

**“Who is Jesus?”: Glorified Blinding Light  
John 12:37-43**

**Introduction:**

- Read **John 12:37-50**
- Read **John 20:30-31**
- **A.W. Pink** believes this section of Chp.12 to include something of an epilogue to Christ’s ministry – a summary of the results of His three years of ministry.

**Seeing Does Not Mean Believing (vv.37-41)**

A) The Unbelievers

- a. **John 1:9-12**, “**9** The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. **10** He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. **11** He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. **12** But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, **13** who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.”
- b. **John 2:23-25**, “**23** Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. **24** But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people **25** and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.”
- c. **John 3:18**, “Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”

B) Unbelief Fulfills Scripture?

- a. Is it predestined? Is it prediction? Is there a difference?  
Depends on the point of view.
- b. Cause and effect
- c. The Point is fulfilled scripture

C) All for (and from) God’s Glory

- a. How does unbelief glorify God?
- b. Isaiah, Unbelief and God’s Glory
  - i. **Isaiah 53** (Messianic prophecy – Read first)
  - ii. **Isaiah 6:9-10** (Read next), “**9** And he said, “Go, and say to this people: “Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive. **10** Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.”
  - iii. **Isaiah 45:5-7**, “**5** I am the Lord, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, **6** that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. **7** I form light and create darkness, I make well-being and create calamity, I am the Lord, who does all these things.”
  - iv. The burden of proof
  - v. The fact that He leaves some to their own choice and nature does not make Him less glorious. In a very real sense it validates His glory in that apart from His glory being seen, beheld and treasured, none will come. Why? Because His glory cannot be shared with anyone.
    1. **2 Cor.4:4**, “In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”
    2. **Rom.3:9-11**, “**9** What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, **10** as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; **11** no one understands; no one seeks for God.”

## Believing is Seeing the Glory of God and Loving It (vv.41-43)

- A) All things are a result of seeing the glory of God
- a. Belief and Unbelief
  - b. **Isaiah 6:1-8** (The commissioning coming out of the awesome/awful experience in God's presence (v.41 sheds light on Isaiah 6 and the nature of the glory of God)
  - c. **Hebrews 1:3**, *"He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high..."*
  - d. **Isaiah 53:10-12**, *"10 Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. 11 Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. 12 Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors."*
- B) Everyone must face God's Glory
- a. Authorities (including candidates) – **vv.44-50**
  - b. Belief requires confession
    - i. **Rom.10:9-10**, *"9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."*
    - ii. **Luke 12:8-9**, *"8 "And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man*

*also will acknowledge before the angels of God, 9 but the one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God."*

- c. Belief is costly (**Luke 9:23**, *"And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."*
- d. Belief rejects a love for this world (**vv.25-26**)
- e. Belief embraces the glory that comes from God
  - i. They were not believers in the saving sense at this point...perhaps later, we don't know
  - ii. Nicodemus appears to be one that was associated publicly with Christ along the way
  - iii. **Ps.106:19-21**, *"19 They made a calf in Horeb and worshiped a metal image.20 They exchanged the glory of God for the image of an ox that eats grass.21 They forgot God, their Savior, who had done great things in Egypt..."* (exchange glory of God for image of ox that eats grass – what about the applause of men over the pleasure / judgment of God...just as ridiculous)

## Application

- Do you see?
- Do you believe? Depends on what you saw. Did you see the glory of God in Christ (life, death, burial & resurrection)? Or do you value the glory of men over the Christ?
- When you look to Him, do you want to follow Him, trusting that He has taken all of your sin on Himself?
  - If so, confess Him before men, through profession and baptism.
  - Repent of your sin life and run toward Him
  - Love life in Him more than life in this world
  - Trust that you'll be with Him one day