

Title: The Love of God

Text: John 3:16-17

Take your Bibles, please, and turn with me to the Gospel of John. The Gospel of John chapter 3 beginning with Vs. 16. Today, we come the best known verse in the N.T. A verse that is probable known by more Christians than another verse in the Bible. We come to John 3:16. Here, we are going to learn about God' tremendous plan of salvation for our life. There are notes in your bulletin. I invite you to us them as w study together this wonderful portion of scripture.

(Read John 3:16-17)

(Prayer)

we are in the middle of a conversation that Jesus is having with a very religious man by the name of Nicodemus. And Jesus has talked with him about his need to be born again, the nature of being born again, and the necessity of being born again.

(4D) Now, beginning with Vs 16, our Lord lays out the plan that God has chosen to meet the need that exist in everyone of us. God has laid out a plan by which you and I can be born spiritually, and become new people in Christ Jesus. And that plan involves the cross of Jesus Christ. There are four principles involved in this plan.

(1E) First of all, in Vs 16, we have the motivation behind this great plan. The motivation of God behind this wonderful plan of salvation.

Vs. 16 says: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

Now, please remember, that Jesus is talking to an important political and religious person. Nicodemus was a very moral man. A man who is highly educated and a teacher of O.T. law. And Jesus is telling him that God so loved the world that He gave.....

There are three things here that I would like you to understand concerning God's motivation behind this plan of salvation. Three things.

(1F) Number one, the demonstration of God's love. The demonstration is when Jesus died on the cross. God gave. It is in the Arosist tense in Greek meaning: "At a point in time." At a point in time God gave. The greatest demonstration of God's love – what God's love is all about – was on the cross. Dear friends, look at the cross of Christ and there is the greatest love act the world has ever seen. I John 4:9 and 10 says: that the only way to understand Gods' love is to understand that God sent Christ to be a propitiation, a mercy seat, for our sins. That God sent his son into the World to die for our sins. That is the only way to understand His love.

And dear friends, please notice several things about God's love.

(1G) first of all, please remember that the source is found in God and God alone. I don't know where you are looking for love and care, but you had better look to God. That is the only place where you are going to find real love. Even in the lives of people, unless the Spirit of God is producing that love, you will never know what this love is all about.

It is God who so loved the world. Love comes from God. I John 4:7 says that love is of God. Literally: "Out of Him." It is His nature. God is love. Not merely love. But LOVE. LOVE IS GOD. And He loves you. We are talking about Almighty God. Not some man or political leader. But God. A personal God who loves you and cares about you.

(2G) Secondly, notice the Adverb "SO". That is referring to the "degree" of love. It is so tremendous that here is the example: THE CROSS. Do you want to know how extensive is the love of God? Then, dear friends, look at the cross. God gave his son in order to pay for your sins and for mine. It is as though we were nailed thee with Jesus on that cross. He died for us. All sin that I have ever done was paid for by Jesus. That is how much God loves me. He loved me so much that in one moment of time he paid for every sin that I have or will ever commit. He paid for, once and for all. Praise God. It is wonderful.

Dear friends, when Jesus said on the cross, “It is finished”, he meant what He said. It is finished. It is done. And there is nothing you can do to add to it. In fact, it is the height of a self-centered attitude to think that we can do something for God that will make us acceptable, when all sin has already been paid for at the cross.

(3G) I notice, also, that the object of this love is the World. Nobody is left out. Now, you may feel like some folks that I have meet, that you have so much sin in your life that you are somehow on the outside of this love. Dear friends, that just isn’t true. God loved the world. And He loves you. And he loves you just like you are. And the true message of the Gospel is that God never ask anybody to fix themselves up. God is not asking you to turn over a new leaf, or try and be better or anything else. He wants you to come just like you are. God so loved the world.

I don’t know where some of you stand today. I know that there are a lot of lonely people in the world. Some of you, right now, are very lonely. You might be married to someone and still be very lonely. And you wonder if anyone really cares about you. You know you feel that way. And you look all around for love and affection and so forth. But, listen, Jesus loves you. And I don’t care what is going on in your life. He loves you. The Bible teaches that God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten son. It doesn’t cost you anything. It is God’s gift. He gave His love to you. And God wants you to have everlasting life. Hey! Man! A person would be crazy to turn this down. God wants to give you everlasting life in heaven. He wants to forgive all your sins. And all you have to do in order to experience this love is to come to Him. Just accept Him as your savior.

You know, you can walk out of this service today and say; “I don’t want any part of God.” But, let me tell you: HE STILL LOVES YOU. And you can keep believing that until the day you die and end up in hell, and God still loves you. “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son.”

(2F) Second, concerning God's motivation, I notice in Vs 16 that there is a decision that we must face. A decision we must face. It says that who ever believes in Him, should not perish, but have eternal life.

Now, please notice that you are not being ask to believe some things about Jesus. Oh, no! You are being ask to believe in Jesus. LOOK AND LIVE. Look to Jesus and live. Believe that Jesus did it all. The Bible says: "Looking unto Jesus the author and perfecter of your faith. Look to Jesus.

(3F) And the third thing that I want you to see, concerning God's motivation in Vs 16, is the destiny we must choose. "Whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

Dear friends, it is either "perish" or "have eternal life." That is a choice we make by believing or not believing. I like that little word "but." It is a tremendous word of contrast. It indicates a choose. If you believe in Jesus you will live forever. If you don't, then it is just the opposite. And everyone of us faces the destiny of that choice. But, no matter which way we choose, the exciting thing to me is that God still loves you. Isn't that amazing? I think it is amazing that God still loves someone even though they turn their backs on Him. They reject Him. They neglect him in their life. Yet, He still loves you. And he loves you so much that He wants you to be saved. Even though you don't want to be. WOW!! He loves us so much.

Dear friends, is there any other security then that? Is there any other assurance in this world? Is there any other lasting peace, or comfort, or joy like that? That someone loves you no matter what you do. Oh, I hope you know Jesus. I hope you have ask him to be part of your life. I hope you are giving Him praise ands thanks for the motivation behind his wonderful plan of salvation for you.

(2E) Now, secondly, concerning God's plan for you, please notice in Vs 17 the mission that Christ wanted to accomplish when he came into the World. The mission Christ wanted to accomplish. There are three things that I want you to know concerning this mission.

(1F) Number one, Vs 17 says: that the Father sent Jesus. In other words, the Father and the Son were in agreement. That is why we believe that Jesus voluntarily came into the world. He agreed when the Father sent Him into the world.

(2F) The second thing that I notice about this mission is that Jesus did not come to judge the world. Now, the world has ever right to be judged. We have demonstrated that we are sinners and that we are in need of God's judgement. Because of the way we have acted and what we have done. But, Jesus didn't come into the world to judge the world. The question is: WELL HE? Oh, yes, He will. If you refuse to respond to God's plan, which is Jesus Christ, if you refuse to do that, God will bring judgement upon you. But, he didn't come, this first time, to judge the world.

(3F) Third: notice in vs 17 that Jesus came to save the world. That Jesus is the channel through which salvation would come. It would be through Him. However, it is only through accepting him as your savior.

Dear friends, I am so thankful that all that judgement and all of that wrath, was placed on Jesus when he died on the cross. Oh, dear friends, please forgive me for saying so, but a person would be a fool to bear that wrath himself, when he could simply trust Christ as his substitute. When Jesus died on the cross he bore all the righteous wrath of God on himself. That is our savior. That is the one who loves us.

(3E) Now, beginning with Vs 18, I notice the pattern of man's response. The response of people when they hear the truth. And here we have some important understanding as to why people respond the way they do. Here is a pattern of response.

(1F) The first thing I notice in Vs. 18 is the reason why all people are condemned. What is the reason for condemnation? Is it because you have sinned a lot? No Way! That is not what the Bible says. The Bible says that all people are condemned because they don't believe in Jesus Christ. Vs 18 says: "he who does not believe has been judged already. Because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten son of God."

In other words, if you have not accepted Christ, you are already under the righteous judgement of God. And the only way to get out from under that judgement is to confess your sin and believe in Jesus. Because He took that judgement upon himself

~~Jesus Christ~~ -7-

So, ~~we~~ are facing condemnation. Not because of the many sins ~~we~~ commit. But simply because ~~we~~ are not believing in Jesus Christ.

(2F) The second thing that I want you to notice, which there are three parts in Vs 19-21, is the reaction of people to the light. - Light means, ~~Jesus Christ~~

Have you ever shared Jesus Christ with somebody, and all of a sudden got uptight, very hostile toward you? And sometimes a christian makes a mistake because he begins to pour out his hostility towards the non-believer. Instead of recognizing why people ~~respond~~ respond as they do to the light. The light being the truth. Why do they respond that way? Let's look at the reaction of people in just three ways.

(1G) First of all, in Vs 19, I am TOLD that people react to the light the way they do is because of the fact that their deeds are evil. The character of their deeds is evil. It is sin. And so, when they come to the light, or the light literally comes to them ~~in~~ in Vs 19, they love the darkness rather than the light because that is the program of their life, already. It is already in sin. Therefore, they do not respond to the light. And if a person is sinning he/she does not want to respond to the light. He loves the darkness. He loves the sin. There is pleasure in sin for the moment, says the Bible, but the consequences are severe.

(2G) The second thing that I notice in Vs 20 is that their deeds are condemned when they come to the light.

Because the light exposes them. It reproves them. Vs 20 says, "For everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed."

You see, if I share the good news of God's truth from the Bible with people. And it contradicts the way they are living, it exposes what they are doing, they don't want it. They don't want to come to it.

Maybe you have come into this service today, I find this true in many people. They come to a service of worship ~~and~~ ^{and} the gospel is preached. And the Bible exposes what is wrong in their life. And they don't want to hear that. They don't want to hear what is wrong in their life.

That is ^{why} ~~it~~ it is important to respond to the truth because it will change what is wrong in our life. That is why Paul could say. "~~old~~ ^{old} things pass away. All things become new." The truth will reprove and expose what is wrong with your life. And if you respond to the truth it will change your life.

But the point is that people don't come to the light because their deeds are evil, and also, because they will be exposed as being wrong for what they are doing.

I find, also, that when a pattern of sin stays in someones life he become (in-sensitive. He thinks what he is doing is alright. He can always find someone who is worse than he is.

(36) In Vs 21 we have a third thing added. That is that men who come to the light have their deeds made manifest. They are not afraid of being exposed. WHY? Because they have come to the light. And now they are practicing the truth. People who do come to the truth. And they say "God, what is it that is wrong in my life." And God shows them. They come to the truth because they want their deeds to be made known. They want to now have the power of God in their life.

The verse says that they have been 'wrought in God.' Meaning, they are being worked by God. God is working out his plan in your life as you come to the truth. And you become what God's word says. You apply the truth to your life. And your deeds are manifested. They are open. There is ~~an~~ a honesty there. You come as 2 Corinthains says "with unvailed faces." Looking into a mirror. And by looking into a mirror you see the glory of Christ. And that changes you into the likeness of Christ by the Holy Spirit. God will continue to change your life...making you think like Christ...act like christ...because you have responded to the truth. And that truth is working on you exposing your deeds... *And the truth sets you free from daily habits*

Now, from these verses I ^{learn} come to a principle. A principle that I want you to leave with. And that is the number one reason, according to the Bible, as to why people are not getting into Cod'd Word is because there is sin or sins in their life.

By *Power*

Don't you as a christian try to write this passage off as spekaing only to the non-believer. But as a believer we find these ~~truth~~ ^{principle} true about us ^{also}. If we are engoring God's Word, and not getting into it for ourselves, God's Word teaches that there is sin in our lives somewhere.

Maybe a bad attitude towards another...maybe some sins in the physical area....maybe ~~an~~ ^{an} unforgivening spirit...All kinds of sins...And these sins will stay in our life. We covet them. And the result is that we don't want the truth of God to expose them. *Thus you miss out on the blessings of God*

I find in my life the reason I stay away from God's Word is because there is sin in my life. And the reason I go to God's Word is because God has shown me that that is the only way that I can clean up my life.

"Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I mi ght not sin against thee." The truth, God's Word, is the prevention against sin.

Turn it around....If I am sinning I dont want to go to the word. Sin keeps me form the book just as surely as the book will keep me frmm sin.

And so we ~~learn~~ ^{that is the} ~~a principle~~ ^{we need to learn} from that. And if you find your heart growing a little cold towards ~~God's Word~~ ^{The Things God - His Christ - His Word}, remember the issue is sin. And you may find yourself insentive to that ^{sin}. And that is why we need to go to the Bible that will expose the sins that are in our life.

I John 1:9 says " If we confess our sinns He(God) is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleans us frmm all unrighteousness."

How about it? Will you right now confess your sins? ^{God damn Friend,} If you have never confessed the sin of unbelief, will you do so, right now?

Stop trying to live as if God ~~wasn't~~ ^{wasn't} around. It is only pride. And self-pride will destroy you. But God so love you that he gave his only begotten son. That if you would only believe in him, you will not perish but have eternal life.

Praise God
Choose, this day, whom you will serve?
Let's close in prayer