

"To Believe in the Light"

Text: John 12:35-43

Scripture reading: Isaiah 6

I. A time to come - vv. 35-36

A) The invitation of the Light - vs. 27

Richard Philipps, *"It says much about Jesus' heart that He wanted His final words not to drip with the acid of condemnation, but to flow with the sweet offer of God's grace. His departure would take the light from the world, so He leaves behind the gospel offer to become children of God by believing in His light."*

B) The patience of the Light (I Tim. 1:15-16)

John Kitchen, *"In how God dealt with Paul, he was not only extending mercy to the Apostle personally, but sketching an outline for others of all time to observe how He deals with sinners. Paul was God's prototype of mercy to sinners."*

C) The withdrawal of the Light

II. A condition of hardness - vv. 37-40 (Acts 2:22-23)

William Hendriksen, "*...when people, of their own accord and after repeated threats and promises, reject Him (Jesus) and spurn His messages, then - and not until then - He hardens them, in order that those who were not willing to repent may not be able to repent.*"

III. A matter of love - vv. 41-43

"Rejected light is the parent of the densest darkness, and the man who, having the light, does not trust it, piles around himself thick clouds of obscurity and gloom, far more doleful and impenetrable than the twilight that glimmers round the men who have never known the daylight of revelation."

Alexander Maclaren