

GOSPEL OF JOHN
GOD'S PLAN IN CHRIST BEING LIFTED UP-PT 1
JOHN 12:27-36

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Introduction

We are dealing with the week that **JESUS CHRIST** was approaching **HIS** crucifixion here in the account of **JOHN'S GOSPEL!** We saw last week that **JESUS** said, “...*The hour is come...*”! Let's begin reading in *verse 27!*

We find that our text today proves to us a very important aspect of the death of **CHRIST:** From before the time that **CHRIST** came to the earth by way of the **VIRGIN BIRTH, GOD'S ONLY PLAN FOR US WAS FOUND IN HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, JESUS CHRIST AND CALLED FOR HIS DEATH, BURIAL, RESURRECTION, AND ASCENSION!**

Before we ever knew that we had a need, **THE HEAVENLY FATHER SENT HIS SON, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, WHO** came to earth and went to great trouble for us—What **HE** did on **CALVARY'S CROSS** was on **OUR BEHALF!** It **WAS** and **IS GOD'S ONLY PLAN OF SALVATION!**

Now, I'm **NOT** glad that **CHRIST had to be TROUBLED** on my account... but I am glad that **HE WILLINGLY was TROUBLED** for me way before I ever came to know that I needed **HIS** help!

Our text this morning opens up with the **LORD JESUS CHRIST** saying, “*Now is my soul troubled*” **WE** were the cause of **JESUS'** trouble! As **HE** states, “...*for this cause came I into this hour.*” **HE** came for the very purpose of being troubled by being lifted up on the cross to die for our sins.

The main theme of the text here today is **THE UPLIFTED CHRIST! (Vs 32)** Which, as **JOHN** explains in *vs. 33*, refers to **JESUS'** death on the cross.

Remember back in *John 3:14* how **JESUS** used the same term as **HE** spoke to **NICODEMUS?** *John 3:14–15– “14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: 15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.”*

We also saw in *John 8:28*—“ *Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.*”

Usually the verb translated “*lifted up*” there means to “*exalt*” someone! *Acts 2:33– “Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.”*

So, there is a double meaning as applied to JESUS!:

JESUS' being *lifted up* on the cross, which was the ultimate in shame, resulted in **HIS** being *exalted* as the **SAVIOUR** of the world.

Philippians 2:8–9– “8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:”

The **CROSS OF CHRIST** resulted in **GOD** being glorified and **SATAN'S** being defeated! The **CROSS OF CHRIST** is the pivotal event in all of human history and it's the pivotal event for each of our histories as well! How one responds to **CHRIST** being “*lifted up*” on the **CROSS** determines their eternal destiny. So the message applied is this:

If you have not believed on CHRIST, HIS being “*lifted up*” on the **CROSS** should cause you to believe in **HIM** while you still have time.

Let's note four things here in our text: **The Anguish, The Aim, The Aftermath,** and **The Appeal** of **CHRIST'S** being “*lifted up*” on the **CROSS:**

I. WE NOTE THE ANGUISH OF CHRIST'S BEING “LIFTED UP” WAS BECAUSE HE WOULD BEAR OUR SIN AND GOD'S WRATH FOR OUR SIN! (Vs 27)

As **JESUS, WHO** knew no sin, thought about the approaching hour when **HE** would become sin on our behalf, **HIS soul was deeply troubled because of what it involved—taking our sin and suffering.**

This caused **HIM** to ask the hypothetical question, “*And what shall I say, ‘Father, save Me from this hour?’*” This is similar to **HIS** later agony in the Garden of Gethsemane when He prayed: *Luke 22:42– “Father, if Thou be willing, remove this cup from Me.”*

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But there **HE** added, *“Nevertheless not My will, but Thine be done.”*
Here **HE** added, *John 12:27b-28a, “...but for this cause came I to this hour. 28 Father, glorify Thy name.”*

Here we see the deep mystery of the two natures of **JESUS CHRIST**:
Being **ONE** with the **FATHER** from all eternity (*John 10:30*), **HE**
had never experienced even a split-second break in their perfect
ONENESS and fellowship!

As a sinless man, **HIS time on earth was marked by that same**
unbroken fellowship up to this point. But when **HE** went to the
CROSS, there was that humanly incomprehensible moment when **HE**
cried out in a loud voice saying, *Matthew 27:46– “My God, my God,*
why hast thou forsaken me?

It was at that very moment, that *2 Corinthians 5:21* took place!
2 Corinthians 5:21– “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who
knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

CHRIST bore the awful punishment of **GOD'S** wrath that we
deserved! That's why **JESUS'** soul was troubled here as **HE** thought
about the **CROSS!**

That is why the instant that we believe on **CHRIST**, we stand totally
forgiven! All of our sins are **imputed** to **HIM** and **HIS** righteousness
is **imputed** to us at the very instant that we believe on **HIM**. **HE** bore
all our guilt on the **CROSS** so that we can enjoy peace with **GOD!**

But since our sins caused our loving **SAVIOUR** so much anguish and
pain, we should hate our sins and fight every day to kill them. The only
way to deal with to deal with our sins is to put them to death by the
HOLY SPIRIT'S power! *Romans 8:12–14– “12 Therefore, brethren,*
we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. 13 For if ye live
after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the
deeds of the body, ye shall live. 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit
of God, they are the sons of God.

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ANGUISH...

II. WE NOTE THE AIM OF CHRIST'S BEING “LIFTED UP” WAS
BOTH TO BEAR OUR SINS AND TO GLORIFY HIS
HEAVENLY FATHER! (Vs 28-30)
CHRIST died to save us from our sins! But **CHRIST** also died to
glorify the **HEAVENLY FATHER!** **JESUS** was willing to endure
the awful agony of the **CROSS** in order to **GLORIFY** the
HEAVENLY FATHER'S name!

Hebrews 12:2– “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our
faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross,
despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of
God.”

The **CROSS** showed the angels and principalities in heavenly places,
along with the whole world, **the unfathomable riches of the love and**
grace of GOD.

GOD THE FATHER sent **HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, JESUS**
into this world to give **HIS** life for us because of **HIS great LOVE!**
(John 3:16) **JESUS** was willing to bear that horrible punishment
because **HE** and **HIS HEAVENLY FATHER** loved us even while
we were yet sinners. *(Romans 5:8)*

The **CROSS** also displayed **GOD'S** infinite holiness and justice. **HE**
could not just brush away our sins without the penalty being paid. **HIS**
righteous wrath has to be poured out on sinners. **The wages of our sin**
is death! That penalty is either on us or on **JESUS** because we have
trusted in **HIM**. Through the **CROSS, GOD** was both **JUST** and the
JUSTIFIER of the one who has faith in the finished work of **JESUS**
on the **CROSS!** *(Cf. Romans 3:26)*

John 12:28 says that a voice came out of heaven saying, *“I have both*
glorified it, and will glorify it again.” **GOD THE FATHER** had
GLORIFIED HIS name through **JESUS' birth, life, and ministry**
up to that point!

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GOD THE FATHER would be **GLORIFIED** again through **JESUS' DEATH, BURIAL, RESURRECTION, ASCENSION**, and still yet to come, **IN HIS SECOND COMING IN GLORY!**

Look at what *John 12:29* says! This verse illustrates what is explained further in **verses 37-40 dealing with the spiritual blindness of those who reject CHRIST**. That is for another message when we get there!

Some here appear to have taken a *naturalistic approach* to the voice from heaven, saying that it had **thundered**. Others appear to have taken a *spiritual approach*, saying that an **angel had spoken to JESUS**. How would they know if the **voice was an angel?**

But they all entirely missed the point that **GOD** was authenticating **JESUS and HIS** ministry!

Then look at what *John 12:30* adds: "*Jesus answered and said, This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes.*"

There were three times in **JESUS' ministry** that the **FATHER** spoke out of heaven: **JESUS' baptism, HIS transfiguration, and here**. Each time **THE FATHER** endorsed **JESUS and HIS** ministry!

JESUS didn't need **THE FATHER'S** approval here, because **HE** knew that **HE** always had it with them being **ONE!** The voice was for the sake of those who heard it! They should have realized that **GOD** set **HIS** seal of approval on **JESUS!**

Now, we may wonder, how could the **voice from heaven** have been for the sake of the crowd if they couldn't understand it? Could it be something similar to **JESUS' admonition in Matthew 11:15**, "*He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.*"

In other words, if **JESUS' hearers** would ask **GOD** to open their ears and give them a heart to obey, they would know the truth! **DO YOU HAVE SPIRITUAL EARS TO HEAR THE LORD?**

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Tragically, most of these did not hear and shrugged off **JESUS' words** and by doing so they missed their **MESSIAH and GOD'S only WAY to HEAVEN!**

It's not much different than today! **GOD** has spoken clearly through **HIS WORD**, giving testimony to **JESUS** being **LORD** and the only **SAVIOUR**. Yet some try to explain **CHRISTIANITY** away in completely *naturalistic terms*, like those who said that it thundered, while others launch off into *mystical spirituality*, like those who said that an angel had spoken to **JESUS**.

But both sides miss **GOD'S TESTIMONY** regarding **HIS SON!** They don't have **spiritual ears** to hear **spiritual truth**, even when **GOD** speaks clearly! So, they die in their sins and have to pay for their sins themselves by being separated from **GOD** for all eternity in the **LAKE OF FIRE!**

Conclusion

Now we are halfway done but we are done for today, we have seen: *THE ANGUISH OF CHRIST'S BEING "LIFTED UP" WAS BECAUSE HE WOULD BEAR OUR SINS AND GOD'S WRATH FOR OUR SINS!*

THE AIM OF CHRIST'S BEING "LIFTED UP" WAS BOTH TO BEAR OUR SINS AND TO GLORIFY HIS HEAVENLY FATHER!

Do you know **CHRIST** as your personal **LORD** and **SAVIOUR?** Who or what are you depending on to make it to **HEAVEN?**

John 5:39-40—"39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. 40 And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

1 John 5:11-12—"11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.