

CHILDREN OF LIGHT OR OF DARKNESS?

Sermon Outline, John 12:34-50

Sermon Series: The Gospel of John

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- + John 12:34-35, "The crowd then answered Him, 'We have heard out of the Law that the Christ is to remain forever; and how can You say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this Son of Man?' ³⁵So Jesus said to them, 'For a little while longer the Light is among you. Walk while you have the Light, so that darkness will not overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes'" (NASB).

The Results Of A Lost Humanity Rejecting Jesus

1. To reject Jesus the Light is to embrace _____ darkness.

- + John 1:4-5, "In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. ⁵ The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it" (NASB).
- + John 1:9, 11, "There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man . . . ¹¹ He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him" (NASB).
- Enlightens is the Greek New Testament word [φωτίζω, photizo]. It is where we get our English word _____.

2. To reject Jesus the Light is to embrace _____ darkness.

- + John 3:19-20 "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. ²⁰For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed" (NASB).
- "Exposed" is the Greek New Testament word [ἐλέγχω, elengcho]. This word means "to be tested, tried and convicted as being faulty or wrong."

3. To reject Jesus the Light is to embrace _____ darkness.

- + John 12:37-40 "But though He had performed so many signs before them, yet they were not believing in Him. ³⁸ This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet which he spoke: 'Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?' ³⁹For this reason they could not believe, for Isaiah said again, ⁴⁰ 'He has blinded their eyes and He hardened their heart, so that they would not see with their eyes and perceive with their heart, and be converted and I heal them'" (NASB)
- "Believing" is the Greek New Testament word [πιστεύω, pisteuo]. It is what we call in Greek grammar the imperfect tense. This refers to when the subject is responsible for the _____. So, John 12:37 emphasizes the continual unbelief, stubbornness of the Jews to believe the light they were being shown. The final result was: God blinded them to it.
 - It says their hearts were hardened. This is the Greek New Testament word [πρωρώ, poroo]. And it refers to the hardening of a skin with a callus; to make dull, to _____.
- + 2 Corinthians 6:1-2, "And working together with Him, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain— ² for He says, 'At the acceptable time I listened to you, And on the day of salvation I helped you'" (NASB).
- + Hebrews 3:15, "Today if you hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts" (NASB).
- + John 12:42-43, "Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing Him, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue. ⁴³ for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God" (NASB).

4. To reject Jesus the Light is to embrace _____ darkness.

- + John 12:46, "I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness" (NASB).
- + Genesis 7:16, "Then the Lord closed the door behind them" (NLT).
- + John 12:47-48, "If anyone hears My sayings 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 He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day" (NASB).

- This means if you reject Christ's _____ message of light that leads to salvation, then the _____ message you will hear from Him will be judging darkness that sentences you to hell.
- + John 12:36, "While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so that you may become sons of Light." These things Jesus spoke, and He went away and hid Himself from them" (NASB).
- + 2 Timothy 3:16-17, "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work" (NASB).
 - "Inspired" is the Greek New Testament word [θεόπνευστος, theopneustos]. It means "_____".
- + John 1:1-3, 14, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being . . . ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth" (NASB).
 - The word translated here as "word" is [λόγος, logos]. This is a term that comes from Gnosticism — the belief we are saved by _____.
- + 2 Timothy 3:2-5, "For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, ⁴ treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these" (NASB).

What's In The Future?

1. Eternal _____ for those who do NOT believe.

- + Luke 23:44-45a, "By this time it was about noon, and darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. ⁴⁵ The light from the sun was gone" (NLT).

2. Eternal _____ for those who DO believe.

- + Revelation 21:5-8, "And the One sitting on the throne said, 'Look, I am making everything new!' And then He said to me, 'Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true.'" ⁶ And He also said, 'It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life. ⁷ All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be My children. ⁸ But cowards, unbelievers, the corrupt, murderers, the immoral, those who practice witchcraft, idol worshipers, and all liars—their fate is in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death'" (NLT).
- + Revelation 22:22-25, "I saw no temple in the city, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon, for the glory of God illuminates the city, and the Lamb is its light. ²⁴ The nations will walk in its light, and the kings of the world will enter the city in all their glory. ²⁵ Its gates will never be closed at the end of day because there is no night there" (NLT).
- + Luke 12:19-21, "And this foolish man said, 'I'll sit back and say to myself, "My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!"' ²⁰ But God said to him, 'You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?' ²¹ 'Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God'" (NLT).
- + John 12:35, "For a little while longer the Light is among you. Walk while you have the Light, so that darkness will not overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes . . . " (NASB).
- + John 12:46-50, "I have come as a Light to shine in this dark world, so that all who put their trust in Me will no longer remain in the dark. ⁴⁷ I will not judge those who hear Me but don't obey Me, for I have come to save the world and not to judge it. ⁴⁸ But all who reject Me and My message will be judged on the day of judgment by the truth I have spoken. ⁴⁹ I don't speak on My own authority. The Father who sent Me has commanded Me what to say and how to say it. ⁵⁰ And I know His commands lead to eternal life; so I say whatever the Father tells Me to say" (NLT).