

**“Who is Jesus?”: Savior
John 12:44-50**

44 And Jesus cried out and said, “Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. **45** And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. **46** I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. **47** If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. **48** The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. **49** For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. **50** And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me.”

Introduction:

- Read **John 12:37-50**
- This is just after this epilogue by John in vv.37-43. Jesus makes a strong exhortation for genuine belief and the consequence for rejecting His Word (or **SUMMARY** of statements by John – **v.36b**).
- There is a great realization for us here to know that while God is sovereign in salvation, dare I say election, that we also know that the realization of His calling on men is through the imploring of believers to tell and the response of hearers to believe.
- Essentially, there is a power of words here in Christ himself, His speech and the response of men.
- Here there are some consistent themes that have already been at work in John:
 - Jesus as Light and people in darkness
 - Jesus as the Word
 - The requirement of belief in His identity, not just His works
 - Jesus as the authority and authority to judge
 - God’s sovereignty and man’s choosing
- This passage concludes in a way that helps us transition to the next section of John, the teaching of the disciples (chps.13-17). **GREAT CONTINUITY! SATURATE WITH SCRIPTURE AND EXALT CHRIST!**

The Nature of True Believers (vv.44-46)

- A) True Believers believe Jesus is the Christ (**vv.44-45**) – **BY GRACE!**
- a. Not just a prophet from God
 - b. Believing is Seeing
 - c. John 1:1,14
 - d. **John 14:8-11**, “**8** Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” **9** Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? **10** Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. **11** Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.”
- B) True Believers walk in the Light, rejecting darkness (**v.46**) – **THROUGH FAITH!**
- a. **John 1:9**, “The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.”
 - b. **John 3:21**, “But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”
 - c. **John 8:12**, “Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’”
 - d. Vv.35-36
 - e. **1 John 1:5-7**, “**5** This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. **6** If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. **7** But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.”
 - f. **1 John 2:8-11**, “**8** At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true

in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. 9 Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. 10 Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling.

11 But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes."

- g. The KEY here is **TRANSFORMATION**...When someone comes to Christ they are changed and changing!
- h. Jesus is not just the message of Light, He is light. Now, we'll see that Jesus is not just the message with words, He is the Word!

The Nature of True Unbelievers (vv.47-48)

A) Unbelievers Reject Christ (v.47)

- a. Hear without Doing (**James 1:22**, *"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."*)
- b. Rejects the Word
 - i. The same Word that Brings life to believers, brings condemnation to unbelievers
 - ii. The Message and the Man, Christ
 - iii. **1 Corinthians 1:20-25**, *"20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. 22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men."*

c. Rejects the Savior

- i. **Jude 3-4**, *"3 Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. 4 For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, **who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ."***
- ii. **John 3:16-21**, *"16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. 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. 19 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. 20 For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. 21 But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."* (TRANSITION)
- iii. **John Calvin**, *"No man, therefore, is condemned on account of having despised the Gospel, except he who, disdainng the lovely message of salvation, has chosen of his own accord to draw down destruction on himself."*
- iv. Men will be judged because they rejected Christ and chose sin (**Rom.1:18;3**)

B) Unbelievers will be Judged by the Word (v.48)

- a. The Word

- i. **John 5:45-47**, *“45 Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. 46 For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. 47 But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?”*
- ii. The Authority is in the Words
 - 1. The Authority of God created the World by the power of His Word
 - a. **Genesis 1:3**, *“And God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light.”*
 - b. **Heb.11:3**, *“By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.”*
 - 2. The Authority of God is in His speech, the logos (Word), Jesus Christ (**John 1:1**, *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”*)
 - 3. The Authority of God to deliver people from darkness, sin, death is in His Word (**Romans 10:14-17**, *“14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? 15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!’ 16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, ‘Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?’ 17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”*)

b. The Last day

- i. Judgment is separation
- ii. **John 5:19-29** speaks of this
- iii. The future separation (wheat / tares, sheep / goats) will be the realization of the separation that occurs because the Word divides and separates (**Hebrews 4:12-13**, *“12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. 13 And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”*)
- iv. **2 Thes.1:5-12**, *“5 This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering— 6 since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, 7 and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels 8 in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, 10 when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed. 11 To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, 12 so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

The Authority of the True Savior (vv.49-50)

- A) The Authority of the Father (v.49)
 - a. The Power of His Sending
 - i. No Other religious leader claims deity
 - ii. Christ and the Father are One
 - b. The Power of His Speech

- B) The Authority of the Father's Command (v.50)
 - a. Eternal Nature of the Command (**Isa.40:7-8**, "*7 The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass.8 The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.*")
 - b. The Simplicity of His Authority (**Jude 24-25**, "*24 Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, 25 to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.*")
 - c. This is NOT an invitation...it is a command to come. Those who do not come are not merely rejecting an invitation, they are disobeying a command of God (sin).
 - d. WILL YOU BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST? THE ONE WHO HAS TAKEN ON YOUR SIN, DYING IN YOUR PLACE? THE ONE WHO IS RESURRECTED AND HAS AUTHORITY OVER ALL INCLUDING YOU? WILL YOU BELIEVE? IF NOT, YOU SIMPLY WAIT, THEN, FOR THE JUDGMENT.