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Email: woody@dtgministries.org; Website: <http://www.dtgministries.org>

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John 12 - Part III

Who has Believed our Report?

John 12:37-41: 37. *But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him: 38. That the saying of Esaias (Isaiah) 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 (Isaiah 53:1)? 39. Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias (Isaiah) 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 (Isaiah 6:9-10). 41. These things said Esaias (Isaiah), when he saw his glory, and spake of him (Isaiah 6:1-3).*

The right arm/hand is a symbol for strength and what saves a person: **Psalms 138:7:** *Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me.* The resurrected Christ is represented figuratively as the right arm of the Father. **Isaiah 51:9:** *Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD; awake, as in the ancient days, in the generations of old. Art thou not it that hath cut Rahab (figure for pride), and wounded the dragon (serpent)?*

How does the Lord “blind” and “harden” a person’s heart? He sends a messenger with the truth to share. A person who hears and rejects it, blinds his own eyes and hardens his own heart. Likely you have witnessed this in your own experience. Jesus said, **John 15:22:** *If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin.* He spent over three years teaching the people of Israel, including the leaders, and they harden their hearts against him, to the point plotting to kill him, and carrying it out.

John 12:42-43: 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 few times people, attending some of my studies, expressed concern that they would have to leave their church. There is a danger to a person of putting man’s organization before God who thinks they cannot do without the church. It took years for me to totally separate from the organized church. Not because I did not want too, but because I wanted to share with others what the Lord was showing me in scripture.

John 12:44-47: 44. *Jesus cried [called aloud] and said, He that believes on [into] me, believes not on [into] me, but on [into] him that sent me. 45. And he that sees me sees him that sent me. 46. I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believes on [into] 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.*

These words are pretty clear: 1) Jesus was sent by someone with greater authority; and, 2) Jesus was sent to bring spiritual light into the darkness of man’s understanding of God. The next verses tell who.

John 12:48-50: 48. *He that rejects me, and receives not my words, has one that judges him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. 49. For I have not spoken of (Jesus not the source of the words he spoke) 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. Amen.*