

Passage: John 12:44-50

No Problem with Commitment

Who here would say that their life was busy? What are some of the things that you do on a regular basis? Are you very committed to these things?

- Most of us have all kinds of activities that we are involved in for various reasons. And on top of all those things we are committed to school so eventually we can contribute to society in some way.

There are only certain things that we will be committed to, though. Your oboe lesson might not be high on the priority list, if you're into academics then sports might not be high, and the opposite is true. You only commit to the things that you really want to do.

- What about Christianity? Is a commitment to Christianity important, or just religion in general? How do you become committed to Christianity, and how do you know if you're not committed?

See God Through Christ

Read John 12:44-50. Right up front you need to know that you need Jesus to see God. Why is this important? Let's disprove some common ideas that are around regarding God and Christianity.

You will be judged for what you do. People do not like this, it makes them feel guilty.

- One of the first things that someone will tell you if you try to correct certain behavior is that you cannot judge them, that judging is wrong. We apparently are supposed to let everyone do whatever they want.
- Jesus says that he is not here to judge right now but that doesn't mean that judgment is not coming.

Rejection of Christ is rejection of God. Here is another thing that our culture doesn't like.

- Most people say that they believe in God, although their lives say otherwise. Why do people say this? People like to think of themselves as basically good, they don't want to think that they reject the idea of God.
- How do we reject Christ, which is rejecting God? By not believing in him, or the message that he preached.

Why did we start out talking about commitment? It takes commitment to believe in Christ. Jesus is not an extracurricular activity that you add onto your life.

If you have broken one command, then you are separated from God, you are, as the passage says, in darkness.

- What are some characteristics of darkness? Fear, evil, secrecy, and an unclear path to follow. This is where you are without Christ, not to mention that you will be judged for what you do.

Christ's message brings people into the light. Christ covers the sins of those who believe in him. Those who trust that he is who he says he is, and live a life accordingly.

- It is not true belief when you say it, but do whatever you want.
- Christ brings people to God, he brings people out of the darkness. To see Jesus means to see God.

You can hear the urgency in Christ's words. Examine yourself and ask if you just "believe in God" whether in thought or action.

- Commitment to Christ requires a life change, but instead of going after things that have no eternal value, you are brought into light by Christ who is the only one to bring us to God.