

AS MANY AS RECEIVED HIM

JOHN 1:12 • TV057A

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John 1:12

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.”

The purpose of this broadcast is to glorify the Lord God. And secondly, it is to preach the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. And thirdly, that we might be of some help to you who listen to this program that you might be edified in the things of Christ.

So, I want you to take your Bible today; I would like very much for you to read the Scripture along with me.

And I’m going to be reading from **John chapter 1, verse 12**, in which the apostle John writes:

“But as many as received Him; to them gave He power (the privilege), (the word in your Bible is the power which means the privilege or the right) to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.”

As many as receive Christ, to those people who believe on Him and who receive Him; God has given to them the unusual, blessed, privilege, and right to be called, sons of God.

Now the purpose of the Father is to bring men to Christ. Our Lord said, *“All that my Father giveth me shall come to me and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.”* And in that same chapter (**John 6**) He said; *“This is the will of Him that sent me that everyone that seeth the*

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Son and believeth on Him might have eternal life and they shall be taught of God. And everyone that hath learned of the Father cometh unto me.”

So the purpose of the eternal Father is to bring men to Christ. And the work of the Holy Spirit is to bring men to Christ. That’s why He was sent into this world. Our Lord announcing the coming of the Holy Spirit to His disciples in **John 16:13-14** said this; *“When He the Spirit of truth is come He will guide you into all truth. The Holy Spirit will not speak of Himself but He shall take the things of mine and show them to you. He will not glorify Himself but He will glorify me.”* The purpose of the Holy Spirit, the work of the Holy Spirit, is to bring sinners to Christ.

Now, it is the business of faithful preachers to bring men to Christ. Paul said in **2 Timothy 2:10**, summing up his ministry, talking about the sufferings through which he had gone, the trials and the persecutions and all of these things; he said; *“I endure all of these things for the elect’s sake that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.”* Again, writing to the church in Galatia, he said; *“My little children, I travail till Christ be formed in you.”*

That’s the purpose and that’s the business of a faithful minister of the Gospel, to bring men not to himself, not to the church, not even to the doctrines, but to bring men to Christ. And it’s the purpose of the Gospel, this blessed Gospel of God’s glory which we preach, the purpose of it, is to bring men to Christ.

1 John 5:11 says this; *“This is the record that God hath given to us eternal life and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son of God hath life and He that hath not the Son of God hath not life.”*

So the purpose of the Father, the work of the Holy Spirit, the business of faithful preachers, and the work of the Gospel is to bring you to a knowledge of Jesus Christ. That’s why Paul said; *“I’m determined to know nothing among you save Jesus Christ and Him crucified. God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”* That’s my purpose; it’s to bring you to Christ, to point you to Christ.

Now, if there’s eternal life in Christ then out of Christ there’s eternal death. If there’s life in Christ there’s death out of Christ. If the greatest grace is to believe the greatest sin is not to believe.

That’s the reason Paul warned the Hebrews, *“Take heed brethren lest there be found in you and evil heart of unbelief.”* The greatest grace is faith. Our Lord said; *“Peter, I prayed for you that your faith fail not. Without faith it’s impossible to come to God.”* So the greatest sin is unbelief.

Now, to receive Christ, if to receive Christ is to enter the family of God, then to refuse Christ is to die in your sins and never to be in the family of God and to hear Christ say unto you at the Judgment, *“I never knew you.”*

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In fact, He said in **John 8:24**, “*If you believe not that I am He you shall die in your sins.*” And my friend; I can think of nothing as horrible as dying in your sins.” It’s better to die any death than to die in your sins.

It’s better not to be born at all than to die in your sins; for if you die in your sins you will rise in your sins. And if you rise in your sins you’ll face the Judgment in your sins. And if you come to the Judgment in your sins you’re going to spend eternity in your sins.

Christ said, “*If you believe not, that I am; you will die in your sins.*” And that’s what He’s saying. “He” in that verse is in italics; (check **John 8:24**) “*If you believe not that I am;*” this is the same one who spoke to Moses at the burning bush.

Moses says, “*Whom shall I say has sent me? And the voice said, “Tell him I AM, that I AM. And if you believe not, Christ said, you’ll die in your sins.”*”

Now, it’s not enough to have religion, most people have that. It’s not enough to be a church member; half the people in this country belong to somebody’s church. It’s not enough to know doctrine; people are forever changing their doctrine.

It’s not enough to try to live a good, moral, life. We’re sinners. We are fallen in Adam. We are sinners by nature, by birth, by choice, and by practice. We’re sinners and we need a Saviour. We need a Mediator. We need a ransom. We need a Redeemer and that Redeemer is Christ.

Now I have three questions for you today and I’d like very much if you would to write these down; would you do that? Here are three questions and then in closing the program in a few minutes I’m going to make an observation for those who desire to receive Christ.

Now the Scripture says: “*To as many as received Him (Jesus Christ),*” and that’s the purpose of the Father, and the purpose of the Spirit, and the work of a minister, and the purpose of the Gospel to bring you to Christ. And if you’ll receive Him the Scripture says, “God will give to you that blessed privilege of being a son of God.”

Now I want to ask three questions:

First of all: What is in Christ that makes it so important that I get to Christ?

Our Lord was sitting on that well and a woman came to the well in **John chapter 4**. And He asked her to give Him a drink. And she said, “How is it that you a Jew ask of me a Samaritan a drink? Don’t you know that the Jews don’t have any dealings with the Samaritans?”

And He asked this and He said this to her; “*If you knew the gift of God and who it is that saith to thee give me a drink; you’d ask of me and I’d give you living water.*” “If you knew, if you knew the gift of God, if you knew who was talking to you, you’d ask of me and I’d give you eternal life, if you only knew.”

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You know, over there in the book of **1 Corinthians** Paul said; *“We speak the wisdom of God in a mystery which the princes of this world, (the leaders of this world, the kings of this world), did not know. Had they known Him they never would have crucified the Lord of glory.”* They didn’t know who He was. This woman at the well; He said, *“If you just knew who it is that’s talking to you.”* As Paul said; *“If these people had known who Christ was they would have never crucified Him.”*

Do you know who Christ is? Do you know who is in Christ? Do you know what is in Christ that makes this so important for you to get to Christ?

Well I’ll answer that question for you:

First of all: God is in Christ! The Scripture says; *“All things were made by Him. The world was made by Him and He was in the world.”* That little manger down there in Bethlehem, that little manger with its straw bed has in it a child, that’s true, but that child is the, *“Only begotten, well-beloved, Son of God.”* The infant of days in that manger is none other than the ancient of days. *“He was in the world.”*

That’s what the angel said to Joseph, *“Thou shalt call His name Jesus for He shall save His people from their sin.”*

And this is written, this was spoken that it might be fulfilled which was written by the prophet Isaiah, *“Behold; a virgin shall conceive and bring forth a child and thou shalt call His name Immanuel (God with us).”* God in our midst, *“God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself.”*

And Paul wrote in **1 Timothy 3**; *“Without controversy great is the mystery of godliness; God was manifest in human flesh.”* That’s right! That’s who that is. If you knew who is in Christ, if you knew the gift of God. If you knew who it is that we’re preaching, you’d ask of Him and He’d give you living water.

“No man knoweth the Father save the Son and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal Him.” It’s got to come by revelation. *“The natural man receiveth not the things of God.”* We receive them because the Holy Spirit has revealed them to us.

Secondly: What is in Christ? Well, not only is God in Christ but the love of God is in Christ. Now, you just listen carefully for a moment; this is very important and I don’t know any way to preach this truth without offending the natural man.

But you know, the Gospel is offensive; people have rejected it for centuries and they have rebelled against it and they’ve hated it and they’ve crucified, beheaded, hanged, and martyred those that preached it.

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But now listen to me, *“The love of God is in Christ.”* According to **Psalm 7:11**: *“God is angry with the wicked every day.”* According to the book of **Psalms 5**: *“God hateth the workers of iniquity.”*

Now listen to me, according to **John chapter 3:36**: *“He that believeth on the Son hath life. He that believeth not the Son shall not see life (but the what, it does not say the love of God abideth on him it says) the wrath of God abideth on him.”*

God’s love is in Christ. That old Ark floating out yonder on the water; (please listen, this is important) most people have a wrong understanding of the love of God. Outside of Christ there’s judgment and there’s wrath. It’s like that Ark floating on the water out there; salvation was in the Ark. Outside of the Ark was condemnation. Mercy was in the Ark and judgment outside the Ark. Grace is in the Ark. *“Noah found grace, grace in the eyes of the Lord.”* That’s love, that’s mercy. Outside of the Ark there was judgment.

Now listen to **Romans chapter 8:39**: *“Nothing, neither height nor depth nor principalities, nor angels, nor things present nor things to come nor any other creature can separate me from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

And then in **Ephesians chapter 1:6** the Scripture says, *“We are accepted in the beloved.”* I’m not preaching heresy; I’m preaching the Word of God. I’m saying that God is in Christ. And I’m saying that the love of God is in Christ.

And I’m saying outside of Christ Jesus and outside of faith in Him and outside of a living union with Christ, you needn’t expect God’s love, only wrath and judgment and condemnation is outside of Christ.

Christ said, *“If you’re not in me, if you don’t believe in me, you’ll die in your sins.”*

Thirdly: What is in Christ that makes it so important for me to come to Him? God’s in Christ and the love of God is in Christ and the righteousness of God is in Christ.

When I say righteousness I mean holiness, I mean holiness, purity. The righteousness of God is in Christ.

Now we certainly don’t have any righteousness. You take the best man who ever lived on this earth or the best one who lives now and there’s no good thing in the flesh. *“From the sole of our feet to the top of our heads; there’s no soundness in us.”*

Paul said, *“In my flesh, dwelleth no good thing. O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from this this body of death. I am the chief of sinners.”* There’s no righteousness in us. Listen to **Romans 3:10**: *“There is none righteous, no not one.”*

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Now you may claim to be and you may profess to be and you may lead others in believing that you're righteous but you're not and you know it. And Job said, *"If I justify myself mine own mouth would prove me perverse."*

"There's none righteous, no not one. There is none that understandeth. There is none good. There is none that seeketh after God." That's what the Word of God says.

Oh I know that there are a lot of people going about to establish in the eyes of men and before the eyes of God a righteousness. They did in Paul's day. He said: *"I have great sorrow for my kinsmen according to the flesh; I wish they were saved. I bear them record; they have a zeal for God but not according to knowledge. For they're going about trying to establish their own righteousness and will not submit to the righteousness of God: For Christ is the end of the law, (the goal of the law, the object of the law) for righteousness to everyone that believeth."*

Where is true holiness to be found, not in you and not in me, but in Christ? *"He was made sin for us who knew no sin that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."* That's what the Scripture says. *"But of God are you in Christ Jesus who of God is made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption."*

Jeremiah 23:6 calls Him, *"The Lord our righteousness."* So my friend; if you're looking for God He's in Christ, if you're looking for God's love; it's in Christ.

If you're looking for holiness and righteousness and a right standing before a Holy God; you'll never find it in the law. You'll never find it in your good works. You'll never find it in your church membership. You'll never find it in your flesh; it's only in Christ.

Fourthly: Salvation's in Christ! Oh I love that story when Mary and Joseph brought the small child Jesus to the temple to do for Him according to the Jewish laws. There was in that temple a priest by the name of Simeon and was looking for the consolation of Israel.

And the Holy Spirit had told him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Christ, the Messiah. And so, when they had brought the infant in to Simeon and placed Him in Simeon's arms; he looked down into the face of that child and then he raised his eyes to heaven and he said, *Lord; now let thy servant depart in peace; mine eyes have seen thy salvation."*

When he saw Christ he saw God's salvation. That's right, when he saw Christ. Salvation is in Christ. Listen to the Scripture, **Acts 4:12**, *"Neither is there salvation in any other for there's none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved."*

Our Lord said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh to the Father but by me."* One of the disciples said; *"Lord; we don't know where you're going, how can we know the way?"*

He said; *"I'm the way, I'm the way, and I'm salvation."* Salvation's in Christ. *"I'm the way, the truth, and the life."*

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**“Thou art the way
To thee alone from sin and death I flee
And he who would the Father seek
Must seek Him Lord by thee**

**Thou art the truth
Thy Word alone true wisdom can impart
Thou alone can inform my mind
And sanctify my heart**

**Thou art the life
The empty tomb proclaims thy living name
And those who put their trust in thee
Nor death, nor hell, can ever claim.”**

That’s my first question: What is in Christ?

Secondly: To who is Christ offered?

Are you listening? To who is Christ offered? All of this is in Him, God, salvation, sanctification, holiness, righteousness, and eternal life is in Christ.

Now to who is He offered? Now listen!

First of all: He’s not offered to fallen angels! The Scripture emphatically says in **Hebrews 2:16:** *“He took not on Him the nature of angels when He took on Him the seed of Abraham.”* There’s some angels that fell, Lucifer and some more.

And **Jude** says; *“They’re (fallen angels) reserved in everlasting chains of darkness unto that Day of Judgment.* And there’s no salvation and there’s no Redeemer provided for them, but for the seed of Abraham there is.

To who is Christ offered? Well; not to the condemned in hell. The man in hell cried, “Father Abraham; send Lazarus down here to perform some act of mercy for me.” And Abraham said, “Between thee and us there’s a great gulf fixed. No one can cross from you here.”

There’s no second chance after death. There’s no need to pray for the dead. There’s no need to give gifts for the dead; they’re done. As the tree falls that’s where it will lie. If it falls in Christ it will lie in Christ. If it falls alone it will lie alone.

There’s no salvation, no Gospel for the dead in hell. And Christ is not preached to millions of fellows in hell. That’s right! Our Lord said, **Mathew 11:25**, *“I thank thee Father Lord of heaven and earth. You hid these things from the wise and the prudent.”*

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Aww, there are a lot of so-called intelligent, proud, people in this world who have no use for the Gospel. They never attend to it, they never listen to it, and they never seek it. It's not sent to them.

And then over in **2 Corinthians 4:3**; *"If our Gospel be hid it's hid to them that are lost, in whose minds have been blinded by the god of this world."*

But to whom is He offered? It is to you. The Gospel is preached to you. You're listening to the Gospel right now. God has sent the Gospel to you. Paul said, *"To you is the Word of salvation sent?"* When, right now? *"Now is the accepted time. Today is the day of salvation. Harden not your heart as in the days of the provocation when the children of Israel rebelled against God for forty years."* Now; God's speaking to you now. He sent the Gospel your way. This is an encounter with the living Christ. This is your invitation.

And then the Gospel is sent to you and offered to you and presented to you freely. *"The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*

He stands and He says, *"Come to me all ye that labor and are heavy laden; I'll give you rest."* I will give you rest, not sell you rest. God's not selling anybody anything. *"I'll give you rest."*

"Ho everyone that thirsteth. Come to the water. Come and buy bread and wine and milk without money and without price. Come, let us reason together. Though your sins be as scarlet, though they be red like crimson; I'll make them white as the wool."

To whom is the Gospel preached? Are you listening? "Yes, preacher I'm listening." It's being preached to you.

Thirdly: What's the danger of refusing Christ?

Now our Lord says in **Hebrews chapter 2:3**: *"How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation which was spoken to us first by our Lord and then by those that heard Him and was confirmed by miracles and signs and wonders."*

What shall take place if you receive Christ? What will happen if you refuse Christ? What is the danger if you refuse Christ? Let me give you two or three:

First of all: There will be no other way offered to you; there will be no other way given.

Our Lord before He ascended back to the Father sent His disciples out and He said; *"You go into all the world and you preach the Gospel to every creature. And he that believeth (the Gospel) shall be saved. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. He that believeth not shall be damned."*

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And that's it. To refuse Christ is to refuse God's only way. There will never be another door open. When that old door of the Ark of Noah was slammed shut no other door was open and judgment fell.

Secondly: To refuse the Gospel is to make God a liar! That's serious isn't it? There isn't a person listening to me that wouldn't be insulted if someone called you a liar. But I want you to listen to this Scripture; *"He that believeth not God hath made Him a liar because he believes not the record that God hath given of His Son."*

Thirdly: And then to refuse Christ is to murder your soul! That's right, to murder your own soul, *"If you believe not that I am you'll die in your sins."*

Fourthly: To refuse Christ; is to show utter contempt for the wisdom, righteousness, the justice, mercy, and the love of God.

Never in all of the history of the universe was there ever a display of God's mercy and love, God's wisdom and justice, like at the cross of Calvary. Never, never in the history of the universe was there ever a display of God's glory like at Calvary.

And we preach God's glory and we preach the grace of God in the death of His Son. And you sit and go to sleep while we are preaching it or indifferently and carelessly turn away. What will be the affect and results of that?

It's to show contempt for God's glory. Listen to **Lamentations1:12**; *"Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow, which is done unto me, wherewith the LORD hath afflicted me in the day of his fierce anger."*

"What is it to you, all ye that pass by? What is it to you? Behold my sorrow of with which I've been afflicted. There is no sorrow like my sorrow" and yet you take a look at Calvary and you turn indifferently and walk away. It's to show contempt.

Suppose a man spent his whole life painting one picture, a great artist. He painted for years on that one picture. That was the very climax; that was the very height of his whole life.

And he hung that picture up and you walked by and glanced at it and turned and walked away and had nothing to say, no comment and no appreciation. Well he would be insulted, contempt for that which took him so long to perform.

And here God, the climax of all that God has ever done from eternity to eternity is the death of His Son. It all heads up in Christ. That's where His glory is. That's the reason Paul said, *"I glory in the cross."*

What is it to you? Do you show contempt and indifference and carelessness to the cross or do you fall at His feet and worship Him and cry, "My Lord and my God?"

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Now in closing, a word to those who would receive Christ, four things:

To receive Him is to receive Him with empty hands, empty of self, pride, righteousness, and works.

To receive Christ is to receive Him in your heart.

To receive Christ is to receive Him Himself, His person.

It's to believe on Him, to receive the person Christ Jesus, not His Word only, not His church, not His doctrine, but Him.

**“Firm as the throne His Gospel stands
My Lord, my hope, my trust
If I am found in Jesus Christ
My soul can never be lost.”**