



The Whole Gospel: 2017 Edition
September 17, 2017

TEXT: JOHN 3:16-21; 36

Joh 3:16 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.

- This verse is one of the most succinct Gospel statements in Scripture! It describes the awesome and wonderful love of God for us, so much so that Jesus Christ was sent to do what we could not do...
- Jesus Christ, born sinless, lived a perfect sinless life before the Father in our place. Jesus and Jesus alone is the perfect substitute for us. He alone is our High Priest. His blood alone atones for sin!
- It was love that caused the Father to send the Son. It was holy compassion for helpless sinners like us! Praise Him!

Joh 3:17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

- The heart of God is for men to be rescued from sin. Indeed, He does not rejoice in the death of the wicked (Ezek 33:11), but desires men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Tim 2:4)!
- Note that “the world” can only be saved through the Son! Jesus Christ remains our only hope! (1 Tim 1:1)

Joh 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.

- Most people don't realize that this popular passage is also one of the most clear statements of admonition concerning the judgment in Scripture.
- Christ warns us that “he that believeth not is condemned already.” As we'll see, the reason for this condemnation has everything to do with God's hatred of sin.

Joh 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.

- Darkness here is a metaphor for lawbreaking, also known as sin. The Bible declares that sin is lawlessness, or transgression of the law. (1 John 3:4)
- Men are condemned when they die in an unrepentant state; when they reject the light of Christ.
- Instead, man revels in darkness and wickedness. In our sin nature, we hate the light and love the dark.

Joh 3:20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

- This is why man hates the light of Christ; Jesus reproves or corrects sin.
- This is why walking in the light as individuals and as a church is so difficult; it brings conflict with the world, the flesh, and the devil.
- No one wants to be corrected; everyone wants their deeds affirmed!

Joh 3:21 *But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.*

- Those who receive the Gospel (they are broken enough to repent and believe) come to the light.
- This is part of the mission of the church: light-bearers whose love and deeds shine brightly for all to see!
- Have you come to the light? Are you no longer ashamed to have your deeds seen by others?

John 3:36 *He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*

- This word wrath carries serious consequences. One day, the LORD will judge the living and the dead...

Rev 20:11-15 *And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

- **The only way to survive that day is to flee from the wrath to come by repenting and believing in Jesus!**

FOR CLARITY: THE WHOLE GOSPEL

1. The Great Problem of Man is **Sin**.
2. The Condemnation of all men without the Gospel: The **Law**. In the fullness of time, God showed us more of the holiness of His nature by revealing His perfect moral standard to Moses. We call them **The Ten Commandments**.

- I. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
- II. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.
- III. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain.
- IV. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
- V. Honor thy father and thy mother.
- VI. Thou shalt not kill.
- VII. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
- VIII. Thou shalt not steal.
- IX. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
- X. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that *is* thy neighbour's.

If God judged you by this Holy standard, would you be innocent or guilty?

3. Understanding the Evangelistic Purposes of the Law:
 - a. **To reveal sin!** **Rom 7:7** *What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.*

- b. To show sin as sinful beyond measure! **Rom 7:13** *Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.*
- c. To stop every mouth and hold the whole world accountable! **Rom 3:19** *Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.*
- d. To show man his sentence before a holy God! **Rom 7:9** *For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.*
- e. To bring us to the Cross! **Gal 3:24** *Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.*

So the law doesn't save us, but it points us to our NEED for a Savior! The Law doesn't give us grace; it kills us at the foot of Mount Sinai. It destroys all self-righteousness. It causes us to tremble in the hands of an angry God who hates sin...that we might cry out for His grace offered in Christ!

4. The Destination of all unrepentant lawbreakers: **Hell**
5. The Solution to Man's sin crisis: **Grace!**

HERE IS A SUMMARY OF THE GOSPEL:

Jesus Christ, the Son of God and God the Son, came to this earth through the virgin Mary, revealed the truths of God, lived the perfect life in our place, died on the cross to pay the penalty of sin that we might be brought into relationship with God, rose again on the third day, and gives eternal life to those He has called who believe in Him by His grace and through faith. Those who reject Him will spend eternity apart from Him in Hell. At a future date, He will return to complete the restoration of God's creation.

SO WHAT MUST YOU DO TO BE SAVED?

Again...

1. **Repent** (Remember, you have broken God's Laws.)
Mat 4:17 ESV From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
2. **Believe** the Gospel (Put your trust in the atoning sacrifice of Jesus for the remission (forgiveness) of sin)

Rom 10:9-10 *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. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

AFTER YOU'VE BECOME A CHRISTIAN, WHAT DO YOU DO TO GET STARTED?

Keeping it simple....

1. **Read**, study, and meditate upon the Word of God every day to learn more about the loving God who saved you. Be determined to obey what you read!
2. **Join** a Bible-teaching church as soon as possible. Your foremost concern in selecting a church should be how the Bible is taught and lived out in love.
3. **Tell** others about the Savior who saved you!