

ScriptureGram

A brief word from God's Word

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Subject: "I Will Draw All Men Unto Me"(Pt. 2)

A reader has commented that if we consider the complete context of John 12 we will see that Jesus requires obedience as a condition for receiving eternal life. He goes on to say that every day Jesus is drawing someone to Him, but that while Jesus does the drawing ... man must make the choice to follow.

Of course context is important. And as Jesus lived He spoke to Israel, not to the Gentiles ... and His message was that the kingdom was near ... and repentance and obedience were crucial for entrance into the kingdom and eonian (not eternal) life.

Of course the leaders of Israel did not acknowledge the king ... nor did they live in accord with the precepts taught by Jesus that coincided with the kingdom that was to come upon the earth. They were not able to meet the conditions of obedience, thereby proving their inability to live in a righteous manner.

And in John 12:32 Jesus utters a prophetic statement making reference to His upcoming crucifixion ... "If I be lifted up ..."

And then consider what follows .. "I will draw all men unto Me."

These words did not pertain to His teachings concerning the kingdom evangel He was proclaiming. They had broader implications. When considering the context, we must consider not just John 12 ... and not just John ... but all of the Bible in its entirety. How does the Bible fit together? How does one passage fit with all others?

So in the midst of Jesus' teachings about Israel and the coming Kingdom, He utters this prophetic statement with implications much broader than all else in John's gospel. And we must consider all other Biblical passages that talk about this "drawing of all men."

Consider Isaiah 7:14 ... "Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." This statement, taken in Isaiah's immediate context, made reference to a sign given to Ahaz with fulfillment in his day. But the prophetic statement also has much broader implications, and is much later completely fulfilled by Christ (see Matthew 1:23).

Jesus' statement, "If I be lifted up..." has broader implications than what we find in John. And it makes perfect sense when we consider all of the other passages in Scripture that speak of God ultimately saving all mankind ... and finally becoming All in all (1 Cor 15) once the eons (ages) have accomplished God's purposes and Christ has brought all into subjection to the Father.

If Christ proclaims "I will draw all men unto Me" how can we place restrictions upon Him? Dare we say, "Well you can try to draw all men, but

some will be too stubborn for you and you will not be able to draw them?" I think not.

God wills that ALL mankind be saved (1 Timothy 2:4).

God is operating ALL in accord with the counsel of His will (Ephesians 1:11).

God is the Saviour of ALL, especially believers (1 Timothy 4:9-11) -- not "exclusively" of believers, but especially.

And one day Christ, thru His death and resurrection, will draw ALL men unto Him.

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- Bob Evely -