

Ten Statements about Death and Resurrection from John 12

By David DeWitt

- (1) **Verse 24**—*Unless a grain dies, it remains alone, but if it dies, it bears much fruit* (1 Corinthians 15:36). The human body, unlike seed, dies and rots. But our spirit, the real us, is like seed. Death releases us to eternal life.
 - (2) **Verse 25**—*He who loves his life loses it and he who hates his life in this world shall keep it to life eternal.* It's contrary to Judaism and to what most of us pray for. Most of what we pray for, hope for and work for is about love of this life. It's why suffering often brings us closer to God because it teaches us to hate this life.
 - (3) **Verse 26**—*If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me.* To serve Jesus is to follow Jesus in His commandments and lifestyle. That will be the basis of our heavenly rewards.
- Verses 27-31**—We now see His inner suffering. Should God save Him from this hour? No, it's why He came. **Our actions should be according to our calling, not our feelings.** Just because our soul is troubled by something doesn't mean it's not in the plan of God. Jesus wants God to glorify the Father's name. A voice came from heaven saying, *I have both glorified it and will glorify it.* This is the last time we hear God the Father speak. Through the agony of the Garden of Gethsemane and the cross, the Father was silent. Jesus died in agony, without a word from God. So will you and I. The last thing God said was that He was going to glorify Himself. **Maturity is this—to understand that God is not in it for you but for Himself.** It's not about your glory, it's about God's glory. Jesus said this was said, not for Jesus' sake, but for the peoples' sake.- (4) **Verse 31**—*Now judgment is upon the world, and the ruler of this world will be cast out.* The cross defeated Satan. **Satan's inability to keep Christ from the cross sealed his fate.** I think the purpose of the temptations (Matthew 4) was to get Christ to go to the kingdom rather than the cross. The kingdom without the cross would have been a victory for Satan, because the cross allowed for the redemption of humanity and took them out of Satan's power. But Satan is still the ruler of this world, and will be until he is cast into the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:10). We can expect that everything the world concludes is under his influence. It's not that we need Satan to sin. We have a sin nature and can sin all by ourselves.
- (5) **Verses 32-35**—Lifted up, Jesus *will draw all men to Himself.* Lifted up was a sign that Jesus would draw all men to Himself. I suspect He means every kind of human being (Poles, Americans, Indians, Jews, Greeks, etc.). The crowds say they thought that Christ was to remain forever. Daniel says Messiah would be cut off (Daniel 9). Isaiah 53 tells of Messiah's death. Jesus' answer is that a little longer the light is among them, so walk while they have light, so darkness will not overtake you. Light is revelation and truth (Jesus). Darkness is ignorance and sin. Without the revelation of Jesus, we have darkness and sin.
- (6) **Verse 36**—The offer of the light (Jesus) will not always be available. The time to accept the light is limited. Death ends our available time to accept the light.

Verses 37-43—They wouldn't believe in order to fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah and because God hardened their hearts so they wouldn't believe, because they were not chosen to believe. Isaiah said these things because Isaiah saw God's glory (Isaiah 6). But even though most did not believe, many did believe (whom I think became part of the church in Acts 2). But they were timid believers because of the Pharisees, and thinking they would be thrown out of the synagogue (like the parents of the blind man in John 9). Why are we afraid of being put out of religious surroundings? Verse 43 says it's because we love *the approval of men more than the approval of God.*- (7) **Verse 44**—*He who believes in Jesus does not believe in Jesus but in the Father who sent Jesus.* Faith in Christ is faith in God the Father, which is what Jesus says in John 5:24. If you separate the Son from the Father (as the Jews and Jehovah's Witnesses do), then you don't know the Father.
- (8) **Verse 45-47**—He who sees Jesus, sees the Father who sent Him. John 1:14, 18 say the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. No one has seen the Father, but the Son has revealed Him. **To believe in Christ is sufficient, since He is the perfect image of God the Father.** Jesus has come as light, so the one who believes will not remain in darkness. He who hears Jesus' words and doesn't keep them, Jesus is not judging them because He did not come to judge, but to save.
- (9) **Verses 48-49**—He who rejects Jesus and doesn't receive Jesus' sayings, has one who judges him or her, and that judge is the words Jesus spoke. The basis of judgment (whether at the Great White Throne for unbelievers or the Bema for believers) will be the words Christ as already spoken (the whole New Testament), not some new ideas or new words. Jesus did not speak on His own initiative but from what the Father gave Him to say.
- (10) **Verse 50**—*I know that His (the Father) commandment is eternal life.* The commandments of God the Father, stated by God the Son, have to do with eternal life, not loving this life.