

# The Gospel of John

## The Word as Our Judge

### John 12:47-50

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

This morning we are completing the twelfth chapter of the Gospel of John. Jesus is still speaking in the Temple, and there is a mixture of people listening to the Lord including some Greeks who were wanting to speak to Him. Some of the Lord's closest followers were there. There were Jewish seekers there, still wondering if Jesus might actually be the Messiah that He claimed to be. And the Jewish leaders were there who had been seeking to capture Jesus and put Him to death because they felt He was an imposter. A blasphemer of the worst kind who was claiming to be God.

This is most likely the day after the Lord's triumphal entry into the city during the annual Passover Feast. It is believed that there were as many as one to three million people there.

Our scripture this morning is part of the conversation that began when Andrew and Phillip went to the Lord with a request from some Greeks. These gentiles wanted to meet with Jesus.

Jesus has just told this group of people that He is the light of the world. He was referring to the message that He was bringing to enlighten them of the things that are going on beyond our experiences here on earth. Spiritual things that we need to know in order to be reunited with God due to the separation between us that has occurred due to our sin. These truths are being masked by the ruler of this world, Satan.

Our God is a miracle working God. And if you are holding a Bible in your hands today, you are holding one of His greatest miracles of all. The Bible is a one-of-a-kind, miraculous book because it was written by the Holy Spirit of God.

#### **2 Peter 1:20-21 (NASB)**

**<sup>20</sup> But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is *a matter* of one's own interpretation, <sup>21</sup> for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.**

The Holy Spirit of God is the primary author of the Bible. And yes, God used men to help get the job done, but those men were all moved by the Holy Spirit to say exactly what God wanted them to say.

In the beginning and end of the book of Acts, both Peter and Paul tell us who wrote the Bible. Their statements are great confirmations to confirm that this is the Word of God.

#### **Acts 1:16 (NASB)**

<sup>16</sup> “Brethren, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the **Holy Spirit foretold** by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus.

### **Acts 28:25b (NASB)**

<sup>25</sup> ...“The Holy Spirit rightly spoke through Isaiah the prophet to your fathers,

The late Chuck Missler stated "The 66 books which we call the Bible constitute a highly integrated message system. What makes this so astonishing is the fact that they were penned by more than forty different people over a period of several thousand years! Yet we now discover that virtually every detail of the Biblical text evidences a highly skillful integrated design from cover to cover. In fact, every word, every place name, every detail was apparently placed there deliberately as part of an overall intricate plan."

Among the authors of the 66 books in the Bible are kings, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, a doctor, statesmen, scholars, poets, and plowmen of such diverse backgrounds that one could hardly expect their writings to form any continuity.

Obviously the Bible had a divine Editor, the Holy Spirit of God, who guided the writers so that all they wrote in perfect harmony. That's why there is divine oneness in this Book even though it was written through a wide variety of men.

The Bible is a one-of-a-kind, miraculous book because it was written by God. In this morning's Scripture Jesus boldly proclaimed that His words are the words of God. And God's words can do miraculous things in our lives, **IF** we are willing to receive them. Everybody needs to receive the words of Jesus Christ. Our Scripture text this morning helps us to see why.

In today's scripture, Jesus continued to speak to that mixed group of gentiles, believers, seekers, and haters. **As we stand and read verses 47-50, listen how these words of truth will not only enlighten us, but also be our judge based upon how we react to them.**

### **All Stand and Read Scripture**

#### **John 12:47-50 (NASB)**

<sup>47</sup> 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. <sup>48</sup> 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. <sup>49</sup> For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment *as to* what to say and what to speak. <sup>50</sup> I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me.”

### **Prayer**

#### **BODY:**

## **I. THE MEASUREMENT OF OUR FAITH.**

#### **John 12:47-48 (NASB)**

<sup>47</sup> 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. <sup>48</sup> 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.

Jesus is reminding us that God's judgment is surely coming. Most people have no clue about the coming judgment. They seldom give it a thought. But God's Judgment Day is surely coming. So Jesus wants us to know the standard by which we will be judged. His standard is based on the words of our Lord. Again in verse 48 Jesus said, " **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.**"

The Lord's words, God's Word is the standard for judgment, but many people have rejected God's Word today. That's why the Apostle Peter warns us against false teachers.

### **2 Peter 2:1-3 (NASB)**

2 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. <sup>2</sup> Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; <sup>3</sup> and in *their* greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

There are many false teachers in the world today. Peter said, " **Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned.**" Surely, we have seen this happen in our lifetimes. Unbelieving preachers and teachers treat the Bible like a cafeteria line. They pick and choose some Scriptures to follow and throw others out as myths or bigotry from long ago.

Peter said that some of these false teachers even deny the Lord who bought them. They would say, "**You don't need to trust in Jesus Christ to be saved. All religions lead to Heaven.**" And many people have been deceived by these false teachers, including people who identify themselves as born-again Christians.

We must not base our beliefs upon our own earthly understanding. Too many people feel that if they just live a moral life, provide for the family, occasionally give to those in need, and attend a few church services once in a while, surely God would not punish them eternally.

While those are all good traits to have in your life, there is nothing we can do on our part to wipe away the sins that we have committed against God. It is only through Jesus that our relationship can be restored to God, our sins removed, and become a child of God.

False preachers, teachers and celebrities have deceived millions of people to reject the clear teachings of God's Word. But His Word is the standard for God's judgment.

## **II. THE SOURCE OF SPIRITUAL TRUTH.**

It is clear in the scriptures that Jesus is the Word. But Jesus also reminds us that everything that he is teaching comes directly from the Father.

### **John 12:49 (NASB)**

<sup>49</sup> For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment *as to* what to say and what to speak.

Jesus was the Word, but He was also God. Thus He was in perfect harmony with the mind of the Father. He came to fulfill the complete will of His Father.

### **John 1:1-4 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God.**  
<sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. <sup>4</sup> In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.

John 1:10-14 also says this about Jesus:

### **John 1:10-14 (NASB)**

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. <sup>11</sup> He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. <sup>12</sup> But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> 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.

Listen to what Jesus said in John 5:17-24:

### **John 5:19-24 (NASB)**

<sup>19</sup> Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless *it is* something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner. <sup>20</sup> For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and *the Father* will show Him greater works than these, so that you will marvel. <sup>21</sup> For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes. <sup>22</sup> For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, <sup>23</sup> so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

<sup>24</sup> “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

The words of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ are God's greatest message to mankind.

OK. So we know that our lives will be measured by the Word of God. Thus it is very important that we understand exactly what Jesus taught. Our eternal life depends on us knowing His Word and obeying. That requires serious time in the Bible for each of us. We must not be content to depend on the interpretation of others. **You are responsible for your own salvation.** Our life on this earth will end. We have this short time to get it right. **Eternity lasts forever!** We will never have the opportunity ever again to get right with God.

The scriptures warn that the path is narrow that leads to eternal life with God.

### **Matthew 7:13-14 (NASB)**

<sup>13</sup> “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. <sup>14</sup> For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

So how do we get on this narrow path that leads to eternal life?

### **III. THE PATHWAY TO ETERNAL LIFE.**

This is God's answer for us in verses 49-50 where Jesus said:

#### **John 12:49-50 (NASB)**

<sup>49</sup> For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment *as to* what to say and what to speak. <sup>50</sup> I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me.”

Salvation, God's gift of eternal life is always connected to the words of God, the words of Jesus Christ. This essential truth is found in places like John 6:63-68, where Jesus said:

#### **John 6:63-68 (NASB)**

<sup>63</sup> It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. <sup>64</sup> But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was that would betray Him. <sup>65</sup> And He was saying, “For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father.”

<sup>66</sup> As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore. <sup>67</sup> So Jesus said to the twelve, “You do not want to go away also, do you?” <sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? **You have words of eternal life.**

Now here in verse 50, Jesus tells us that His words from the Father give everlasting life. If people are going to be saved, it is going to be according to God's Word. There is no other way.

This is why 1 Peter 1:23-25 tells Christians that we have:

#### **1 Peter 1:23-25 (NASB)**

<sup>23</sup> for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, *that is*, through the living and enduring word of God. <sup>24</sup> For, “All flesh is like grass, And all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, And the flower falls off, <sup>25</sup> But the word of the Lord endures forever.” And this is the word which was preached to you.

Obedying God's Word and only God's Word has the power to give us the new spiritual birth of eternal life. God's Word and only God's Word has the power to save our souls through Jesus Christ.

The Lord's words can give us everlasting salvation from God. This also includes everlasting security from God. I'm talking about the kind of security Christians can find in the final verses of Jude. There Jude praised the Lord by saying,

### **Jude 24-25 (NASB)**

***24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless 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.***

### **CONCLUSION:**

Jesus tells over and over that the key to our salvation is to believe. Belief requires action.

If you saw a tornado heading toward your house and you **truly believed** that it was going to hit your house you would go to the basement to prevent being killed or severely injured. If you **truly believed** that you would die if you ran your car into a large tree going 80 miles per hour you would not do it.

This is true of our belief. It must be a true belief that causes us to **do** the things that are required for us and **avoid** the things that could cause spiritual death.

Many Christians struggle with the problem of unbelief. They constantly worry if they are really truly forgiven, if they truly are a child of God.

You know what it comes down to in the final analysis? **Believing** what God says. When He says to you "I love you. I forgive you. You are my child. Do you believe it?"

It is so easy to read God's Word and see His promises and wish they were true for you. But God wants us to read His promises and trust through faith that it will happen to you. We know that everything that God promises us is true! When we refuse to accept that truth, it is like looking at God in the face, if you could, and saying, "I don't believe you!"

If you struggle with the promise that God wants to bring good to your life despite your current circumstances, go to Him in prayer and confess your unbelief. Whatever area of unbelief that you have, ask Him to help your unbelief.

### **Ask Him to help your unbelief!**

When you combine faith with God's Word, you will trust that it will be true for you. It becomes real. It becomes a personal love letter to **you!**

Your Risen Savior is able to keep us from falling and will present us **faultless** before God in all of His glory.

How do we know? Because He tells us in His Word. So put your **trust** (your faith) in His Word and believe the words. He is incapable of lies. Be born again and become a redeemed child of God. Then live by His Word because they surely are the way God will measure your life on judgment day.

**This is the Day.**