"AND I, IF I BE LIFTED UP FROM THE EARTH, WILL DRAW ALL MEN UNTO ME"

John 12:32

Sermon by Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION

1. In this statement, Jesus refers to His dying on the cross.

2. Verse 31 denotes that the time was very near when the great TEST was to be made between Him and Satan -- John 12:31
   (1) When the test came, and Jesus was slain as a sacrifice for the sins of the world, Satan's power was destroyed -- Heb. 9:26.
   (2) The prince of this world was cast out -- Heb. 2:14; I John 3:8; Col. 2:14 - 15

3. Jesus said when this contest was over, and He had been lifted up, He would DRAW all men unto Him:
   (1) He would draw "ALL MEN"
   (2) Both JEWS and GENTILES -- Eph. 2:16; Rom. 1:16; Rom. 10:13; Acts 10:34 - 35
   (3) Both the RICH and POOR -- I Cor. 1:26; James 2:5
   (4) Both BOND and FREE -- Eph. 6:5
   (5) Both WISE and UNWISE -- Rom. 1:14
   (6) Both MALE and FEMALE -- Gal. 3:27 - 28

   (1) He draws as a "loadstone" or a "magnet".
   (2) Men who are drawn to Christ will forsake all for Him -- Mark 10:28
      1. They will forsake occupation
      2. They will forsake lands and houses
      3. They will forsake family
      4. Men will suffer many hardships to follow Jesus

5. TWICE earlier in the gospel according to John, Jesus said He was to be lifted up.
   (1) John 3:14 - 15
   (2) John 8:28

6. Let us study the LIFTING UP OF CHRIST

I. CHRIST WAS LIFTED UP ON THE CROSS

1. WHO lifted Christ upon the cross?
   (1) The Jews -- they plotted to kill Him -- Matt. 26:4
      1. They said to Pilate, "Let him be crucified" -- Matt. 27:22
   (2) Judas -- Matt. 26:14 - 15
   (3) Pilate -- John 19:16
(5) All men, for whose sins He died -- Heb. 2:9; I Pet. 2:24
(6) Jesus Himself did -- John 10: 17 - 18; Matt. 16: 21 - 23
(7) God did -- "He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all"-- Rom. 8:32
   1. Isa. 53:4 -- "Smitten of God"
   2. Zech. 13: 7; Matt. 26:31
2. "Will draw all men unto me"
   (1) When He walked on earth drew men from all walks of life to Him.
   (2) After He was lifted up, it is thrilling to read of the conversions in Acts, and see men from all walks of life being drawn to Him by the gospel -- Cornelius, the Ethiopian treasurer, Saul of Tarsus, Lydia, and the Philippian jailor.
   (3) His love -- II Cor. 5: 14 - 15

III. CHRIST WAS LIFTED UP FROM THE GRAVE
1. God raised Him up -- Acts 2: 24, 30; Eph. 1: 19 - 21
2. Why?
   (1) There is no hope in a dead savior -- I Cor. 15: 12 - 21
   (2) Christ had to be raised for the church to be built -- Matt. 16:18
3. The Resurrection is the foundation of the hope of the gospel -- I Cor. 15: 1 - 4
4. The resurrection proves Him to be the Son of God -- Rom. 1:4
5. Paul cited many witnesses to the fact of the resurrection of Christ -- I Cor. 15: 5 - 6
   (1) Seen of Cephas -- v. 5
   (2) The Twelve -- v. 5
   (3) Seen of above five hundred brethren at once -- v. 6
   (4) He was seen of James -- v. 7
   (5) Then of all the apostles -- v. 7
   (6) Was seen of me -- v. 8
6. Paul said all the witnesses preached the resurrection -- I Cor. 15:11
7. They died for it -- Acts 12:1 - 2
8. There is no salvation offered in the gospel for anyone who rejects the resurrection -- Rom. 1: 4

III. CHRIST WAS LIFED UP INTO HEAVEN
1. Jesus was lifted up to heaven on a cloud from Mount Olive in sight of Bethany -- Luke 24: 50 - 51; Acts 1: 9 - 12; Mark 16:19
2. Jesus was lifted up to heaven "to appear in the presence of God for us" with the merits of His blood -- Heb. 9:24; Heb. 9: 7 - 8
3. Jesus was lifted up to heaven to receive His Kingdom and begin His rule on Pentecost -- Dan. 7: 13 -14; Acts 2: 30 - 36
4. Jesus was lifted up to heaven to be our High Priest -- Heb. 4:14; Heb. 8:4; I John 2:1

IV. CHRIST IS LIFTED UP BY GOSPEL PREACHING
   1. Paul to the Galatians -- Gal. 3:1
   2. Paul to the Corinthians -- I Cor. 2:2
   3. Philip -- Acts 8:35

V. CHRIST IS LIFTED UP ON THE LORD'S DAY IN EATING THE LORD'S SUPPER
   1. Acts 20:7
   2. I Cor. 11:26

VI. CHRIST IS LIFTED UP BY THE WAY CHRISTIANS LIVE
   1. II Cor. 3:2 - 3
   2. I Tim. 4:12
   3. Matt. 5:13 - 16
   4. Phil. 1:27

CONCLUSION
   1. We had nothing to do with the first three "lifting" of Christ.
   2. But, we can lift Christ in the last three mentioned.

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