

John 12:44-50
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Joh 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.**

*(The explanation in the following verses of John 12 by John is to explain the public ministry of Jesus – which has **now ended.**)*

37-41 many did not believe.

John 12:37 But though he had done so many miracles before them, **yet they believed not on him:**

42-43, among those who did believe - many were **afraid** to let their belief be known to others.

John 12:43 For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God. Because - they feared men rather than God

One of God's faithful servants, **Bishop Handley Moule**, expressed his own experience of avoiding the **praise of men** in this spiritual song: (*db 5-22-77*) **Handley Carr Glyn Moule** died, May 8, 1920. He served as the **Bishop** of Durham from 1901-1920, and was an acute scholar and a powerful communicator

My Savior thou hast offered rest.
Oh give it then to me -
**The rest of ceasing from myself
To find my all in Thee.**

This cruel self - oh how it strives
And works within my breast
To come between thee and my soul,
And keep me back from rest.

Seeking the praise of men, or being jealous of others is a constant temptation in all of our lives.

Pastor A.W. Tozier, that incomparable mystic and lover of God, once offered this simple prayer –

"Dear Lord, I refuse henceforth to compete with any of my fellow servants. They have congregations larger than mine. So be it. I rejoice in their success. They have greater gifts than I. Very well. **That is not in their power nor in mine.** I am grateful for their larger gifts and my smaller ones. I only pray that I may use my talents for thy glory." *db 5-22-77*

JESUS DIDN'T COME TO SAVE THE **SELF-RIGHTEOUS** - THOSE WHO FEEL THAT THEY DO NOT NEED A SAVIOR, "**THEY HAVE THEIR REWARD**"

HE CAME TO SAVE THE **LOST**, THE **LAST** AND THE **LEAST**. HE CAME TO SAVE **YOU** and **I**.

THE VERY LAST APPEAL THAT CHRIST MADE TO THE PUBLIC BEFORE GOING TO THE CROSS WAS THAT - **BELIEF IN HIM BRINGS LIGHT, 12:46, AND LIFE EVERLASTING, 12:50.**

- I. TO RECEIVE JESUS IS TO RECEIVE GOD 44-46**
- II. TO REJECT JESUS IS TO REJECT GOD 47-50**

I. TO RECEIVE JESUS IS TO RECEIVE GOD 44-46

John 12:44 Then Jesus cried out and said, "He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me.

The words are reminiscent of other Self-Identifications by Jesus himself.

John 8:19 Then they said to Him, "Where is Your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither Me nor My Father. **If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also.**"

v. 44 – 45

John 1:18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him. (*"explained Him" nasb*)

Colossians 1:15 assures us "He (*Jesus Christ*) is the **image of the invisible God**, the firstborn over all creation." *NKJV*

Hebrews 1:3 Who being the **brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power**, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the **Majesty on high**;

see also: **12:41** "These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and **spake of him.**"
Contextually, in John, this applies to Jesus.

To Philip a few hours later - John 14:9 Jesus saith unto him, **Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? HE THAT HATH SEEN ME HATH SEEN THE FATHER**; and how sayest thou then, **Shew us the Father?**

v. 46 "I am come a **light into the world**, that whosoever believeth on me **should not abide in darkness.**"

WHO IS ABIDING IN DARKNESS?

II Corinthians 4:3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath **blinded the minds of them which believe not**, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Jesus has already exhorted the Jews - 12:35 "**walk while you have the light - lest darkness come upon you.**"

SOMETIMES IT IS HARD TO APPRECIATE THE LIGHT, UNTIL WE FULLY REALIZE THE DARKNESS.

"Speaking of *Mrs. Sullivan*, her great teacher, *Helen Keller* said:

"From my nineteenth month, **deaf, dumb, blind**, I had wandered desolately in a no-man's land until I was seven; then **Miss Sullivan** came and took my hand and led me by untrodden paths through the silent dark, back to the living ways of men. This was an adventure full of enchantment; **FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT, FROM SILENCE TO LANGUAGE, FROM DUMBNESS TO SPEECH, OH WONDERFUL CHANGE!**" *db 12-9-68.*

JOHN SAID OF JESUS:

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.

AND JESUS AFFIRMED JOHN'S STATEMENT

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.**

TO HAVE THE **LIGHT OF LIFE IS TO HAVE GOD - FOR GOD IS LIGHT!**

According to **Colossians 1:11-13**

(**IT IS the Father,**) "which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: who hath **DELIVERED US FROM THE POWER OF DARKNESS, AND HATH TRANSLATED US INTO THE KINGDOM OF HIS DEAR SON:** In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:"

WE ARE DELIVERED FROM DARKNESS AND MADE FIT TO PARTAKE OF THE INHERITANCE OF "**THE SAINTS IN LIGHT**"

IT IS A GODLY INHERITANCE THAT WE RECEIVE. ONE THAT IS CLEANSED BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS AND SATURATED WITH THE BLOOD OF THE SAINTS WHO HAVE SERVED BEFORE US!

"Christian converts in **NEW GUINEA** who once knew only a life of **CANNIBALISM** have erected over the grave of a missionary a marker which reads:

"WHEN HE CAME, THERE WAS NO LIGHT - WHEN HE DIED, THERE WAS NO DARKNESS!" db 12/9/68

WHY - **BECAUSE WE HAVE A MINISTRY OF LIGHT!**

JESUS WAS NOT ON A SEARCH AND DESTROY MINISTRY - BUT ON A SEEK AND SAVE MISSION.

V. 47. And if any man hear my words, and believe not, **I judge him not:** for I came not to judge the world, but to **save the world.**

"The purpose of **Christ's First Coming** was **not to judge the world but to save.** He did not sit in judgment on those who refused to hear His words or believe on Him. This does not mean that He will not condemn these unbelievers in a **coming day, but that judgment was not the object of His First Advent.**" *BBC*

II. TO REJECT JESUS IS TO REJECT GOD!!!! 47-50

12:48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, **hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.**

"Those who refuse His salvation will receive His judgment

Heb 12:25 See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who **spoke** on earth, much more *shall we not escape* if we turn away from Him who *speaks* from heaven."

49 For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.

50 And I know that **his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.**

The Words that Jesus speaks are the Word of God.

I John 2:22 Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is **antichrist**, that **denieth the Father and the Son**. WHOSOEVER DENIETH THE SON, THE SAME HATH NOT THE FATHER: [BUT] HE THAT ACKNOWLEDGETH THE SON HATH THE FATHER ALSO.

v. 48 MEN ARE IN DARKNESS - GOD HAS SENT LIGHT - THOSE WHO RESPOND HAVE LIFE - THOSE WHO REJECT HAVE JUDGEMENT.

WHAT WAS THE COMMANDMENT THAT JESUS SPOKE?

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

*Article in a recent **Readers Digest** about a man who is traveling the world on a yellow motorcycle. In India, he met a man, and did a ritual cleansing in the **Ganges River** - a filthy open sewer and burial place for millions of Indians. He was a bit concerned about entering the disease infested Ganges River, but waded right in at his new friend's bidding. Evidently, the hope of the populace is that the filth of the Ganges is able to purify a person.*

*A century ago, **Dr. Earl S. Taylor** was in **Calcutta** during an **eclipse of the sun**. For days before that event he saw the city's streets crowded with pilgrims on their way to various sacred places, where they hoped to worship and **bathe in the Hooghly river** just **below the Ganges** during the time of the eclipse, **expecting thereby to ward off evil**. When at last the fateful hour of darkness arrived **hundreds of thousands of natives thronged the sacred waters, terrorized by the eclipse and making a great clamor because they feared a great power of evil in the form of a snake was about to swallow the sun-god**. As **Dr. Taylor**, looking from the **Y.M.C.A. Building**, witnessed this terrible evidence of heathenish superstition, he heard group of native **Christians singing in their meeting**:*

***The whole world was lost in the darkness of sin;
The Light of the World is Jesus***

How thrilling! For India's **spiritual darkness is due solely to the eclipse of Jesus**, the **Light of the world**, made by heathenism in the hearts of her benighted millions.

156 (*old hymnal, not in new*) - "THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD IS JESUS" *Philip P. Bliss.*
Words & Music: [Philip P. Bliss](#), 1875 ([MIDI](#), [score](#)).

The whole world was lost
In the darkness of sin,
The Light of the world is Jesus!
Like sunshine at noonday,
His glory shone in.
The Light of the world is Jesus!

Refrain

Come to the light, 'tis shining for thee;
Sweetly the light has dawned upon me.
Once I was blind, but now I can see:
The Light of the world is Jesus!

No darkness have we
Who in Jesus abide;
The Light of the world is Jesus!
We walk in the light
When we follow our Guide!
The Light of the world is Jesus! *Refrain*

Ye dwellers in darkness
With sin blinded eyes,
The Light of the world is Jesus!
Go, wash, at His bidding,
And light will arise.
The Light of the world is Jesus! *Refrain*

No need of the sunlight
In Heaven we're told;
The Light of the world is Jesus!
The Lamb is the Light
In the city of gold,
The Light of the world is Jesus! *Refrain*

Joh 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.