

Series: John
Title: The Last Word
Text: John 12: 44-50
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John 12: 44: Jesus cried and said, He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me.

The end of John 12 is the end of Christ's public ministry. After this, verse 36 says that he "*departed and did hide himself from them.*" Some think verses 44-50 is John's summary of what Christ preached during his earthly ministry. Others think it is what Christ preached that day. It seems both are true.

Those who trusted in their works rejected Christ that day as they had the entire time. In their rejection, they asked our Lord a question, "*The people answered him, We have heard out of the law that Christ abideth for ever: and how sayest thou, The Son of man must be lifted up? who is this Son of man?*" (v34) In verses 44-50 our Lord declared before all who this Son of man is.

THE SON OF MAN IS GOD

John 12: 44: Jesus cried and said, He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me. 45: And he that seeth me seeth him that sent me.

The Son of man—Christ Jesus—is the Son of God. He is one with the Father and the Spirit. The Lord Jesus was sent of God into the world to reveal God—"Jesus cried and said, He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me." It means he that rejects Christ, rejects the triune God who sent him.

He declared, "*And he that seeth me seeth him that sent me.*" He was sent to reveal God and he alone manifests God. This is vital. Our Lord declared this repeatedly. The only way to know God is by the Son revealing him.

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*.

God is invisible. He is Spirit. No man hath seen God at any time. But the Son of Man is the glory and image of God. Beholding Christ, we behold God. The Lord Jesus is "the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person." (Heb 1: 3). "In him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily." (Col 2:9). The Son of Man is God. God sending him means the Son of Man was with God before he was sent of God.

John 6:62: *What* and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?

John 17: 5: And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

The Lord Jesus declares that he was in heaven as the Son of man before he came into the world in our nature. His human body was created in time. But in the will and purpose of God, he was the Son of man, the Surety of the everlasting covenant, from eternity. He said to the Father

Psalm 139: 15: My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. 16: Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect [uncreated]; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there were none of them.

The Lord Jesus Christ has all preeminence. The Son of Man is the first Man after whose likeness man was made. "And God said, Let US make man in OUR image, after OUR likeness" (Gen 1: 26). His human physical body was in one place at a time. But because he is the omnipresent Son of God, while in the earth in a human body, he was yet in heaven.

John 3: 13: And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which IS in heaven.

Likewise, while he is now in heaven in his glorified human body, being the Son of God, he is right now in the midst of his church in this earth and in every believer in particular in Spirit.

I give you these scriptures because they declare the Son of Man is God. Until a sinner believes the Son of Man is the Son of God, he has not yet believed on the Lord Jesus Christ. To believe on Christ is to believe on God who sent him—"*He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me. And he that seeth me seeth him that sent me.*"

His title "the Son of God" declares he is God. His title "the Son of man" declares he is the sinless Man like unto his brethren who he came to save. Our Savior is the Son of man and the Son of God—the GodMan, Mediator. *To believe on Christ is to believe on God who sent him. To behold Christ is to see the God the Father who sent him.* This is the purpose of this gospel of John, to declare the Son of man is the Son of God come in the flesh. John declared in his epistle.

1 John 4:2: Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that *spirit* of antichrist,...

1 John 5:5: Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?...

John 1:49: Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.

The Ethiopian eunuch asked if he could be baptized. "And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God" (Acts 8: 37).

THE SON OF MAN IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

John 12: 46: I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.

Fallen sinners are only darkness. Unregenerate, unbelieving sinners cannot and will not believe on Christ because they have not the Light of Christ. It is by Christ the Light that we see light. Only by Christ the Light do we know him and believe on him. When Christ gives us his Light then we shall not abide in darkness because we are in Christ the Light never again to be separated from him.

1 John 5: 20: And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, *even* in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

2 Corinthians 4:6: For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

This is so of every sinner he saves, whosoever we are, wherever we are in the world. Christ alone is the Light by whom every saved sinner has the Light of life wherever they are in the world and whoever they are in the world. This is what Christ means by the Light of the world.

John 12: 46: I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.

When Christ is our Light then we cease objecting and believe on him because it is in his light that we have Life and see him who is the Light.

Psalm 36: 8: They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures. 9: For with thee *is* the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.

When Christ is our Light we have discernment, spiritual judgment, and understand all spiritual things—

Proverbs 28: 5: Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the LORD understand all *things*

1 Corinthians 2:12: Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

He gives us the “mind of Christ” so that we know salvation is of the Lord by his free grace. By Christ our Wisdom, our Light, we understand and rejoice that God freely chose us in Christ by sovereign grace. Since it is by grace nothing shall make God cease to be gracious to his people.

By Christ the Light we understand and rejoice that Christ has made atonement by his blood. He has reconciled his people to God. Knowing he accomplished it by his death when we were enemies, being now reconciled Christ promises we shall be saved by his life (Rom 5: 6-10). We have his Word that being born of his Light, having Christ the Life, he shall never leave us nor forsake us. Knowing Christ is All and that we are complete in him, we trust Christ for all (Col 2: 6-10).

Believers do not understand all God’s providence. Sometimes we are in darkness in this regard. But as the old saying goes “We don’t know what the day holds but we know who holds the day.” Knowing Christ is ruling all, saving all his people and shall not fail, we know all. Every believer can say:

Psalm 57:2: I will cry unto God most high; unto God that performeth *all things* for me.

Romans 11: 36: For of him, and through him, and to him, *are* all things: to whom *be* glory for ever. Amen.

After his loving correction is sanctified to our hearts, we always say, “He hath done all things well” (Mk 7:37). So even in dark days, we thank him for his loving chastening hand. We trust the Lord and stay upon Christ, having his promise that we shall not abide in darkness but the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in his rays.

Isaiah 50:10: Who is among you that feareth the LORD, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God.

THE SON OF MAN IS THE GOSPEL

John 12: 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. 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. 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.

This is the day of grace. Christ said, “*I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.*” We were all already condemned when Christ came. But Christ is saving his people throughout the world by the gospel. And Christ is the Gospel who saves.

God’s gospel is his commandment, “*I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak*” The commandment is life for God commands us to believe on Christ the Life by whom we are freely given everlasting life. This is the commandment God the Father sent our Savior to declare.

John 6:29: Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

His commandment is to believe on Christ whom he hath sent. And his commandment is life everlasting because Christ is Life everlasting.

John 17:3: And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

John 20:31: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

The Son of Man is the last Adam, the Representative of his people, by whose obedience his people are made the righteousness of God. He honored and magnified the law and his people honored it in him in perfect righteousness. It is his Righteousness who made his people righteous, by whom we have eternal life.

Romans 8:10: And if Christ *be* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin; but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. [because of Christ's Righteousness]

This same word shall judge men who meet God without faith alone in Christ alone. Eternal life is by grace alone, by Christ alone, through faith alone. Life is not of ourselves. Christ declared he is Life Eternal.

John 6: 53: Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. 54: Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

Mark 16:16: He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

John 9:4: I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

This is why the Lord Jesus says in our text, *“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.”*

This was our Lord's last public message to the children of Israel. He commanded them “While ye have the Light, believe in the Light, that ye may be children of light.” He says here that it is the word Christ has spoken that shall judge the unbeliever in the last day. Believe on Christ. This commandment, the gospel of Christ, is life everlasting. But this same commandment will damn all who reject Christ.

Those to whom he spoke that day, rejected him. They had their own works. They were fearful of being kicked out of the synagogue by the religious rulers who taught salvation by works, *“for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.”* It is adding our deeds to the finished work of Christ that are the evil deeds Christ reproves, “But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God” (Jn 3:21). True faith comes to Christ the Light, confessing all our works were wrought in God by Christ alone! We sing, “In my hand no price I bring, simply to Christ I cling.” Eternal life is Christ. Life is given to sinners only through faith in the Son of God. It is by the gospel commandment coming in power by the Spirit of God. The gospel is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes for therein does Christ our Righteousness reveal himself in our hearts.

1 John 5: 10: He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. 11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. 13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

Amen!