

JOHN 12:32FF.
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- I. THE MINISTRY OF MESSIAH
 - A. TO BE LIFTED UP AND DRAW ALL MEN
 - B. TO BE OUR LIGHT, OUR SAVIOR AND FRIEND

- II. THE MISTAKE OF MEN
 - A. TO LISTEN TO INTELLECTUAL DEBATE
 - B. TO PROCRASTINATE UNTIL IT IS TOO LATE

I. THE MINISTRY OF MESSIAH

A. TO BE LIFTED UP AND DRAW ALL MEN

LIFTED UP -

John 3:14 And as Moses **lifted up** the serpent in the wilderness, EVEN SO MUST THE SON OF MAN BE LIFTED UP:

John 8:28 Then said Jesus unto them, WHEN YE HAVE LIFTED UP THE SON OF MAN, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.

"DRAW" HAS TO DO WITH COMPULSION. HOW THEN ARE THERE MANY WHO WILL NOT BE DRAWN TO HIM? **THEY WILL BE!** BUT FOR MANY, **IT WILL BE AT THE JUDGEMENT DAY!** THEN, **EVERY KNEE WILL BOW TO HIM!**

Romans 14:11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, **EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL CONFESS TO GOD.**

Philippians 2:9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: **THAT AT THE NAME OF JESUS EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, OF THINGS IN HEAVEN, AND THINGS IN EARTH, AND THINGS UNDER THE EARTH; AND THAT EVERY TONGUE SHOULD CONFESS THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD, TO THE GLORY OF GOD THE FATHER.**

"FATHER GLORIFY THY NAME . . ."I HAVE BOTH GLORIFIED IT AND WILL GLORIFY IT AGAIN." **John 12:28.**

HOW? THROUGH THE EFFICACIOUS WORK OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST WHEREBY HE IS THE MEDIATOR AND THE DOOR BETWEEN MAN AND GOD!

B. TO BE OUR LIGHT, OUR SAVIOR AND FRIEND.

He is **the light**:

THE TESTIMONY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST:

John 1:4 In him was life; and the life was the **light** of men.

John 1:9 That was the **true Light**, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS THE MESSIAH:

John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD**: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the **light** of life.

John 12:46 I AM COME A **LIGHT** INTO THE WORLD, THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH ON ME SHOULD NOT ABIDE IN DARKNESS.

IN DARKNESS = **UNBELIEF**

John 12:35 Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little **while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light**, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.

John 12:31 NOW IS THE JUDGMENT OF THIS WORLD: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.

John 3:19 AND THIS IS THE CONDEMNATION (*judgment nasb.*), THAT **LIGHT** IS COME INTO THE WORLD, AND MEN **LOVED DARKNESS RATHER THAN LIGHT**, BECAUSE THEIR DEEDS WERE EVIL.

Cathedral caverns c. 1968 – total darkness – total terror. It remained dark for what seemed like an eternity. At last, the guide flicked on his Zippo lighter several yards away. What a marvelous light flooded that enormous cavern.

Let me tell you about a darkness greater than that of an underground cavern – the darkness that envelops the unsaved soul. . . me, Paul, a light in the darkness. . . .

JESUS OFFERED A BONA FIDE WAY OF ESCAPE FROM THE DARKNESS.

John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I am the light of the world**: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the **light of life**.

THEIR PRIVILEGE WAS TO TRUST IN THE LIGHT AND TO BECOME THE CHILDREN OF LIGHT:

Romans 13:12 THE NIGHT IS FAR SPENT, THE DAY IS AT HAND: LET US THEREFORE CAST OFF THE WORKS OF DARKNESS, AND LET US PUT ON THE **ARMOR OF LIGHT**.

ALL WHO KNOW THE SAVIOUR WERE AT ONE TIME IN DARKNESS!

Ephesians 5:8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light. **NKJV**

THE PRESENT CALL IS TO **RECEIVE THE LIGHT!**

Ephesians 5:14 Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and **Christ shall give thee light**.

John 12:36 WHILE YE HAVE **LIGHT**, BELIEVE IN THE **LIGHT**, THAT YE MAY BE THE CHILDREN OF LIGHT.

THESE THINGS SPAKE JESUS, AND DEPARTED, AND DID HIDE HIMSELF FROM THEM.

EVEN though his hour was come - HE **ONCE AGAIN VANISHED FROM THEIR MIDST**.

John 5:13 And he that was healed wist not who it was: for JESUS HAD CONVEYED HIMSELF AWAY, A MULTITUDE BEING IN THAT PLACE.

John 8:59 Then took they up stones to cast at him: but JESUS HID HIMSELF, AND WENT OUT OF THE TEMPLE, **GOING THROUGH THE MIDST OF them**, and so passed by.

John 10:39 Therefore they sought again to take him: but HE **ESCAPED OUT OF THEIR HAND**,

II .THE MISTAKE OF MEN

A. TO LISTEN TO INTELLECTUAL DEBATE

V . 34 :

"They seemed to understand that Jesus was predicting his death, but they could not see how that was possible, if he was the Messiah." bkc.

Dan. 7:13-14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom *that* which shall not be destroyed.

see also Ps. 102:26-7; Is. 9:6-7. Isa 9:7 **Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there shall be no end***, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice **from henceforth even for ever**. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

"Perhaps they wondered if He was making a **distinction** between the **Son of Man and the Messiah**.

While the crowd thought on intellectual hair splitting - Christ confronted them on the moral level.

Joh 12:35 Then Jesus said unto them, **Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.**
THEIR TIME WAS LIMITED:

JOHN HAS SOUNDED THE THEME OF **JEWISH UNBELIEF** FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE BOOK UNTIL NOW - CF. **1:11**.

THE DANGER OF ENGAGING IN INTELLECTUAL DEBATE IS THAT WE HAVE A TENDENCY TO WAIT UNTIL IT IS TOO LATE TO MAKE ETERNITY CHANGING DECISIONS.

INTELLECTUAL DEBATE MAY HAVE VERY LITTLE TO DO WITH WEIGHTIER MATTERS, IT MAY BE AS SIMPLE AS MAKING UP YOUR MIND TO PURSUE A CERTAIN COURSE OF ACTION - BUT IF WE WAIT TO LONG - WE PERISH!

Read QUOTE FROM **Isa 6:9** And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. **Isa 6:10** Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and

shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.

THE NATION WAS UNABLE TO BELIEVE - AND THIS BECAUSE THEY HAD REJECTED GOD'S REVELATION.THEY HAVE BEEN PUNISHED WITH JUDICIAL BLINDNESS, AND DEADENED.

THOSE OF WHOM JOHN SPOKE WERE NO DIFFERENT.

THEY "WOULD NOT BELIEVE" **V 37** SO THEY "COULD NOT BELIEVE" **V. 39!**

SIMILAR EXAMPLES ABOUND:

EX. 9:12 Pharaoh

Romans 1:24 Wherefore **GOD ALSO GAVE THEM UP TO UNCLEANNES**s through the **lusts of their own hearts**, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves:

Romans 1:26 For this cause **GOD GAVE THEM UP UNTO VILE AFFECTIONS**: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

Romans 1:28 **And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, GOD GAVE THEM OVER TO A REPROBATE MIND, to do those things which are not convenient;**

(NASB) And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper,

II THES. 2:8-12

2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

2:9 *Even him*, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

2:11 And for this cause **GOD SHALL SEND THEM STRONG DELUSION, THAT THEY SHOULD BELIEVE A LIE.**

2:12 : **THAT THEY ALL MIGHT BE DAMNED WHO BELIEVED NOT THE TRUTH, BUT HAD PLEASURE IN UNRIGHTEOUSNESS**

Interesting story last week – complete with video – small airplane ran out of gas and crashed into the sea – **but it had a parachute!** When the plane hit the water – pilot had the cockpit opened and hopped out into the ocean – **but he had a flotation device.** A passing ship sent out a rescue team in a **life boat** and he was on the deck of the cruise ship in short order!

– **BUT what if he would have refused to get in the life raft?**

South Africa: Illegal miners refuse to be rescued AP 4:30 p.m. EST **February 16, 2014** (*see attached*)

Emergency rescue workers attempt to free trapped illegal miners at a gold mine shaft near Benoni, South Africa, on Feb. 16.(Photo: AP)

Story Highlights

- Emergency workers cleared a mine shaft entrance, 11 miners were escorted safely. Some stayed underground in fear of being arrested if they came out. Rescue workers left behind a ladder in the shaft for those still underground.

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — They refused to be rescued.

Emergency workers in South Africa cleared a mine shaft entrance of debris on Sunday, allowing miners who had been trapped below the chance to escape. The only problem was that the miners were working illegally at the abandoned mine, and some stayed underground because they feared arrest if they came out, according to officials.

PERSISTENCE IN REJECTING GOD'S OFFER OF SALVATION LEADS TO THE SPIRITUAL BLINDING OF MEN:

You cannot escape the working of this divinely established rule. We all know that when a man in a blizzard begins to lose feeling and wants to sleep he is in great danger and **MUST ACT QUICKLY TO STIR HIMSELF TO ACTION OR ELSE HE WILL FREEZE TO DEATH.** Similarly, if you have rejected Christ and now find yourself with very little sensitivity to Biblical truths, you are in a perilous state and **MUST ACT IMMEDIATELY.**

Ephesians 5:14 Wherefore he saith, **Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.**

THOT: Men's hearts are either like wax or like clay: while the light of God melts one, it hardens the other! db 8-25-72.

(note: some of the following illustration does not appear to be "spot on" when compared to the actual facts, at least according to Wikipedia.)

(used in 1988) **LESLIE GREENING TELLS THE STORY OF: "The steamship Central America**
On a voyage from New York to San Francisco, she sprang a leak in mid ocean. A vessel, hearing her signal of distress, bore down toward her. Perceiving her danger to be imminent, the Captain of the rescue ship spoke to the Central America, asking, "What is amiss?"

"We are in bad repair and going down. **LIE BY TILL MORNING.!**"

"Let me take your passengers on board NOW!" said the would be rescuer.

It was night and the captain of the Central America did not like to transfer his passengers then, lest some might be lost in the confusion. Thinking that they would keep afloat some hours longer, he replied. **"LIE BY TILL MORNING"**

Once again the Captain of the rescue ship called,

"You had better let me take them now."

"LIE BY TIL MORNING" was sounded back through the night.

About an hour and a half later, **HER LIGHTS WERE MISSED!** The Central America had gone down and all aboard her perished, **BECAUSE IT WAS THOUGHT THAT THEY COULD BE SAVED ANOTHER TIME!**

WHILE SALVATION IS OFFERED TO YOU, NOW, DO NOT DELAY TO RECEIVE CHRIST." *tann # 4774.*

NOTE 2015: - A Wikipedia article I read in 2015 fills in a lot more of the details of this wreck. The above illustration does not do it justice. In fact, there were many survivors (c. 25%) and it actually sunk in the evening etc. Also, carried 10 tons of gold, which were partially salvaged, and the salvage guy cheated his investors and was just arrested a **few days ago!**

. . . . "Thompson was sued in 2005 by several of the investors who had provided \$12.5 million in financing, and in 2006 by several members of his crew, over a lack of returns for their respective investments. Thompson went into

hiding in 2012, and was located in **January 2015**, along with assistant Alison Antekeier, by US Marshals, and will be extradited to Ohio, to provide an accounting of the expedition profits.^{[\[3151617\]](#)}

South Africa: Illegal miners refuse to be rescued AP 4:30 p.m. EST February 16, 2014

Emergency rescue workers attempt to free trapped illegal miners at a gold mine shaft near Benoni, South Africa, on Feb. 16.(Photo: AP)

Story Highlights

- Emergency workers cleared a mine shaft entrance, 11 miners were escorted safely
- Some stayed underground in fear of being arrested if they came out
- Rescue workers left behind a ladder in the shaft for those still underground

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — They refused to be rescued.

Emergency workers in South Africa cleared a mine shaft entrance of debris on Sunday, allowing miners who had been trapped below the chance to escape. The only problem was that the miners were working illegally at the abandoned mine, and some stayed underground because they feared arrest if they came out, according to officials.

At least 11 miners were escorted to safety at the mine in Benoni, on the outskirts of Johannesburg, but an undetermined number of their comrades were still in the gold mine, emergency responder Kobus Du Plooy said by telephone late Sunday.

Police were preparing to question those who came out about anyone left underground, local media reported.

After nightfall, some mine security officials remained at the site, but rescue workers had packed up and left, leaving behind a ladder in the shaft for those still below.

"Should they have a change of heart and mind, they then have at least some access to get out of the shaft," Du Plooy said.

He said he didn't know how many people were still in the shaft. Earlier, reports said more than 200 miners had been trapped. But the ones who emerged were tightlipped about the colleagues they left behind, **apparently concerned about trouble with the police.**

"They don't want to give away too much information," Du Plooy said. It was unclear how long the holdouts, who seemed to have few options, planned to prolong their stay in the mine.

Some of the 11 who came out were dehydrated but otherwise in good health. They were believed to have been trapped since Saturday morning and police patrolling in the area heard their screams for help, the South African Press Association reported. Rescue vehicles and equipment were brought to the site to stabilize the ground before the removal of the rubble began.

Illegal mining is common in South Africa, a major producer of gold and platinum. Workers brave unsafe conditions below ground amid reports of the involvement of organized crime and even clashes between rival groups seeking to extract precious metal from the shafts.

Authorities suspect the miners in Benoni were robbed by a rival group that blocked the mine exit, reported Eyewitness News, a South African media outlet.

Illegal mining remains a serious concern, despite progress in curbing it, South Africa's mineral resources department said in a statement. It attributed the improvement to "illegal mining forums," in which stakeholders in the mining industry seal open shafts and seek to detain illegal miners, according to the South African Press Association.

Some analysts say the problem could increase if legal mines close or downsize, forcing skilled workers who have lost their jobs to turn to illegal activities. South Africa's mining industry, a pillar of the economy, is struggling with rising costs. Tens of thousands of workers in the platinum sector are currently on strike.