

Time to accept our Responsibility

John 12:37 But though he had done **so many miracles** before them, **yet they believed not on him:** 38 That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, **Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed?** 39 Therefore **they could not believe,** because that Esaias said again, 40 He hath **blinded** their eyes, and **hardened** their heart; **that they should not see** with *their* eyes, **nor understand** with *their* heart, and be converted, and I should heal them. 41 These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him. 42 **Nevertheless** among the chief rulers also **many believed** on him; but because of the Pharisees they **did not confess him,** lest they should be put out of the synagogue: 43 For they **loved the praise of men** more than the praise of God. 44 Jesus cried and said, **He that believeth on me,** believeth not on me, but **on him that sent me.** 45 And he that seeth me seeth **him that sent me.** 46 I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me **should not abide in darkness.** 47 And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for **I came not to judge the**

world, but to save the world. 48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: **the word that I have spoken**, the same shall judge him in the last day.

49 For **I have not spoken of myself**; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. 50 And I know that his commandment is

life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, **even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.**

1. They refused to believe no matter what Jesus did 37 **But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him:** 38 That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, **Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed?**

- a. No matter what Jesus did or said they refused to believe
- b. God's Word had prophesied this response in Isaiah and other places
- c. The gospel writers constantly remind us of how true the Old Testament was and how it applied to their lives and ministry

- d. We need to understand that people today will reject Jesus no matter what we say or do
- e. Man has a rebellious heart that says no to God and the things of God
- f. When you witness you should know that people do not want to believe. It will take a work of the Holy Spirit to break their hearts and cause them to believe
- g. You should realize that when people harden their hearts to the things of God it will often result in God hardening their hearts like the story of Pharaoh

2. They could not believe **39** Therefore **they could not believe**, because that Esaias said again, **40** He hath **blinded** their eyes, and **hardened** their heart; **that they should not see** with *their* eyes, **nor understand** with *their* heart, and be converted, and I should heal them. **41** These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him.

- a. This is a wild statement-They could not believe
 - i. He blinded their eyes
 - ii. He hardened their heart

- iii. He fixed it where they could not understand
- iv. So that they couldn't be converted
- b. There is a limited time for people to believe. The door of grace is not always open 36 **While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light.** These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them. II Corinthians 6:2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, **now is the day of salvation.**
- i. We should feel a sense of urgency to get the gospel to people
- ii. This should emphasize the importance of our children's and youth ministry
- iii. This should urge us to send missionaries
- iv. This should motivate us to witness, give out tracts
- c. God is setting Israel aside to use the church
- i. If you do not understand this part much of the Bible becomes very difficult to understand
- ii. God used Israel then set them aside to start the age of grace, the church, and made us responsible

iii. There was no way to put grace and world evangelism back into the Old Testament and Jewish culture

Matthew 9:16-17 No man putteth a piece of new cloth unto an old garment, for that which is put in to fill it up taketh from the garment, and the rent is made worse. **17** Neither do men put new wine into old bottles: else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish: but they put new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved.

1. The Old Testament clearly pointed to and taught what the New Testament says
2. The Jews had become focused on the details and lost the big picture
3. They were more focused on their blessings than on their responsibility
4. They saw what they were doing instead of what He did on Calvary

iv. Israel had failed to realize that their righteousness came from the sacrifice rather than their good works

Romans 10:1-4 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. **2** For I bear them record that they have a **zeal of God**, but

not according to knowledge. 3 For they being ignorant of **God's righteousness**, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have **not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.** 4 For **Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.**

- v. The church was grafted in for a short time for a purpose
- Romans 11:11-25 I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but *rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles*, for **to provoke them to jealousy.** 12 Now if the fall of them *be the riches of the world*, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness? 13 For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office: 14 If by any means I may **provoke to emulation** *them which are my flesh*, and might save some of them. 15 For if the **casting away** of them *be the reconciling of the world*, what *shall*

the receiving *of them be*, but life from the dead? **16** For if the firstfruit *be* holy, the lump *is* also *holy*: and if the root *be* holy, so *are* the branches. **17** And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, **being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them**, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; **18** Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee. **19** Thou wilt say then, **The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in.** **20** Well; **because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith.** Be not highminded, but fear: **21** For if God spared not the natural branches, *take heed* lest he also spare not thee. **22** Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in *his* goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off. **23** And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graff them in again. **24** For if thou **wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural**

branches, be grafted into their own olive tree? 25

For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of **this mystery**, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; **that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.**

vi. We must take seriously our responsibility to take the gospel to the world.

vii. We are prone to fall into the same trap that Israel fell into

1. Thinking that we are doing things and have done things to get us to where we are
2. Trying to establish our own righteousness
3. Getting rapped up in the privileges and forgetting the responsibilities
4. Having a head knowledge of the Scriptures but not allowing them to truly impact our lives

d. We live in the age of grace the age of the church, the time of the Gentiles

e. There has always been grace-all are saved the same way, by believing God

- f. We must realize that God is at work in this world. We are not an accident. We are not here for ourselves. We have great responsibilities that should weigh on us
 - i. Why did He give you life
 - ii. Why did He give you the talents you have
 - iii. Why did He give you the money you have
 - iv. Is it for your pleasure and your fulfillment or did it have something to do with Him
 - v. Do you understand how important you are and how important the church is that He formed for these days

3. Individually some still believed **42 Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: 43 For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.**

- a. Though Israel is being rejected individuals can believe
 - i. All of the apostles were Jews so He wasn't blinding the minds and hearts of individuals
 - ii. Paul always went to the synagogues first where people would hear and believe

b. Those that did believe were more worried about their social status than honoring God **42 Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: 43 For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.**

i. Are you afraid of losing your job or the respect of the people where you work if you make it clear that you love Jesus

ii. Are you doing the 007 instead of the tebow

iii. Are you more worried about what men think of you or what God thinks of you

c. They were more concerned about what people thought than what God thought

d. You can believe even if your family doesn't

e. Are you more concerned about being part of the in crowd than serving Jesus

f. Are you more concerned about what people think or what God thinks

4. Believing on Jesus is believing on God **44 Jesus cried and said, He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but**

on him that sent me. 45 And he that seeth me seeth **him that sent me.** 46 I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me **should not abide in darkness.**

- a. These verses are some of the clearest ever about Jesus being God
- b. Believing on Jesus is believing on God Himself **He that believeth on me,** believeth not on me, but **on him that sent me.**
- c. Seeing Jesus is seeing God 45 And he that seeth me seeth **him that sent me.**
- d. Jesus is the light and wants to get men out of darkness 46 I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me **should not abide in darkness.**
- e. Men should believe while the light is there
- f. Could a man speak plainer. Is Jesus God?

5. There is no threat being issued. He came to save 47 And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for **I came not to judge the world,** but to save the world. 48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: **the word that I have spoken,** the

same shall judge him in the last day. 49 For **I have not spoken of myself;** but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. 50 And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, **even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.**

- a. Jesus didn't come to judge the world He came to save
John 3:17-21 For God **sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world;** but that the world through him might be saved. 18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not **is condemned already,** because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and **men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.** 20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, **lest his deeds should be reproved.** 21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.
- b. Rejecting Jesus will bring the judgment of the Word of God over a person

- c. Jesus didn't speak of Himself
 - i. Today so many make much of themselves and their ministry
 - ii. Jesus made much of the Father
- d. Nor did Jesus speak His Words but those of the Father
 - i. Jesus didn't speak His Words or His philosophy but what the Father said
 - ii. How much more should pastors be careful to just say what the Father says