

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

- 1) 05 Mar 2023..... John 12:1-19..... Why Wasn't This Sold?
- 2) **12 Mar ..... John 12:20-50..... If It Dies**
- 3) 19 Mar..... John 13:1-38..... I Will Come Again
- 4) 26 Mar..... John 14:1-31..... Peace I Leave
- 5) 02 Apr..... John 15:1-17..... Remain in Me
- 6) 09 Apr..... John 20:1-18..... I Have Seen
- 7) 16 Apr..... John 15:18-27; 16:1-33..... When the Spirit Comes
- 8) 23 Apr..... John 17:1-26..... I Pray
- 9) 30 Apr..... John 18:1-27..... I Am He
- 10) 07 May..... John 18:28-40..... I Find No Fault
- 11) 14 May..... John 19:1-42..... If Is Finished
- 12) 21 May..... John 20:19-31..... Reach out Your Hand
- 13) 28 May..... John 21:1-25..... Do You Love Me?

**INTRODUCTION**

- We are introduced to a tough paradox in Scripture – We must hate life to gain life
- We must also address how and why God prevents people from believing. The big question is, “Do people harden their hearts against God first, or does God harden peoples’ hearts first?”

Passage	Comments
John 12:20-26	<p><b>Jesus Highlights a Paradox of Our Faith</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v25. We must hate our earthly life to gain eternal life. “Hate” is same Greek word used in <a href="#">Luke 14:26</a> to show our devotion to Christ (‘Hate Mom &amp; Dad’). Other Paradoxes of Scripture:                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ We must scatter to increase ..... <a href="#">Prov 11:24</a></li> <li>♦ To be exalted we must be humble ..... <a href="#">Mt 23:12</a></li> <li>♦ The last shall be 1st, the 1st last ..... <a href="#">Mt 20:16</a></li> <li>♦ We must give to receive ..... <a href="#">Lk 6:38</a></li> <li>♦ To save our life, we must lose it ..... <a href="#">Lk 17:33</a></li> <li>♦ To be wise we must become fools ..... <a href="#">1Cor 3:18</a></li> <li>♦ We must die to live ..... <a href="#">2Cor 6:4,8-10</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
12:27-32	<p><b>Jesus Will Draw ALL Men to Himself</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v27. Even Jesus experienced trouble praying, so why should we expect an easy time at it, but pray we must</li> <li>• vv28-29. A heavenly voice confirms that God’s name is glorified and will be glorified through Christ                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ How can we glorify God’s name?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• v31. Satan, “the ruler of this world” will eventually relinquish his hold on the world as revealed in <a href="#">Rev 20</a>. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> of 3 incidences that Jesus refers to Satan as “ruler/prince of this world”..... cf <a href="#">14:30</a>; <a href="#">16:11</a></li> <li>• v32. Does “Draw ALL Men” mean “ALL Elect” or “ALL Elect and Non-Elect”? Actually, it is quite subjective depending on one’s biased leaning. We have to consider the wider context.                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ What about <a href="#">John 6:44</a> “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me <b>DRAWS</b> &lt;lit. Drags&gt; him; and I will raise him up on the last day?”</li> <li>♦ <a href="#">John 6:44</a> is different context than 12:32. God does the drawing in <a href="#">6:44</a> based on fulfilled prophecy of people willingly hearing and heeding the good news (see vs <a href="#">6:45</a>), but Jesus does the drawing in <a href="#">12:32</a> of presumably ALL people groups consisting of Gentiles and Jews. After all, who put Jesus on the cross? Was it the Elect or the non-Elect or both?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
12:33-38	<p><b>Many Chose Not to Believe on What They Saw</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v34. The crowd questioned Jesus about His claim of being the “Son of Man” who “must be crucified” – This claim made no sense to them. They thought the Son of Man was to come in Military Power to deliver them from Roman conquest, and not in Spiritual Power to be delivered from sin</li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
12:39-40	<p><b>They Could Not Believe Because God Prevented It</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv39-40. “For this reason, <b>they could not believe</b>, for <i>Isaiah said again, ‘God has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart...less they be converted’</i>”                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Calvinists love this passage because it seems to confirm their stance of the non-elect are never able to be part of the elect – BUT they fail to consider certain biblical attributes</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>What comes first:</b> Someone hardens their own heart or God hardens someone’s heart? Recall that Scripture states Pharaoh hardened his heart 10x and God hardened his heart 10x. God gave Pharaoh ample opportunity to obey through 10 ever increasing plagues</li> <li>• <b>1Cor 6:9-11</b> depicts the Corinthians were once doomed for Hell (non-elect) but, through Christ they became washed &amp; included in the elect after they believed</li> <li>• <b>1Peter 2:10</b> depicts the believers were once not God’s people (doomed for Hell without mercy), but now they have been made a holy nation                     <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Some believe everyone’s eternal fate is predestined prior to birth</li> <li>2. Some believe everyone has a chance to get saved while they have breath in their bodies</li> <li>3. <b>There is a 3<sup>rd</sup> consideration.</b> Just as some can accept Christ early in life and be sealed from that point forward, others can reject Christ early in life and doom themselves to Hell from that point forward (see “<b>The Point of No Return</b>” on next page)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Scripture conveys God made it possible for everyone to get saved through Christ’s atoning blood, which was shed for “ALL the world”, and each of us can seal our eternal fate long before the day of our death – some to Heaven, others to Hell – depending on whether or not we willingly choose to accept Christ</li> <li>♦ Only God intimately knows the heart of each individual and knows when each person steps over the line from being savable to non-savable.</li> </ul> </li> </ol> </li> </ul>
12:42-43	<p><b>BUT Many of the Rulers Secretly Believed in Jesus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus would come out of hiding later..... <a href="#">19:38-39</a></li> <li>• Other rulers will come to faith post resurrection “...and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith” ..... <a href="#">Acts 6:7</a></li> </ul>



Passage	Comments
The Point of No Return	<p>Can someone reach a point of no return where they seal their fate for Hell? Apparently YES. Here are some supporting passages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Romans 1:24</b> <i>Therefore God delivered them over in the cravings of their hearts to sexual impurity...</i></li> <li>• <b>Romans 1:28</b> <i>"And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind..."</i></li> <li>• <b>1Corinthians 1:18</b> <i>For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness.</i></li> <li>• <b>2Corinthians 4:3-4</b> <i>And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.</i></li> <li>• <b>Hebrew 6:4-6</b> <i>"For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance ..."</i></li> <li>• <b>Hebrews 10:26</b> <i>For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,</i></li> <li>• <b>2Peter 2:20-22</b> <i>For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, 'The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.' (Prov 26:11)</i></li> <li>• <b>1John 2:19</b> <i>They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.</i></li> <li>• <b>1John 5:16,17</b> <i>"If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask and God will for him give life to those who commit sin not leading to death. There is a sin leading to death; I do not say that he should make request for this. All unrighteousness is sin, and there is a sin not leading to death."</i></li> </ul> <p><b>NOTE:</b> None of these passages, nor the rest of Scripture, allude to any believer being able to lose their salvation</p>
	<p><b>If We Believe in the Son We also Believe in the Father</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv46-48. He who (willfully) rejects Me will be judged by My Word – and Not by Me             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ This capstone passage essentially confirms God's process for saving mankind                 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. God established His Word through His Son</li> <li>2. God calls and draws ALL mentally-competent humans to choose</li> <li>3. Man must willingly accept or reject God's plan</li> <li>4. If Man accepts Christ, then God changes their status from non-elect to elect, seals, justifies, sanctifies, and eventually glorifies His subjects (remember, the elect are predestined to be conformed to the image of Christ)</li> <li>5. If Man rejects Christ, then God hardens Man's heart and eventually judges Man according to His Word</li> </ol> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
John 12:44-50	

Passage	Comments
	<p>6. Man is not a robot, but is fully culpable or accountable for such a decision regardless of when or where they lived in history</p>
<p><b>More Comments on Calvinism</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A resurgence of Calvinism within the SBC in recent years encourages us to become familiar with the tenants of its teachings – e.g., predestination and election vs man's will; and did Christ only die for some (the elect) or did He die for ALL (both the elect and non-elect)?</li> <li>• <b>Consider this.</b> The elect are predestined to be conformed to the image of Christ and this happened before time began; yet salvation for each individual occurs after time was created</li> <li>• Reformed Baptists fall into the neo-Calvinist category. They subscribe to the <a href="#">Synod/Cannons of Dort</a> (1618-19), which essentially crafted the <b>TULIP</b> concept of Calvinism (<b>T</b>otal Depravity, <b>U</b>nconditional Election, <b>L</b>imited Atonement, <b>I</b>rresistible Grace, <b>P</b>erseverance of the Saints).</li> <li>• John Calvin would not be a Calvinist today since he never addressed "Irresistible Grace" and he alluded to being able to lose one's salvation (see Calvin's Institutes, 2.16.1)</li> <li>• Calvinism, like Pentecostalism, has some good stuff about it, it comes in many flavors, but it has some esoteric or feelings-based stuff which should be deeply questioned (see <a href="#">Comments on Calvin</a>)</li> <li>• Calvinism also fails to take in the whole counsel of God</li> <li>• Hyper-Calvinism (no reason to witness since God saves those whom He's chosen to be saved) eventually kills neo-Calvinism since people eventually wake up and see the fallacy of such a belief system</li> <li>• What true benefits do the teachings of Calvinism offer the Church? If we were to consider the Presbyterian Church, which is staunchly Calvinistic, &amp; which is struggling with issues on same-sex marriage, women pastors, and declining church attendance, we see Calvinism does not promote spiritual maturity, does not preserve doctrinal purity, and does not improve evangelistic efforts – SO, BUYER BEWARE</li> </ul>	

**CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS**

- Can we tell if someone is unsavable? Not really. We can make assumptions based on behavior and act accordingly (e.g., "don't cast pearls before swine")
- We can't even tell the difference between an unsaved person and a backslidden Christian. Even the Apostles were duped by Judas, Paul was duped by Demas, and John and his church peeps were duped by those who "went out from us".
- We must be like the Apostles and assume everyone we come across is savable and be a bold witness to them

**NEXT WEEK: John 13:1-50.** This chapter deals with the Last Supper, washing the Apostles' feet, Judas' betrayal, and the delivery of a new commandment to love one another.



Frustrated over debating theology, Cal decided to make a dramatic CALVINST object lesson with Greg.