

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for January 28-29, 2006

"The Effects of the Cross"

John 12:31-36

The effect of Christ's words about the cross upon Himself (John 12:27-30).

The effect of Christ's words about the cross upon the world (John 12:31-33).

The first effect of the cross on the world was judgment (John 12:31).

The world thought they were passing judgment on Christ when they nailed Him to the cross, but the truth was they were passing judgment upon themselves.

They judged themselves because the ultimate and climactic rejection of Christ at the cross perpetuated and accentuated the death sentence that God had already pronounced.

The second effect of the cross on the world was that the ruler of this world would be cast out (John 12:31).

The ruler of the world that Jesus told His disciples would be cast out was Satan (John 14:30; 16:11).

When Jesus spoke of Satan being cast out, He was speaking about how His death on the cross would cast Satan out from his seat of power over his kingdom of lost souls (Colossians 2:15).

If Christ had not died on the cross, the whole world would have forever remained in Satan's kingdom under Satan's rule.

The third effect of Christ's cross on the world was that having been raised up, He would draw men to Himself (John 12:32-33).

"Lifted up" (HUSOO) was so often times used of exaltation that the possibility of misunderstanding could have arisen, so Jesus, in John 12:33, explained that it referred to His crucifixion.

When Jesus told His disciples if He were lifted up or crucified He would draw men to Himself, He meant that He would draw men to Himself for salvation (John 3:14-15).

When Jesus said that if He were lifted up He would draw all men to Himself, He did not mean all men without exception would be saved, but rather all men without distinction.

The effect of the cross on those who heard Him (John 12:34-36).

The Jewish multitude in John 12:34 asked Jesus to help them reconcile what He had said about His death with what they had up to that point believed about the Messiah.

Our Lord, in responding to the multitude, in essence, told them in John 12:35-36, "You have heard My message. Light or darkness, make your choice."

May God give us the grace as the sons of light to live like sons of light so that we might display Christ and boldly proclaim the saving power of His cross.