

In The Beginning Was The Word

John 3: 16-21

HE THAT BELIEVES NOT IS CONDEMNED ALREADY.

INTRODUCTION:

John stresses the deity of Jesus Christ. He gives us seven miracles that serve as signs that Jesus is the Messiah. He records Jesus describing himself as the bread of life, the water of life, **and now the light of the world**, but also the door, and also the good shepherd.

We find here in these closing words to Nicodemus, that it is Jesus Himself who is speaking to Nicodemus. It was not a third person commentary but the very words that Jesus Himself had spoken to Nicodemus.

It is interesting that these verses we are looking at this morning which is verses 16-21 are what we would call today the red letter verses. In other words it helps us when we are reading our bibles, that some of the King James versions have the text written in Red. This helps us to relate as to whenever our Lord is speaking and for no other reason but to help the reader.

Yet if we stop for a moment and focus on that text, let us not forget that these were the VERY WORDS that he spoke. As the case in point here to Nicodemus.

- These verses from verse 16 to verse 21 in our text are given from our Lord in almost a bulleted format.

John 3: 16-21

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

In this verse we see two things about the God head.

1. First of all we see God the Father, in relationship to His Son. (1st and 2nd person in the trinity).
2. Secondly we see the Son's position as one in whom salvation could be entrusted.
3. The relationship is one of a true Godhead whereby all power is shared in the triune God head.
4. The verse as stated by the Lord spells out clearly for us all to see and to hear that His relationship to the Father and the Fathers relationship to the Son is of equal power. (Matt 28:18).

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

5. Also from this verse we can see the message of salvation that was given to the Son by the Father in the Triune God head.
 - The verse 16 given by our Lord is a wonderful verse full of mercy and of Love. It is a verse that reaches out to all nations upon the earth.
 - The message and invitation knows no boundaries, no colour and no race.
 - In essence it is an invitation to the one race upon the earth which is God's creation, the Human Race.
1. By contrast this is a statement opposite to that made by evolution which says that there are many races upon the earth as a result of evolution.
 2. The fact that evolution declares many races is a lack of belief in creation and as a result a lack of belief that God is the creator.
- A. When the scripture talks about **he** (the Father) "**he gave his only begotten Son**" it is directly speaking about the fact of a gift that was given in terms of a sacrifice that would be offered upon for the "human race" salvation.
 - B. The terminology used here of "**Begotten**" is used as the relationship to the Father as one that is "WELL LOVED" by him, and that it was extremely painful for him to have had to sacrifice and subject the second person of the trinity to anguish and pain in the flesh.
 - C. So the word "Begotten is used in a loving relationship".
 - D. The invitation of salvation is extended as a measure of **His grace and mercy** to all who **will** believe. Those who will have everlasting life in the presence of the Lord, are those who believe.
 - E. The word **perish** used here is describe the unbelievers eternal destiny where even the worm dieth not. A place of torment. That is why Peter repeated the Lords words here in 2 Peter 3:9. The word perish is not just a word to describe how our bodies will turn back into dust.

2 Peter 3:9

*The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should **perish**, but that all should come to repentance.*

- F. No mercy and no grace is extended to those who "DO NOT" believe.
 - The reason why salvation is offered is for one reason only?
 - **That reason is Verse16. For God so loved the world.**
1. The reason why God loves the world so much is because the world is God's creation, which means that all people are His creation.
 2. In Genesis it says that when he had made all things He saw that it was good. Which means that it was pleasurable to God and he loved all things that He created. (this was after day 6 when he created man - right?).

Genesis 1:31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Proverbs 16:4

*The Lord hath **made all things** for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.*

3. Not willing that any of His created should perish as a result of Sin, God sent a sacrifice that would more than match the penalty of Sin.
4. That worthy sacrifice would be His very own Son.

¹⁷ For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

1. When the Lord sent His Son it was in recognition of fallen humanity. That fallen humanity (human race) was Gods very own creation, and as such needed a redeemer to bring them back to Him in all righteousness.
2. That is why verse 17 tells us that he “**sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.**”

John 14:6

*Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh **unto the Father**, but by me.*

1 Timothy 2:5

*For there is one God, and one **mediator** between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;*

3. The world is God’s creation (speaking here about humanity). Because Adam had fallen to sin, so all humankind had sinned as they are all linked to the lineage of Adam and Eve as their offspring.

Romans 5:12

*Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and **death by sin**; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:*

4. The only sacrifice that could be made was from one who did not sin, and could not sin. That was our Lords sacrifice to be.
5. You see the World had and is “ALREADY BEEN CONDEMED” because of their sin. God did not have to send His son to condemn them again!!!
 - A. Evil is evil and as a result it is condemned already.
 - B. The world (human race) needed a redeemer not a condemner at this stage.
 - C. As God would send His Son as a sacrifice it would be sufficient to save all who would believe. The answer that Jesus gave to Nicodemus was that not all will receive. This is evident from the Lords words to Nicodemus which were verse **17b “but that the world through him might be saved.”** It indicates that not all will embrace the sacrifice.
 - D. The world would have their choice laid out for them, which would they choose.

¹⁸ He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

1. From the previous verses Jesus speaks of Himself in the third person view as of the “Saviour” as the Son of God His Father.

2. He explains that the Son of God is a gift as a saviour in whom salvation is only possible.
 3. The Lord's message to Nicodemus was plain and simple, it was not full of scholarly information which Nicodemus had expected, but was plain and to the point, just like it should be for us today. That message was "**He that believeth on him is not condemned:**
 - Nicodemus – if you believe you will not be condemned by the righteous God in heaven but will be spared the judgements reserved for the devil and the fallen angels. (Matt 25:41- prepared for the devil and fallen angels)
 - But Nicodemus – For those who do not believe "**he that believeth not is condemned already,**
 - The reason Nicodemus is this; he shall perish – "**because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.**"
 - Nicodemus – there is no other choice. The choice is only the Son of God.
1. For a person to believe, he must know who Jesus is and must call upon His name.
 2. **Romans 10:13** For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord **shall be saved.**

Romans 8:1 *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

- A. Nicodemus, as well as many non believing Jews had simply not considered this option to be viable. Even so today many still do not believe.
- B. When we witness to others don't feel bad if they reject you as the messenger. They even rejected the Lord with the same message.

¹⁹ ***And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.***

The Gospel condemns people even before they open their mouth to speak.

- By that is meant the gospel is the light to a darkened world.
 1. A darkened world is a world without light.
 2. That world needs light to make it see.
 3. So just as people's hearts are dark with sin, it needs a light to be placed within it to make it shine and to see.
 4. That light is the Lord. The condemnation is that man is fallen and condemned already, and the reason why man can know this is because the light that has come has come to reveal that darkness which resides in every man's heart in the world.
 5. This light is not always accepted and many reject that light as our scripture in verse 19 tells us. "**And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light,**
- Shut up in their own little world people don't like outside influences telling them what they can and can't do? Right?

6. The reason is this as verse 19b tells us is this “**because their deeds were evil**”.
7. People love their sin more than they love the Savior. That’s the reason.
8. The Savior our Lord represents the light that they are hiding from.

➤ Isaiah the prophet of God would say this of the people.

Isaiah 5:20 ²⁰ *Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*

²⁰ ***For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.***

❖ How does this next quote from our Lord reside with you today!

➤ “**For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, (verse 20).**”

The evil mentioned here is a person who loves his sin and is comfortable with it and has no remorse for it.

1. It is a person who hates the fact of Jesus Christ being the Saviour of mankind and a light unto the world.
2. The fact that they love evil is the reason why they will not come towards the light “**neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.**”
3. These are people who prefer to remain in their un confessed sinners state, who will not bow their knee to the Lord.
4. The reason for not coming again is their love for their sin and their refusal to acknowledge that they are a sinner in need of a saviour.
5. It’s that simple. (Psalm 52:3)

Psalm 52:3

*Thou lovest evil more than good; and lying rather than to speak **righteousness**. Selah.*

- The Jews sin is the sin of not believing that Jesus is God.
- And Jesus reminds Nicodemus of that.

Matthew 21:32

*For John came unto you in the way of **righteousness**, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him.*

²¹ ***But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.***

When people are really willing to learn the truth they at least will open their eyes that they might see truth.

1. People who do the truth and not just speak it are the ones that come to the light.
2. That light is the light of salvation because it is not just what they say they will do but is what they do that brings them to that light.

Psalm 119:105

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

3. The Lords word is like a lamp that can guide our foot steps in the times of darkness, when we cannot or have not seen the light.
4. But once we are holding that lamp it is a light unto our path wherever we may go.
5. We can count on God's word never to mislead us into something that is not true.
6. When we come to the light, or come into the light it makes us see things we have never been able to see before whilst we were in the dark.

➤ That's why when a person resists walking into the light it means they want to hide something from someone else.

7. In this case they want to hide their sin.
8. When a person goes reveals his life to others you can soon see if it measures up to the word of our Lord or not. For "***that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.***"

This coincides with what the apostle Paul told the Ephesian church at Ephesus.

Ephesians 5:11-13

¹¹ *And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.*

¹² *For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.*

¹³ *But all things that are reprovved are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.*

➤ We need to remember these words that Jesus spoke to Nicodemus, because they will serve us all well.

PRAYER.....CLOSE