

Understanding Unbelief

John 12:37-50

Introduction:

Issues in Unbelief - John 12:37-43

1. There is stubborn, hard hearted resistance and cold indifference to the truth of God's Word and blatant rebellion towards the place of God in the universe. (John 12:37)
2. There is God's will that they not believe; that they live in darkness, with blinded eyes and deafened ears. (John 12:38-40)

Three Takeaways:

First, people are not called to or come to Christ because of signs and wonders. (Exodus 6:6; Deuteronomy 4:34; Psalm 44:3; Isaiah 53:1; Isaiah 59:1; Jeremiah 32:21; John 12:38)

Second, God is sovereignly involved in belief and in unbelief. (John 12:38-40)

Third, God's plans do not and will never negate my responsibility to repent and believe. (John 3:18).

Question: What does it mean to believe unto salvation?

1. The objective part. (Romans 10:9-10)
(It's about truth)
2. The subjective part. (James 4:6-10)
(It's about a changed life)

Jesus' Authority & Deity - John 12:44-50

1. Jesus is stating that he is God in the flesh.
2. Jesus overcomes darkness now and will judge later. (John 9:39; Romans 2:5; 2 Peter 2:4-9)

Conclusion: Three important truths:

First, God's sovereign will cannot be thwarted by unbelief and in belief God is always glorified.

Second, The cross will always be offensive to unbelievers and the cross will always be the boast of those who believe because the cross points to the ultimate glory of God and destroys the glory of man.

Third, death results from disobedience to God's law; continued unbelief cannot be remedied and will result in eternal separation from God.