

Chapter 9

Drag All to Myself

(32) "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw [or, drag] all to Myself." (33) But this He was saying signifying by what sort of death He was about to die. (John 12:32-33 ALT)

(32) And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will make all men come to me. (33) This he said, pointing to the sort of death he would have. (John 12:32-33 BBE)

We all know that Jesus was lifted up and impaled on stakes of wood, a cross, to die for the sin of the world. These words, especially verse 32, are often quoted, but it seems that the depth of their meaning has been lost.

When Jesus declared that if He were lifted up, He would draw all men to Himself, He meant exactly what He said. In other words, if He died on the cross of Calvary for the sin of the world, which He most definitely did, He would literally draw all men to Himself. He did not elaborate on how, ultimately and fully, He would do this or when He would do this, but He declared that He would do it. He spoke of the victory that He was about to win and did win for all mankind at Calvary.

The word *draw* literally means "to drag." In the Greek, this word is *helkuo*, which appears eight times in the new covenant Greek text (John 6:44; 12:32; 18:10; 21:6; 21:11; Acts 16:19; 21:30; James 2:6).

To understand the meaning of this declaration, we need to see it in the light of another word the Lord declared to His disciples.

"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws [drags] him; and I will raise him up on the last day." (John 6:44 NASB [added])

Again, the word *draw* comes from the same Greek word meaning "to drag." Thus, the dragging starts with the Father. He drags people to His Son. But notice that the Lord said that He would drag all men to Himself, and the word *all* is an inclusive word that means "everybody."

In other words, it is the Father's will to drag all mankind to His Son, and it is His Son's will to drag all mankind to Himself so that His Father may be all in all. This is in accord with other scripture.

(3) For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; (4) Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. (1 Timothy 2:3-4 KJV)

Notice that God will have all men to be saved. It does not state all men might be saved, or probably will be saved, or that God wishes all men to be saved, although some translations word it as such, but that God **wills** for all men to be saved.

Through Isaiah the prophet, God declared: "**My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure**" (Isaiah 46:10). If God wills that all men will be saved and, thus, He will drag all men to His Son, do we think He will not accomplish what He has willed?

Jesus declared that all that the Father drags to Him, He will raise up on the last day. There are differing views on what the last day actually means. Since its meaning does not alter the subject at hand, we will leave it.

During our present age—that has gone on now for two millennia—men are drawn to Christ **by grace through faith, and that not of ourselves, so that no one may boast** (Ephesians 2:8-9). We are dragged to Christ by grace and faith that is given to us.

All humanity will be dragged unto the Lord because the cross is and will be an absolute, 100% success in the reconciliation of all things, in which all mankind is included.

One final thought in reference to the cross: the cross dragged all into the death of Christ. Consider how Paul explains this good news.

For the love of Christ is constraining us, judging this, that, if One died for the sake of all, consequently all died. (2 Corinthians 5:14 CLV)

This pretty much sums up dragging all unto Himself. He died for all, consequently we all died. How does a dead man get out of death? Is it possible for a dead man to climb out of the grave? It is not possible for fallen man, but it was for the one who knew no sin, the new man who died for all. If He dragged us into death, don't you think He knows how to drag all of us unto Himself to give us His life. For those of us who believe, our testimony is in the next verse.

And He died for the sake of all that those who are living should by no means still be living to themselves, but to the One dying and being roused for their sakes. (2 Corinthians 5:15 CLV)

We are the living, but this does not mean that the rest will be left in the grave—a grave they had no choice in entering. Think about!