

Escape Condemnation by Believing

John 3:16-19 ¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.

❖ Intro

- Isn't It Fun to be going through the Bible Verse by Verse...?
 - And getting the whole meaning of texts that we come across...
- The Bible Claims that it is Inspired by God
 - And perfect... And I believe this as well
- The Weightiness of these verses is Immense....
- I ask you all to take a deep look into yourselves this morning...
 - ASK YOURSELVES: WHO AM I
 - Try to Answer it... What are you like in the truest sense of who you are...
 - Look deep, and look into the darkest places...]

❖ Recap

- Briefly.... Remembering that this is a continuation of Jesus' discussion with Nicodemus
- When Believing Isn't Believing
 - Do not forget this point...
 - If you do not understand this mystery, you will never get it...
 - You will sit in your seat with a belief in Jesus and God that will not give you eternal life...
- You Must Be Born Again
- God's Love Gives Light to those Who Believe
- Remember the Purpose of this Gospel
 - So for all of you on the fence.... On the Precipice of Eternity... there is Hope...
 - **John 20:31 ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.**

❖ Today:

- **8 points to be made from these 4 verses...**
 - Most are in the Text... Some are Necessary to Understand the Text
- **Not Necessarily in Exact order with the Text...**
 - Rather Each point is a building block...
 - Like a pyramid
 - And there is an order to the blocks...
 - And they must be laid in a certain order...
 - So that the latter points are understood through the previous points

❖ 1) God Has a Holy and Righteous Nature

- **Isaiah 5:16 ¹⁶ But the LORD of hosts is exalted in justice, and the Holy God shows himself holy in righteousness.**
- **Leviticus 19:2 ² “Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God *am* holy.**
- **Hebrews 1:8-9 ⁸⁻⁹”, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. ⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;**

- **Upon Seeing God....** Isaiah (known as a man of integrity and to others, a righteous man)
 - Isaiah 6:3 ³ And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”
- **Pronounced a curse upon Himself...**
 - Essential Saying: *Now that I have seen the Lord, my Righteousness has been **disintegrated***
 - Isaiah 6:5 ⁵ Then said I, *Woe is me!* for **I am undone**; because I *am* a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: **for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.**
 - Undone...
 - My eyes have seen the King
- **God is Holy.... Know this... Truly Know this**

❖ 2) God’s Nature Prevents Him from Overlooking Sin and Namely Sinners

- Isaiah 13:11 ¹¹ And I will punish the world for *their* evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.
- Exodus 34:7 ⁷ Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear *the guilty*;
- This is a Big Problem...
 - Why? Because we are all sinners aren’t we....
 - We have all sinned...
- Remember this Point...
 - Because we will look at how God has made a way for our Sin to be taken care of...
- These first two points are Paramount to Understanding the Rest of Sermon....

❖ 3) All Men Were Condemned Because of their Sin

- **18 but whoever does not believe is condemned **already**, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.**
- **To be Condemned:** a damning Sentence..., to judge one worthy of punishment
 - Condemned to Hell.... It is adding to vs 16.... And the use of Perish...
- **Started with the First Sin....**
 - And it has continued even now...
 - We have all sinned.... Willfully and with knowledge that it is sin... (except some smaller children)
 - We can’t claim innocence, nor can we claim ignorance
 - Romans 5:18 ¹⁸ Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men,
- **Take Away for a Moment the Fact that many in here are Believers... and no longer condemned...**
 - We all were at some point condemned...
 - We had condemnation facing us...
 - Remember Eph. “**Dead in our trespasses and sins...**
 - This is why He can say here...”**Whoever does not believe is condemned already”**
- **So, there are some in here today that stand condemned...**
 - **You need to see that this is a terrible place to be....**
 - Given the brevity of Life
 - The fact that the wind (Spirit) is free to blow when and where He wants...
 - The Work of Salvation starts with God...
 - You can’t choose God, unless He is calling You...
 - ◆ I can support this by many scriptures...
 - So, He may indeed stop...
 - What is next, is so important for you

❖ 4) God Loves the World (The Reason)

- ¹⁶ "For God so loved the world
- The World here... is in reference to "the created fallen whole of mankind... the great mass of fallen humans that need saving...
 - That is the main way in which John uses this word in this Gospel.... By far...
- 2 Peter 3:9 ... not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.
- Ezekiel 33:11 ¹¹ Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live:
- **God Loves the World.... He has a love for all people....**
 - This is why He sent His Son...

❖ 5) God Sent His Son to Save the World (The Offer)

- 16 ... that he gave his only Son
 - Gave
 - Sent (vs 17)
- 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.
 - Be Saved Through Him
- **God's Sending Meant Jesus Dying**
 - John 3:14-15 ¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.
- **His Blood Brings our Cleansing**
 - Hebrews 9:22 ²² Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.
- **Remember Man's Previous Predicament**
 - We are condemned because of our sins...
 - God because of His nature can not Overlook sin...
 - His Nature is one of Holiness and Righteousness and Justice...
- **God Has Never Overlooked our Sin...**
 - Either it is on Us, or it was placed on Jesus

❖ 6) Believing is the key to Escaping Condemnation

- The Whole World will NOT be saved
- 16 ... that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.
 - Those who do not believe will perish
 - WHOEVER BELIEVES WILL BE SAVED
- ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned,
 - Condemnation is escaped by believing
- 18....but whoever does not believe is condemned already, **because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.**
 - Condemnation is Already on the person who does not believe in the name of the only Son of God
- **Remember True Believing**
 - Believing Entails... Following...
 - Many believed on Jesus (superficially) because of His works...
 - You may believe because there is enough evidence to support He did many wonderful things...
 - And you have no problem believing someone came to the earth that could do miracles..
 - **Do not be like Nicodemus...**
 - You must be from God...
 - Jesus tells Nicodemus... You must be born again...

- **Remember Peter's Words to Jesus....**

- John 6:68 68 Simon Peter answered him, "**Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, 69 and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.**"

- **True Believing Goes FAR beyond Head Knowledge...**

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- ❖ **7) Notice: God's Special Love for His People**

- Ephesians 2:4-5: "God, being rich in mercy, because of **the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ**"
- 1 Peter 1:3³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to **his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,**
- **God's Love for His people is a special Love...**
 - A greater love than His love for the World...
 - Not only has He loved us enough to send His Son for us...
 - But He loves us with a choosing love...
- **A choosing love...**
 - He chose us...

- ❖ **8) People Reject b/c They Love Darkness**

- **19 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.**
- **Please... do not let this be true of you**
 - Pride keeps people from coming to Jesus...
 - A love for darkness...
 - If you came to Jesus you would have to live in the light...
 - And that light would shine on your dark things...
- **These People He is referring to...**
 - Let their pride get in the way... And would not humble themselves and admit they were wrong
 - They were greedy and wanted to keep what they got
 - They were selfish and did not want to serve others
 - They were full of lust and did not want to lose that pleasure
 - They took advantage of people and did not want to lose that power
 - They were deceivers and would not let their deceptions be known...
- **They were like cockroaches...**
 - When the light is turned on they run to the dark places...
 - When the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ Shines...
 - They run from it...

- ❖ **Invitation:**

- Come to the Light
- Do not resist the blowing of the wind(Spirit)
- Do not reject this offer...
 - You have no other offers
- His Sheep hear His voice...
 - Can you hear Him calling You?