

## WHOSOEVER WILL, LET HIM COME

JOHN 3:15-21

**(John 3:15-21)**, "That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. {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. {17} For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. {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. {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. {20} For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. {21} But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God."



- S **JOHN CHAPTER 3** is one of the greatest evangelistic chapters in the Bible.
- THE STORY OF **NICODEMUS** learning the meaning of being **BORN AGAIN** is found in the third chapter of John. That story has been used throughout the centuries to lead multitudes to faith in Jesus Christ.
  - **JOHN 3:16** might well be the world's most famous verse. That one verse seems to make it into the end zone of nationally televised football games more often than does any other verse in the Bible.
- S **OUR TEXT** tells us **WHO GOD IS** and **WHAT HE THINKS OF US**. CONSIDER **FIVE DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES** related to our text:
- I. GOD'S **APPROACH** TO HUMANITY — "**LOVE**"
  - II. GOD'S **ASSESSMENT** OF HUMANITY — "**CONDEMNED**"
  - III. GOD'S **GOAL** FOR HUMANITY — "**SALVATION**"
  - IV. GOD'S **REQUIREMENT** FOR SALVATION — "**BELIEVE**"
  - V. MAN'S **RECEPTION** OF GOD'S REQUIREMENT — **TWOFOLD**

### I. GOD'S APPROACH TO HUMANITY — "LOVE"

**(V. 16a,b)**, "For God so **LOVED** the world, . . . "

- S **GOD'S CHARACTER IS A BIG ISSUE** in the heart and mind of a nonbeliever. It is common for a nonbeliever's attitude toward God to be **skewed** and **distorted** when compared to God's revelation of Himself. Their **inaccurate opinions** about God often make them unwilling to trust God. The thought of surrendering their lives to God is the farthest thing from their mind.
- S **RECENTLY TWO DIFFERENT CHURCH MEMBERS** shared **WHAT THEY THOUGHT GOD WAS LIKE** before they came to know Him personally. Perhaps their pre conversion sentiments represent the attitudes of many lost people today.
- (1) **ONE MEMBER SAID BEFORE EXPERIENCING SALVATION** that he considered God to be **too distant** and **too big** to be approached. He thought of himself as **too small** and **too insignificant** for God to care for him personally. He compared **Bible study** to a "**COLD CAN OF PEAS**." As far as he was concerned, nothing exciting was to be found in the Bible.

AFTER EXPERIENCING GOD'S SALVATION, his attitude took a 180-degree turn. He came to see God as a **FRIEND** and **FATHER**. Rather than **BIBLE STUDY** being like a *cold can of peas*, studying God's Word became like going to **A FEAST**. He couldn't get enough of it. What once was avoided at all costs became something after which he hungered and thirsted. (From testimony by Mike Harty)

- (2) **ANOTHER MEMBER TOLD HOW** “before accepting Christ, the message of NEW LIFE IN CHRIST was a **PERSISTENT IRRITATION**.” She “**wanted all the good things** that God had to offer, but didn't want her life to be **ENCUMBERED** by any commitment to him.”

She wrote, “I felt certain that **HE WAS CAPABLE OF RUINING MY LIFE** if I gave him the opportunity, and I wasn't about to let that happen.”

“An elderly, prim and proper **MAIDEN AUNT** from her childhood gave her impressions of what heaven must have been like. The aunt was well to do and had a lovely home with lots of nice things. Visits were often accompanied with a good meal. But despite all the niceties, she never really enjoyed going to her aunt's house because it was so **sedate**. Her presence was very **intimidating**; and she had a way of relating to children that told them ever so clearly that, although we were **tolerated**, they **didn't really belong** in her house.”

“For many years, she subconsciously **EXPECTED HEAVEN TO BE** a place **LIKE THAT**—a **stiff** and **formal** place where a person could never be themselves. To her heaven was a place where **she wouldn't fit in**; a place where she might be **ACCEPTED BUT NOT REALLY WELCOMED**; a place where she would be **ill-at-ease for all eternity**. She had **no desire to be stuck forever** in a place like that, and couldn't imagine why anyone else would want to go there either.”

(Th wonderful conclusion to Genevieve Millsap's testimony will be shared at the conclusion of this message. She had a life-changing experience at age 29 that revolutionized her heart and mind concerning God and heaven.)

- S **PERHAPS SOMEONE** reading this message holds a view of God that **PARALLELS THESE TESTIMONIES**. You, too, might be of the opinion that God is far away and distant. Studying God's Word might be for you like a *cold can of peas*. Your thoughts drive you away from God rather than draw you near to Him.

- S **BASED ON OUR TEXT CONSIDER TWO TRUTHS ABOUT WHOM GOD IS** and **WHAT HE IS REALLY LIKE**. These two truths, if taken to heart, can cause us to stand in *awe* and *wonder* of God.

### **#1. THE TRUTH OF GOD'S "LOVE" FOR US**

**(V. 16)**, “For God so **LOVED** the world, . . . ”

- S The word for **"LOVE" IS "AGAPE"**. It speaks of God's attitude toward humanity. God loves us! He loves us because it is His nature to love. **GOD IS A GOD OF LOVE**.

- S Now, **IF WE FAIL TO SEE GOD AS A GOD OF LOVE, we WILL BE TEMPTED** to act toward Him the wrong way. We will tend to

act the way **ADAM & EVE** acted toward Him. After they sinned by eating the forbidden fruit, they ran and hid from God among the trees (Gen 3:8). The reason they hid was their sin had given them **A DISTORTED VIEW** of God. They did not believe that God had come among them for the purpose of fellowship. They were convinced God had come in their midst to judge them. Rather than being blessed by God's presence, they were immediately **INTIMIDATED**. They were so intimidated they hid from God.

S Adam and Eve's reaction to God is **VERY COMMON** in human thought on the part of those who do know Him personally. Our sin and guilt tend to cause us to talk of God **IN NEGATIVE TERMS**.

S **GOD DESCRIBES HIMSELF TO US IN POSITIVE TERMS:**

- **(Ezek 33:11)**, "... 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: . . . "
- **(1 John 4:8)**, "... **GOD IS LOVE**."
- **(V. 16a)**, "**FOR GOD SO LOVED** the world, . . . "

#1. THE TRUTH OF GOD'S "LOVE" FOR US

**#2. THE SECOND TRUTH FROM OUR TEXT IS  
HOW "GREAT" IS GOD'S LOVE FOR US**

**(V. 16)**, "For God **SO** loved the world, that **HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON**, . . . "

S "**SO**" has been called the "**biggest little word in the Bible**."

**(1 John 3:16)**, "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because **HE LAID DOWN HIS LIFE FOR US**: . . . "

**(1 John 4:10)**, "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and **SENT HIS SON** to be the propitiation for our sins."

**(Rom 5:8)**, "But **GOD COMMENDETH HIS LOVE TOWARD US**, in that, while we were yet sinners, **CHRIST DIED FOR US**."

S God didn't wait until we cleaned up our act in order to approach us. He died for us before we were born. He gave His life for us on the cross before we ever knew His name. **IF ANYONE DOUBTS GOD'S LOVE**, all they need do is look at the cross and their doubts will be erased. From the cross **GOD SHOUTS ACROSS THE AGES** to all humanity, "I LOVE YOU." Jesus stretched out His hands at Calvary and said, "**I LOVE YOU THIS MUCH**."

S **ONE CHARGE** LEVELED AGAINST JESUS by His enemies was He was **A FRIEND OF SINNERS**. The religious authorities used that fact to charge Him with what they considered misconduct. It is true that He ate dinner with tax collectors. Publicans and sinners were common acquaintances for Jesus. Do you remember Jesus' response to those charges?

**(Mark 2:17)**, "... They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

S **A MISSIONARY** held **A TENT REVIVAL** in a distant land. One night during a revival service the missionary wife sang of God's love in the language of that people. Her husband preached about God's love for all people. At the close of the service, as the people were leaving, an elderly lady came stumbling down the aisle in the tent. She was filthy. Her hair was matted to her head. Her clothes were so crusted you could have stood them up by themselves. Saliva ran out the corner of her mouth indicating she was a victim of a drug that was common to that area.

She stumbled up to the missionary wife. She brushed her crusty dirty old hand across her face and across her mouth. She reached out to the missionary wife and said to her, "You sang tonight about God loving everybody. Your husband also said that God loves everyone. My question to you is, 'DOES THAT INCLUDE ME?'"

How would you have responded to that lady? That missionary wife reached out and took that woman into her arms and hugged her up to herself and spoke into her ear, "Yes, God loves you!"

S NEVER FORGET THAT **GOD LOVES SINNERS!** God's approach to humanity is **love**. God is not distant. **GOD TAKES NO PLEASURE** in the death of the wicked. God loves the world.

- **JAMES & JOHN** were walking through **A SAMARITAN VILLAGE** with Jesus. The villagers would have nothing to do with Jesus because He was headed toward Jerusalem. James and John asked Jesus if He wanted them to call down fire from heaven and destroy them like Elijah did on Mt. Carmel. Jesus' reply to them revealed the character of God toward humanity. **(Luke 9:55-56)**, "But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. {56} For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. . . ."
- **JESUS' FIRST WORDS** from the cross did away with any doubt regarding God's love. He said of the very people who had nailed Him on the cross, ". . . **FATHER, FORGIVE THEM** for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34).

S **QUESTION** — WHEN JESUS DIED, DID HE DIE JUST FOR THOSE WHO SOMEDAY WOULD RECEIVE HIM? , Or did He die for those who would receive Him, as well as those who would never receive Him? John 3:16 answers that question. "For God so loved **THE WORLD,**" i.e., the **PHARAOH'S**; the **HEROD'S**; the **JUDAS'**; the **DRUG ADDICTS**; the **THIEVES**; **YOU & ME** that He gave His only begotten Son. God's attitude toward humanity is **good**. It is **positive**. It is **love**.

I. GOD'S **APPROACH** TO HUMANITY — "**LOVE**"

**II. GOD'S ASSESSMENT OF HUMANITY — "CONDEMNED"**  
**(V. 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."

S It is no coincidence that God had the New Testament recorded in the Greek language. The Greek language is an exact language. The **verb tense** and **mood** in verse 18 is an example. THE VERB translated "**IS CONDEMNED**" (ἐῶνέομαι, kekritei) is in the **INDICATIVE MOOD** and

the **PERFECT TENSE**.

- THE **INDICATIVE MOOD** is a **simple assertion of certainty** that expresses the fact of the action in relationship to **reality**.
- THE **PERFECT TENSE** describes **a process** that took place **in the past** and that has **results continuing to the present**.

S TAKING MOOD & TENSE INTO ACCOUNT, **WE CAN CONCLUDE** that **THIS CONDEMNATION** DESCRIBED IN OUR TEXT HAPPENED IN THE **PAST** AND CONTINUES INTO THE **PRESENT**.

Unless God's solution is experienced to correct it, *condemnation* will continue into the future. The condition of *condemnation* will continue throughout all eternity for the person who never finds God's cure.

S WHEN YOU TAKE THE VERB "**IS CONDEMNED**," AND ADD TO IT THE ADVERB "**ALREADY**," the intensity of the message is heightened even more. Listen to the three words together, "IS CONDEMNED ALREADY."

S THE REVELATION OF "CONDEMNATION" is **OFTEN MISUNDERSTOOD**. Many folks are **UNDER THE MISTAKEN NOTION** that individuals will someday stand before God in the judgment in order to discover whether or not they are condemned. That is not the picture the Bible paints. The Bible teaches that condemnation is **THE RESULT OF A PAST ACT** that continues into the present and that remains in effect for all eternity unless God's solution is experienced. The text does not say "**will be condemned**" on the day of judgment. It says "**is condemned already**."

S GOD TOLD **ADAM AND EVE**:

**(Gen 2:17)**, "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for **IN THE DAY THAT THOU EATEST THEREOF THOU SHALT SURELY DIE**."

After Adam and Eve ate, they experienced a new condition called **guilt**. Their *guilt* must have led them to conclude that God had come among them for the purpose of *condemnation*. Why else would they have tried to hide from God?

**THE POSITION OF SCRIPTURE IS** that we, like Adam and Eve, are *condemned already*. Our condemnation is not future tense, but past tense. The judge has already issued the verdict and pronounced us guilty, i.e., "condemned already." The condemnation phase of our trial is over. The judge has spoken. We are all guilty. Someone might ask, "Then why does God take the time to come among us?" The answer is **BECAUSE GOD LOVES US**. His desire is that the "condemned already" **RECEIVE HIS OFFER OF MERCY AND FORGIVENESS** through His Son, Jesus Christ.

S **MANY PEOPLE APART FROM CHRIST HAVE THE SAME ATTITUDE THAT ADAM AND EVE HAD**. They are convinced the reason God wants to come among them is so He can condemn them. They mistakenly believe God wants to get involved in their lives so that He might make them more aware of the condemnation they already experience.

S We need to realize **THE REAL REASON** God desires to get involved in our lives is **HE LOVES US**. He loves us so much that the Lord Jesus

Christ died on the cross just so that we could come out from under the *condemnation*.

- I. GOD'S **APPROACH** TO HUMANITY — "**LOVE**"
- II. GOD'S **ASSESSMENT** OF HUMANITY — "**CONDEMNED**"

### **III. GOD'S GOAL FOR HUMANITY — "SALVATION"**

**(V. 16-17)**, "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. {17} For God **SENT NOT** his Son into the world **TO CONDEMN THE WORLD**; but that the world through him **MIGHT BE SAVED.**"

- S The first four books of the New Testament are called the **GOSPELS**. Jesus came preaching the GOSPEL of the kingdom of God (Mat 4:23). The word GOSPEL means "**GOOD NEWS.**" God had the Gospels written so that we could understand how to have a personal relationship of fellowship with Him. He did not write the GOSPELS to condemn us. We were already condemned. He put on human flesh and came among us in order to save us.
- S ONE OF THE GREATEST PROOFS GOD WANTED TO GIVE US SALVATION, AND NOT CONDEMNATION, IS THE NAME HE CHOSE FOR HIS SON —"**JESUS.**" Jesus means "**JEHOVAH SAVES.**" God wants to save the condemned.
- S THE **SUBJECT OF SALVATION** is presented throughout Scripture. THE WORD FOR "**SALVATION**" has many different titles in the Bible. Sometimes *salvation* is called "**BORN AGAIN.**" *Salvation* is sometimes called **redemption; regeneration; justification**. Sometimes *salvation* is simply called "**SAVED.**"
- S For the longest time I did not know the word "**SAVED**" was in the Bible. I was surprised to discover how many times the word *saved* appeared in Scripture.
  - **(Rom 10:9)**, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be **SAVED.**"
  - **(Rom 10:13)**, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be **SAVED.**"
  - **(John 3:17)**, "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be **SAVED.**"
- S The word *saved* often **HAS NEGATIVE CONNOTATIONS** in the mind of the person hiding from God. The lost world doesn't like that word *saved* for at least two reasons:
  - (1) "**SAVED**" implies **SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH US.**
  - (2) "**SAVED**" also **IMPLIES WE NEED HELP** beyond ourselves.

Because **PRIDE IS A PART OF THE HUMAN CONDITION**, we don't like to admit anything is wrong with us. We don't like to confess that we stand in need of help from anyone else, and that often includes God.

WELL, LIKE IT OR NOT, **SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH US!** We have all sinned (Rom 3:23). We are "**condemned already.**"

Because of our sin, we all need God's help. We stand in need of God's help. As a result of our need, God put on human flesh two thousand years ago and walked among us and bore the name "**JEHOVAH SAVES.**" He died on a cross so that we could be "saved." That is why the Bible can be accurately described as **GOD'S LOVE STORY**. God's goal for us is not *condemnation*, it is *salvation*.

- I. GOD'S **APPROACH** TO HUMANITY — "**LOVE**"
- II. GOD'S **ASSESSMENT** OF HUMANITY — "**CONDEMNED**"
- III. GOD'S **GOAL** FOR HUMANITY — "**SALVATION**"

#### IV. GOD'S REQUIREMENT FOR HUMANITY — "BELIEVE"

**FIVE TIMES** IN THREE VERSES THE WORD "**BELIEVE**" IS USED:

**(V. 15-16)**, "That whosoever **BELIEVETH** in him should not perish, but have eternal life. {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."

**(V. 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."

#### S **SALVATION HINGES UPON "BELIEF" IN JESUS!**

S MOST LOST PEOPLE ARE **OF THE OPINION** THAT SALVATION DEPENDS UPON KEEPING GOD'S LAW. Many people are convinced the purpose of God's law is to **PROVIDE A WAY** for a person to get to heaven. In their thinking salvation is **LIKE PASSING A TEST**. They believe if a person makes a good grade in life, they get to go to heaven. **THE TRUTH IS** all of us have such bad grades related to God's standard of holiness, that none of us could ever get to heaven based on our good works.

- **JUST SUPPOSE** a product you desired to purchase cost **\$500.00**. Suppose you had \$50 toward the purchase of that \$500 dollar item. Would you be more able to buy that \$500 dollar product than the person who only had \$25? Because you had twice what they had, would you be more able to make the purchase? The answer is "no!" **IN LIKE MANNER**, someone might be twice as good as another person, but no one is good enough to go to heaven based on their good deeds.
- Suppose you went to **THE CEMETERY** and found a tombstone marked with the death date of 1850. Suppose you came across another stone marked with a death date of 1950. One man had been dead 100 years longer than the other one. Would the man in the first grave be deader than the man in the second grave because he had been dead 100 years longer? The answer is "no!" "Dead is dead." In the same manner, "condemned is condemned." **IN LIKE MANNER**, we were all spiritually dead apart from Christ (Eph 2:1). "Dead is dead!"

S **THE STATED PURPOSE OF GOD'S LAW** is found in the Book of Romans.

**(Rom 5:20)**, "Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much

more about:"

The law was not given to provide for our salvation. The law was given to help the “dead” realize they were really “dead.” It was given to help the *condemned* realize they were *already condemned*. Until a person realizes they are *condemned already*, they will not seek God’s mercy. **AS PAINFUL AS THE KNOWLEDGE OF CONDEMNATION IS**, such knowledge of the human condition is essential to help a person seek God’s salvation through Jesus Christ.

**S SALVATION IS NOT DEPENDENT UPON KEEPING THE LAW. SALVATION IS DEPENDENT UPON BELIEF IN JESUS CHRIST!**

- **(Rom 10:9)**, “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt **BELIEVE IN THINE HEART** that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be **SAVED**.”
- **(John 3:15)**, “That whosoever **BELIEVETH** in him should not perish, but have eternal life.”
- **(John 3:18)**, “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.”

**S GOD’S REQUIREMENT** for us to experience salvation is to believe in Jesus Christ.

**S CONSIDERING THE THOUSAND DIFFERENT THINGS** God could have required for us to experience His salvation, **WHY** did He choose “belief?” Only God knows for sure, but perhaps it was because *belief* places the focus on what God has done, rather than on what we have done. If God had required *good works*, it would have placed the focus on what we had done. It would have brought glory to us rather than to God. On the other hand, *belief* affirms the acts of God. It affirms the trustworthy character of God. The opposite is also true. To refuse to believe God is to malign His character.

**S SUPPOSE** I described to you something that happened to me this past week. Suppose you came up to me after the service and said, “Pastor, I don’t believe what you just said.” That would be the spiritual equivalent of a slap in my face. I would consider my ministry to you to be totally ineffective because you do not believe me or trust me.

**S THINK ABOUT THAT IN RELATIONSHIP TO GOD.** The Scripture clearly states that God cannot lie. When a person states they do not believe what God has revealed in the Bible, they are in essence calling God a liar. When God reveals that our *belief* in Jesus’ is God’s pathway to His salvation, and we refuse to *believe* it, it is the spiritual equivalent of calling God a liar. It is the equivalent of telling God He does not know how to speak accurately.

**S** In a very real sense, a person will not spend eternity in hell because he is a sinner. Every human being is a sinner. Every human being has come under that banner of “condemned already.” If a person spends eternity in hell, it will be because they did not believe in the name of the Son of God. God requires belief in Jesus in order to experience His forgiveness of sin.

**(Rev 21:8)**, “But the fearful, and **UNBELIEVING**, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”

- I. GOD’S **APPROACH** TO HUMANITY — “**LOVE**”
- II. GOD’S **ASSESSMENT** OF HUMANITY — “**CONDEMNED**”
- III. GOD’S **GOAL** FOR HUMANITY — “**SALVATION**”
- IV. GOD’S **REQUIREMENT** FOR SALVATION — “**BELIEVE**”

## **V. MAN’S RECEPTION OF GOD’S REQUIREMENT** **– TWOFOLD**

**(V. 19-21)**, “And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. {20} For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov’d. {21} But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.”

S **A CONTRAST** is drawn between *those who choose to believe* and *those who choose not to believe*. A major focus of our text is to explain why people react differently to God’s requirement for *belief*. **WHY DO SOME believe** what God has said and confess Jesus as Lord and Savior? **WHY DO OTHERS** read the same Scripture and hear the same witness and say, “I don’t *believe* that!”? Why does one person say, “Yes, I *believe*,” while another person says, “No, I do not *believe*.”?

S **OUR TEXT GIVES FOUR BASIC REASONS WHY PEOPLE REFUSE TO BELIEVE** IN JESUS.

### **[#1]. THEY LOVE DARKNESS**

**(V. 19)**, “And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and **MEN LOVED DARKNESS RATHER THAN LIGHT**, . . .”

- S The word for “**LOVE**” is the same Greek word used in verse 16 to describe God’s love for lost humanity. People reject God’s *light* **BECAUSE OF THEIR INTENSE AFFECTION** for *darkness*. They do not just **LIKE** *darkness*, they **LOVE** *darkness*. In the same manner that God loves the *world*, the *world* loves spiritual *darkness*.
- S An illustration of this spiritual truth can be seen in the actions of criminals. **MOST BURGLARIES** take place at night under the cover of darkness. One of the best things a person can do to prevent crime is to install bright lights. One reason some **CAR DEALERS** have such bright lights on their parking lots at night is to discourage thieves.
- S Just as criminals *love* physical *darkness*, so people without God *love* spiritual *darkness*.

[#1]. **THEY LOVE DARKNESS**

### **[#2]. THEIR DEEDS ARE EVIL**

**(John 3:19)**, “And this is the condemnation, that light is come into

the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because **THEIR DEEDS WERE EVIL.**"

- S How should we DEFINE "**EVIL DEEDS?**" Probably a modern definition for *evil deeds* would focus on something so horrible that it is almost unthinkable.
- S The Bible definition for *evil deeds* is much **broader** and **far more inclusive**.
- **(James 4:17)**, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."
  - **(Rom 14:23)**, "... Whatsoever is not of faith is sin."

Taking those verses into account it would be safe to conclude a person could be both *religious* and *evil* at the same time. It would be possible to be a church member and *evil* at the same time. The **Pharisees** were the most religious people on earth in Jesus' day. They went to the temple, said prayers, paid tithes and offered sacrifices, but they were more responsible for hanging Jesus on the cross than anyone else. Their deeds were *evil*.

- S Romans 14:23 teaches us that when a person goes through life without God's required *faith*, their deeds are *evil*. That makes us ask, "What is faith?" The Book of Romans tells us.
- (Rom 10:17)**, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Genuine faith results from receiving and believing what God has spoken in His Word. People of faith hear God's Word, receive it and believe it. People without faith hear God's word and reject it. An example of rejecting God's Word because of lack of faith is seen in the rejection of Jesus.

**(John 1:11)**, "He came unto his own, and his own received him not."

**WHY** did they **reject** Jesus? **WHY** did they kill Him? **WHY** didn't they **believe** Him? The reasons they rejected Jesus two thousand years ago, are the same reasons people reject Him today. **THE REASONS** people refused to believe Him then, are the same reasons people refuse to believe Him now. **THE REASONS ARE:**

- [#1]. **THEY LOVE DARKNESS**
- [#2]. **THEIR DEEDS ARE EVIL**

### **[#3]. THEY HATE THE LIGHT**

**(V. 20)**, "For every one that doeth evil **HATETH THE LIGHT**, . . . "

- S The word "**HATE**" is a strong word. It means to "**DETEST**." It is stronger than *dislike* or *frown upon*. People who love *evil* not only **RUN TO** the *darkness*, they "**HATE**" the *light*. They are **NOT NEUTRAL** toward God's *light*, they literally "**HATE**" IT.

**JESUS SAID:**

**(John 15:18)**, "If the world hate you, ye know that **IT HATED ME** before it hated you."

S When we look at **THE CROSS**, not only do we see THE LOVE OF GOD magnified, we see EVIL'S HATRED of the *light* manifest in full. The cross was evil's attempt to snuff out God's *light*. We can be thankful for the **empty tomb**, because there we see that the *light* wins the battle between *light* and *dark*.

[#1]. THEY LOVE DARKNESS

[#2]. THEIR DEEDS ARE EVIL

[#3]. THEY HATE THE LIGHT

#### **[#4]. THEY DETEST "REPROVAL"**

**(V. 20)**, "For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, **LEST HIS DEEDS SHOULD BE REPROVED.**"

S Do you remember when you were **A KID** and you were doing something you were not suppose to do? Your **MOM OR DAD** came to you and said, "You stop doing that this very moment and don't you ever do that again." How many times did you jump up and say to them, "Man, I sure appreciate you sharing that with me. That was wonderful."? We never said such things because we did not like being reproved.

S Put that little homespun illustration on a spiritual level. God sends His Word, His Spirit, or His spokesman to a person living in darkness and says, "You stop doing that." Do they like that? Not at all!

S **JOHN THE BAPTIST** is a good example of how much evil detests being reproved. **JOHN TOLD KING HEROD** that God had a word for him. It was a message from the God who loved him and wanted the very best for him. God loved Herod so much His Son would die on a cross so Herod would have the opportunity to experience salvation. God's Word to Herod through John was that adultery was wrong and living with his brother's wife, Herodias, was not acceptable.

Did Herod jump up and say, "Man, I needed a word from God? I appreciate what you had to say."? That is not at all what Herod did. What Herod did was sever John's head from his shoulders. Herod had John beheaded.

What did evil do to Jesus? It nailed Him to a cross. **WHY DID THEY DO THAT?**

[#1]. THEY LOVED DARKNESS

[#2]. THEIR DEEDS WERE EVIL

[#3]. THEY HATED THE LIGHT

[#4]. THEY DETESTED BEING "REPROVED"

**THEY WANTED TO CONTINUE UNDISTURBED IN THEIR SIN.**

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**GREAT DANGER** EXISTS FOR THE PERSON WHO REJECTS GOD'S REPROVAL. The Holy Spirit uses "**REPROVAL**" to help every lost person realize their need for the Savior. Without help from the Holy Spirit, none of us would have ever been able to come to Jesus for salvation.

**(John 16:7-11)**, "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. {8} And

when he is come, he will **REPROVE** the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: {9} Of sin, because they believe not on me; {10} Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; {11} Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged."

- S **IF MY ATTITUDE** toward God's reproof is that God reproves me because He hates me, then it is likely I will reject the compass God has provided for spiritual direction in life. If a lost person adopts that attitude, they might well spend eternity separated from God.

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OUR TEXT OFFERS GOOD NEWS:

NOT ALL **LOVE DARKNESS**

NOT ALL **HATE THE LIGHT**

NOT ALL **DETEST GOD'S "REPROVAL"**

SOME FOLLOW THE COURSE DESCRIBED IN VERSE 21

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

- S When God puts His finger on something that is wrong in our lives, He does it **BECAUSE HE LOVES US!** God is **NOT** trying to make us miserable. God is **NOT** trying to ruin our lives. God does it because He loves us and wants the best for us. If He reproves us, it is because He loves us.
- S You might have read the little pamphlet called *The House of My Heart?* To make a long story short, Jesus wanted His child to reveal what was in the attic of his heart, not so that He could condemn him, but so that He might cleanse that room in his heart. The Christian gave the key to his attic to Jesus and they walked up the stairs. The thought of Jesus seeing all the garbage in his attic was horrifying. Jesus placed the key in the attic door and turned the key. The moment the door was opened the room was made sparkling clean. The reason the attic was cleansed was the Christian gave it to Jesus.
- Jesus doesn't want to know that "stuff" so He can condemn us. He already knows it is there. He tells us about it so we can find the way to be cleansed.

- S **REMEMBER GENEVIEVE'S TESTIMONY AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS MESSAGE?** When she was **29 YEARS OLD**, she had an experience that forever **CHANGED HER OUTLOOK** on God and on Heaven. She writes:

"I knew right away that this was an important event, but it was only a year or so later that I realized exactly what it was - **CONVERSION**: that point in my life when everything changed, and I discovered that there is indeed new life in Christ. **ALMOST IMMEDIATELY**, I started to enjoy going to church. I started to sing. I had always felt very **awkward** and **uncomfortable** singing praises to God; and that was because I was a fraud - I had nothing to sing about. To my utter amazement, I found that rather than squirming through those unpleasant **sermons** that seemed to be directed right at me, I was **listening** intently and asking God to change my life to conform to his standards. Most important of all, **MY VIEW OF GOD** and my relationship with him changed drastically. Almost without conscious assent, I came to realize that God was the source of all that was good, desirable and beautiful in life. He was the

essence of all that I loved and admired. It was as if I had kissed an ugly, detestable toad and watched him become a magnificent prince. The thing that I had fought and feared and fled for so many years had become my greatest treasure! I didn't know whether to laugh or to cry. The 20 years of rebellious flight seemed so tragic and wasteful, but even more overwhelming to me was the certain knowledge that I would have gone forever in that way, had he not continued to pursue me and to somehow give me the courage to trust him; and I was so thankful, because I knew that I was not that courageous. . . .”

“When I think of Heaven now, I know that it will be wonderful -- the exciting and passionate experience of knowing God and being fully accepted by him. I know, too, that God is waiting to welcome me there - not reluctantly, or with a scowl of disapproval, but with all the love of a proud father.”

#### SHE CONCLUDES BY ASKING TWO QUESTIONS

(1) “If you've never come to the place of submitting to God's rightful rule in your life, could it be that you, too, have a warped misconception of who God is and not a clue of how he longs to bless your life?”

(2) “And if you have submitted to his sovereignty, are you earnestly, eagerly looking forward to spending eternity with him?”

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ARE YOU LIKE **ADAM & EVE WERE**, HIDING FROM GOD convinced that God has come to condemn you? How could that possibly be His motive when the Bible clearly teaches that He loves you so much He died for us on a cross? We delights in telling us , “**WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN ME SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.**”

#### LISTEN FOR THE WORD “**WHOSOEVER**”

**(V. 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.”

- **(Mat 10:32)**, “**WHOSOEVER** therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.”
- **(Rom 10:11)**, “For the scripture saith, **WHOSOEVER** believeth on him shall not be ashamed.”
- **(Rom 10:13)**, “For **WHOSOEVER** shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”
- **(1 John 5:1)**, “**WHOSOEVER** believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.”

S THE WORD “**WHOSOEVER**” APPEARS **one hundred and ten times** in the New Testament. In every instance, without exception, it means the same thing. **IT IS NOT ONE OF THOSE WORDS** with a multitude of meanings. For instance, in my dictionary the word *love* has eleven different shades of meaning. It was interesting to note in that same dictionary, the word *whosoever* has only one definition. It simply states that *whosoever* means “**whoever.**” I looked up the Webster definition of “whoever” to see if it had a multitude of definitions. It too had only one definition. Here is what it said, “**Whatever person : no matter who.**”

S **(Rev 22:17)**, “And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. **AND WHOSOEVER WILL**, let him take the water of life freely.”

S WILL YOU CHOOSE TO BELIEVE? Will you be one of God’s **“WHOSOEVERS?”**

- I. GOD’S **APPROACH** TO HUMANITY — **“LOVE”**
- II. GOD’S **ASSESSMENT** OF HUMANITY — **“CONDEMNED”**
- III. GOD’S **GOAL** FOR HUMANITY — **“SALVATION”**
- IV. GOD’S **REQUIREMENT** FOR SALVATION — **“BELIEVE”**
- V. MAN’S **RECEPTION** OF GOD’S REQUIREMENT — **TWOFOLD**