasting LIFE, for us – **John 12:50***

*Arnold A. Brevick*