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John 12

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

John 12.

Topics.

- The chief priests plot to murder Lazarus and Jesus.
- Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey.
- The Pharisees feared the world was going after Jesus.
- Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone.
- Now the ruler of this world will be cast out.
- When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself.
- Walking in the light.
- He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart.
- Jesus did not come to judge the world.

The previous chapter: in the previous chapter Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead and many of the Jews believed in him because of the signs he had done, but the chief priests and the Pharisees feared that the Romans would take their authority away and that they would lose their power over the Jewish nation if Jews kept converting over to Christ. At the Jewish council Caiaphas, the High Priest said, "It would be better for them to kill Jesus rather than have the whole nation perish." The chapter ended with many Jews going up to Jerusalem because the Passover Feast was about to take place and with Jesus having to walk secretly among the Jews because the religious authorities were seeking to kill him.

NOTE: for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

JOHN 12:1-8

Six days before the Passover, Jesus goes to Bethany

- **John 12:1-8:** Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ²So they (Mary Martha and Lazarus) gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at the table. ³Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment (spikenard in KJV) made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, ⁵"Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" ⁶He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it. ⁷Jesus said, "Leave her (Mary) alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."

Anointed: in this context means to smear over.

Bethany: was a village about two miles from Jerusalem on the Mount of Olives, Jesus spent the evenings of week before his crucifixion in here.

Denarius: the denarius was a silver coin and the most common Roman coin during the days of the apostles, Roman army pay was a denarius a day so one denarius was a day's wages which means Mary anointed Jesus with oil worth three-hundred days wages.

Martha: had tremendous insight and great faith she believed Jesus could heal Lazarus her brother and prior to Jesus death and resurrection she had faith that Jesus could raise him from the dead, she believed in the resurrection of all who belong to Christ and that Jesus was the Christ who Moses and the prophets said was to come into the world and that he was the Son of God (John 11:21-27).

Spikenard: was a perfumed oil that had an aromatic (strong scent) made from pure Spikenard (myrrh) by implication it carries the idea of bitter.

Judas protests at Mary's act of humble worship: it is only six days to the Passover Feast so Jesus goes and stays with Mary, Martha and Lazarus who lived in Bethany on the Mount of Olives only two miles from Jerusalem, notice there are others in the house with Jesus (v2). While Jesus is teaching them, Mary humbles herself and begins to pour three-hundred days wages of oil over Christ and wipe his feet with her hair. The enormously hypocritical and deceitful Judas being a thief and seeing the expensive oil being poured out protests claiming it could have helped the poor, but he only wanted it to go into the moneybag so he could help himself to it. Jesus knowing, he is only six days away from being brutally tortured and cruelly nailed to the cross tells Mary to keep the remainder of the oil for his burial. Jesus words:

- The poor you always have.

Show that there will never be a generation without the poor until Christ returns as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth.

JOHN 12:9-11

The Chief Priests plot to Murder Lazarus and Jesus.

- **John 12:9-11:** When the large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, they came, not only on account of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead.
¹⁰So the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well, ¹¹because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

The Chief Priests were so driven by pride, selfish ambition and power that they had lost all sense of morality and what is important to the heart of God, now they are plotting not only to murder Jesus but Lazarus as well. No wonder Jesus said:

- Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness (Matt. 23:27, 29).

There is a lesson we can all learn from this story, the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes had the temple of God it was opulent, royal and magnificent, they had all the scrolls of Moses and the prophets and read them every day, added to this they had total religious authority over the nation of Israel and yet they are leading the Jews away from God's will and ultimately to His judgment (Jerusalem and the temple was destroyed in 70 A.D.). This shows that just because a religious organisation has beautiful cathedrals, a worldwide following and priests who speak from the Bible it is not a guarantee they are doing the work of God. Israel's religious leaders lead the nation to destruction.

JOHN 12:12-18

Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a Donkey.

- **John 12:12-18:** The next day the large crowd that had come to the (Passover) feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,

even the King of Israel!" ¹⁴And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, ¹⁵"Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" ¹⁶His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. ¹⁷The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. ¹⁸The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign.

Hosanna: embraces all of the following, Oh save, I pray, now or then (meaning in the immediate or future), I ask, implore, beg or request of you to avenge, deliver, defend, help, preserve and rescue, it means be free successful and safe. It carries the idea of a saviour who has deliverance, salvation and victory. It is a Jewish form of praise, approval applause and exclamation of adoration. The words:

- As it is written fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt! (v14-15).

Refer to the following words of the prophet Zechariah:

- Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey (Zech. 9:9).

The people believed Jesus was the King of Israel, they thought he would be made King when he arrived in Jerusalem no-one not even the apostles understood God's eternal plan of salvation for Israel and the Gentiles involved their King being put to death and rising on the third day. It wasn't until Jesus was glorified (referring to his resurrection from the dead) and appeared to them that they understood all these things.

Jesus miracles authenticated he was sent by God: John says, "The reason the crowd went to meet Jesus was that they heard he had raised Lazarus from the dead" (v18). The miracles Jesus performed authenticated and testified that he was the prophet to come like Moses, the promised seed of Abraham and of David, Israel's Messiah the Christ the Son of God and Saviour of the world. No man on earth could do the things Christ did without the full power of God flowing through him, thus his sign miracles evidenced that he was approved of God, sent by God, had God's favour and was God's beloved Son and the one Moses and all the prophet spoke of. We know Jesus miracles were to authenticated that he was sent by God the Father because when John the Baptist was in prison, he sent his disciples to ask Jesus if he was the one who is to come and Jesus answered them with the following majestic words:

- Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me (Matthew 11:2-6) (Luke 7:18-23).

It is stated in the Old Testament that the Christ will open the eyes of the blind, heal the ears of the deaf, cause the crippled to walk and the mute to speak with joy (Isaiah 29:1-24) (Isaiah 35:1-10) (Isaiah 42:1-10) all the miracles that Jesus did and Jesus when speaking to the Jews said:

- The works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me and the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard. (John 5:36-37).

JOHN 12:19-23

The Pharisees Feared the World was going after Jesus.

- **John 12:19-23:** So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him." ²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. ²¹So these came to Philip, who was from

Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³And Jesus answered them "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

Philip and Andrew were apostles and Bethsaida was on the North shore of the Sea of Galilee and the city in which Philip, Andrew and Peter lived it was in this city that Jesus cured a blind man and fed the five thousand. The words:

- Look, the world has gone after him"(v19).

Obviously does not mean the entire world has gone after Christ, it carries the idea that not only the Jews but the Gentiles are also seeking Jesus. The Pharisees fear they are losing their power and authority because Jews and Gentiles by the multitudes are turning from them to follow Jesus. Jesus words:

- The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

Refer to his resurrection from the dead to the right-hand side of God and eternal glory. Jesus is fully aware of the horror that he is soon to face in the city of Jerusalem showing that all these events were in the eternal plan of God.

JOHN 12:24-26

Unless a Grain of Wheat falls into the Earth and Dies, it remains Alone.

- **John 12:24-26:** Truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honour him.

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Jesus words:

- Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

Refer to himself he is the grain of wheat who after laying down his life rose again to bear much fruit (v24). The words:

- Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

Means whoever loves their life and this world so much that they refuse to accept Christ will eternally die, but whoever is prepared to humble themselves forsake this world and follow Christ will eternally save their life (v25). Jesus words:

- If anyone serves me, he must follow me.

Means they must follow his example (i.e., they must be prepared to put others before themselves and lay down their life for Christ if called to do so), Christ will be with whoever serves him in this way, and God his heavenly Father will honour them.

JOHN 12:27-30

Father, save me from this Hour?

- **John 12:27-30:** "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹The

crowd that stood there and heard it said that it (the voice) had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not mine.

Jesus is fully aware of the brutal and torturous death he is about to face and is obviously anxious and distressed, but knowing it is his destiny says in a kind of bleakness, "How can I pray, Father save me from this hour since it is for this very purpose I was born of God and sent by Him." So Jesus knowing what it is going to cost him to follow his heavenly Father's will prays, "Father glorify your name," Which shows Jesus was fully surrendering to the Father's will for his life. God's name was glorified in the resurrection of Christ from the dead to eternal life and glory, but Jesus had to suffer for this to happen. Taking this as an example of being a servant of Jesus (v25-26) and following him no-one who belongs to Christ and is in troubling circumstance or suffering situations should ever think that it is because God loves them less if this was the case God had very little love for His Son and we know that this is a ridiculous statement, so it teaches us God's love toward us cannot be measured by outward circumstances, but by looking at the bloodstained cross and whose Son is nailed to it.

A voice came from heaven: after Jesus said, "Father, glorify your name," a voice came from heaven saying, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again" (v29) these words of God refer to the following two things:

1. All the miracles and wonders Jesus did since it was God's Spirit flowing through Jesus and in this way, God glorified His name (through Christ).
2. It refers to God raising Jesus from the dead to His right-hand side and to eternal glory.

JOHN 12:31-36

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Now the Ruler of this World will be Cast Out.

- **John 12:31-36:** Now is the judgment of this world (kosmos) now will the ruler of this world (kosmos) be cast out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die. ³⁴So the crowd answered him, "We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?" ³⁵So Jesus said to them "The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. ³⁶While you have the light believe in the light, that you may become sons of light." When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them.

Jesus words, "Now is the judgment of this world now will the ruler of this world be cast out," refers not to the secular world, (i.e., the Roman Caesars), but to the religious world of Israel (i.e., the religious rulers of Jesus generation the chief priest, Pharisees and scribes). They ruled the spiritual world of Israel and had spiritual control over the entire Jewish nation, but they were prideful, hypocritical rulers who cared more about their own power, control and empire than they did the people that were called to shepherd, in fact they were so lacking in mercy and compassion that they instead of shepherding their followers used them as merchandise to further their own selfish ambition.

When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself: Jesus words:

- When I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself (v32).

Obviously does not mean that every person in the world will be saved to eternal life. Jesus death and resurrection did away with all the Jewish ceremonial rites, feasts and holy days and robbed the High Priest and the entire Levitical priesthood of their spiritual control and power over the

people of Israel because ever since his resurrection no-one needs a human priest to intercede for them before God since Christ is the eternal and perfect High Priest for all who belong to him and by extension Christ has done away with all other religious rulers and authorities of the entire world there is no other prince, authority or priest in this world other than Christ, he is the:

- The way, and the truth, and the life and no one, comes to the Father except through him (John 14:6).

So, when Jesus said:

- He will draw all men to him (v32).

It carries the idea that the path to salvation and eternal life has now been made available not only the Jews, but also to the Gentiles, thus all the world in this context means that Jews and Gentiles can both be saved to eternal life in Christ (i.e., people from all nations of the world and not just Israel).

How can you say, "The Son of man will be lifted up from the earth?" When Jesus said, "I will be lifted up from the earth" (v32-34), his followers knew that this meant he would die, but they were confused because all the prophets proclaimed that Israel's Messiah the Christ would be a King forever so they begin to wonder who he is and ask him what he means so Jesus says, "The light will only be with them for a little while longer." Light in this context refers to Jesus himself. Then he tells them to, "Walk while they have the light, lest darkness overtake them" (v35-36). Jesus knows that when he is gone the Romans and the chief priest, Pharisees and Scribes will aggressively persecute the church and those who confess his name so he encourages the crowd to follow him and believe in him while he is with them so that they will be strengthened in faith before he is taken.

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Whoever walks in darkness does not know where they are going: Jesus words, "Whoever walks in Darkness does not know where they are Going," Primarily refers to eternal life, i.e., they do not know their eternal destination, contrasted to those who believe in the light (Christ) and walk in the light (Jesus words) know they will become sons of the light meaning sons of God (v35-36). Jesus knowing the religious authorities are seeking to murder him departs from the crowd (v36).

Walking in the light: walking in the light means hearing Jesus words and doing them, all the commandments of God and of Christ are summed up in the following two:

1. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind"
2. You shall love your neighbour as yourself (Matt 22:37-39).

These are the only two commandments anyone needs to know simply because if a person loves God and their neighbour as themselves they will never hurt or harm another human in anyway therefore no other commandment would ever be broken. Love your neighbour as yourself means do not deliberately do harm to other humans. No sane person deliberately does things to inflict pain on themselves, loving others as you love yourself is not about feeling some warm and fuzzy emotion towards others, it is about not hurting others as you would not hurt yourself. The thing God hates the most is when we do harm to another person, physically, financially, sexually, verbally, emotionally or spiritually and the thing God loves the most is when we do-good to others. It is interesting to notice that the major crime that God points out in Noah's time and one of the main reasons for the flood was because of all the violence in the land. Leviticus chapter nineteen makes it clear that our neighbour is every other person, showing that the law requires justice to all people. The six commandments regarding mankind should be applied to everyone and we

must abide by them ourselves. To love in the biblical sense is not an emotional attitude, but the keeping of these laws in relation to our neighbour. This is the general law of justice, beyond that; our conduct is to be regulated by relationship. We must render honour and justice to all people wherever due, but we have a particular responsibility to care for our families and those who belong to Christ.

JOHN 12:37-40

Jesus had done so many Signs, but they still did Not Believe in Him.

- **John 12:37-40:** Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him, ³⁸so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?"³⁹Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said, ⁴⁰"He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them."

The words, "He had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him," primarily refers to the religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes) they should have recognised who Jesus was by the miraculous signs and wonders he did since only a man with God's Spirit and power flowing through him could do such spectacular and amazing miracles, no-one had done any miracle as impressive as Jesus did and no-one has ever since, (i.e. he healed everyone who came to him and calmed a storm simply by speaking, he created food from nothing, walked on water and brought dead people back to life).

Jesus miracles authenticated he was sent by God: the miracles Jesus performed authenticated and testified that he was the prophet to come like Moses, the promised seed of Abraham and of David, Israel's Messiah the Christ the Son of God and Saviour of the world. No man on earth could do the things Christ did without the full power of God flowing through him, thus his sign miracles evidenced that he was approved of God, sent by God, had God's favour and was God's beloved Son and the one Moses and all the prophet spoke of. We know Jesus miracles were to authenticated that he was sent by God the Father because when John the Baptist was in prison, he sent his disciples to ask Jesus if he was the one who is to come and Jesus answered them with the following majestic words: -

- Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me." (Matthew 11:2-6) (Luke 7:18-23).

It is stated in the Old Testament that the Christ will open the eyes of the blind, heal the ears of the deaf, cause the crippled to walk and the mute to speak with joy (Isaiah 29:1-24) (Isaiah 35:1-10) (Isaiah 42:1-10) (all the miracles that Jesus did), and Jesus when speaking to the Jews said:

- The works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me and the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard (John 5:36-37).

Lord, who has believed what he heard from us? Isaiah words, "Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?" (v38) is cited from (Isaiah 53:1) (the entire chapter echoes Jesus Christ). Isaiah's words, "Who has believed what he heard from us?" refer to the prophets but they also echo the Lord Jesus Christ and the apostles. We know this because the apostle Paul writes, "They have not all obeyed the Gospel for Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" (Rom. 10:16).

He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart: the words, "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn and I would heal them." Seem at first glance to be saying that God has deliberately blinded and hardened their hearts so that it is impossible for them to ever understand the Gospel so that they could repent and be saved to eternal life, but the following words of Ezekiel show that it is not in the character of God to stop a sinner from being saved if they turn from their ways and repent. God told Ezekiel to say to the people:

- As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their way and live; they shall not fall by their wickedness when they turn from their wickedness, though I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' yet if they turn from their sin and do what is just and right, if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what they have taken by robbery, and walks in the statutes of life, not doing injustice, they shall surely live; they shall not die. None of their sins that the wicked has committed shall be remembered against them since they have done what is just and right; they shall surely live (Ezekiel 33:11-16).

Make the heart of this people dull: John's words are cited from the following words of Isaiah:

- And the LORD said to Isaiah go, and say to this people: "Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive 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." (Isaiah 6:9-10).

The LORD told Isaiah to go and tell the people of Israel that though they are continually hearing the word of the prophets and seeing their signs they still do not understand or perceive God's word because their heart is dull, their ears are deaf to spiritual things and their eyes are blind to the ways of God, then Isaiah says, if they did see with their eyes and did hear with their ears and understood with their hearts and turned from their wickedness the LORD would heal them (meaning save them to eternal glory).

The words "Make the heart of this people dull," is a natural result of their constant rejection of the prophets and God's word, the more the people reject the word of God that Isaiah is proclaiming the duller their heart will become to spiritual understanding and the ways of God, it is in this sense the prophet or God makes the heart of those who reject His word dull.

Isaiah's words in the New Testament: a similar thing is happening in the New Testament so John and Paul use the words of Isaiah and apply them to the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes who are dulling and blinding the eyes of the common people of Israel to the Lord Jesus Christ and his words. John is saying that the religious authorities keep on hearing the word of Christ and seeing the miraculous signs but still do not understand or perceive. Not only are they making their hearts dull by their constant rejection of Christ, but they are also making the hearts of their followers dull to Christ and the Good News of the Gospel so that their ears are deaf and their eyes are blind to God's ways and therefore they cannot perceive who Christ or understand his words so that they could turn from their wickedness and be healed (meaning saved to eternal life). This is what the religious leaders of Israel who had killed the prophets, despised the word of God and rejected Christ had done to the people of Israel during Isaiah's era and to the generation of Christ.

Pride, ego and spiritual blindness: the words, "God has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart" (v40), only applies while a person is driven by pride and ego, as long as pride is king of the heart a person will remain in spiritual darkness (blindness), but the moment they humble themselves to the ways of God and of Christ their eyes are opened to spiritual light (the Gospel, truth and understanding). The words, "Lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn and I would heal them." Means if they would turn from their wickedness and accept Jesus and his words God would save them.

Isaiah saw Jesus Glory.

- **John 12:41:** Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him.

This refers to a vision of Isaiah's in which he saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up with the train of his robe filling the temple and the Seraphim calling to each other, "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" (Isaiah 6:1-3). The train of his robe is a symbol of the resurrected saints and those who have been gathered together with them to be with Christ in eternal glory (1 Thess. 4:17).

JOHN 12:42-43

Many Jews believed in Jesus, but for Fear did not Confess It.

- **John 12:42-43:** Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; ⁴³for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

Even though the previous verses state that the eyes of the Jews were blinded to Christ it does not mean that all Jews rejected him, here we are told that even Jewish authorities believed in him, but because the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, they were to be put out of the synagogue (John 9:22). They kept their faith secret because they loved the esteem and exaltation, they received from their followers that their position of importance and authority gave them rather than the glory that comes from God. Though the religious authorities believed Jesus was the Christ they were not prepared to commit themselves to that belief by confessing it. Paul in his writings stated:

- 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 because with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved (Rom. 10:9-10).

The religious authorities believed with their heart, but were not prepared to confess that belief because they wanted man's praises and glory rather than God's (v43).

With the mouth one confesses and is saved: confessing Christ is not about a one-time confession made at an altar call, but carries the idea of not denying him in our everyday life especially when we are faced with a situation that puts us in a position of either admitting our faith or keeping it secret as the Jewish authorities did. Some maybe in ministry today who come to a realisation that some of the teaching the religious organisation they belong to is not correct, but to say so would mean that they would be removed from their position in the church as minister so they are faced with a decision to confess their faith or remain quiet and keep their position, but this is doing the same as the Jewish authorities were doing. God's way is to follow what is true and let the chips fall where they fall.

Doing what is true to one's integrity and the word of God and accepting the cost will bring praise and glory from God even though it may mean a loss of fame and importance in the eyes of man.

JOHN 12:44-50

Whoever believes in me, Believes in Him who Sent Me.

- **John 12:44-50:** And Jesus cried out and said, "Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. ⁴⁵And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. ⁴⁶I have come into the world as light (truth) so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. ⁴⁷If 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. ⁴⁸The 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. ⁴⁹For 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. ⁵⁰And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me."

The reason Jesus says, "Believing in him is the same as believing in God," is because he is the perfect image of the character of God he is a mirror image of the Father who sent him. Jesus words, "I have come into the world as light" (v46) means that he has come to reveal the mind, character, plans and purposes of God so that whoever believes in him will not remain in darkness.

Jesus did not come to judge the world: Jesus does not judge those who hear his words, but does not do them neither does he judge those who reject him and his words. He did not come to judge anyone, his sole purpose until the end of this age is to save those separated from God. Those who hear the words of Jesus and do not do them and those who reject him and his words are already judged by the words Jesus has spoken this is because what he has spoken are not his words but the words of God the Father. Most religious people's concept of God's judgment is of everyone lining up in a queue before God and waiting their turn to be judged, but Christ in these verses is saying everyone is already judged according to his word (i.e. if people reject Christ and his word or if they hear his word but don't do them they are already judged).

NOTE: the words of Jesus that we are called to do are about walking in the fruits to the Spirit (i.e. showing mercy, compassion, kindness and love to others and helping those in need when able) contrasted to deliberately harming people physically, financially, sexually, emotionally, verbally or spiritually and using or oppressing others for one's own gain.

For further information on Jesus words see the title:

- Walking in the Light (following John 12:31-36) (above).

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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