

GOD'S LOVE, VS. MANS CONDEMNATION

Date 2/28/11 WBCFWB

Text: John 3:16-21

Introduction:

- **(v.9-15)** "How can these things be?" Background of the Nicodemus and Jews history;
- World's most well known Scripture. Brief and to the point, Jesus revealed God's great love.
- Also reveals mans greatest need from Condemnation from God's wrath and judgment.
- All of mankind has lived with God's Love for them / also with God Condemnation over them that Refuse to Obey His word.
- Have You Seen the (God's Great Love) are You aware of (Mans Condemnation)?

I. God's Great Love – (vs. 16-17)

A. The Fact that God So Loved – (v.16a)

God so loved the world. He loved the whole world. Note several facts.

1. The idea that God loves the whole world is a new idea.
 - Jews believed God loved the religious (true Jew) and hated the non-religious (Gentiles).
 - **Some wonder and others question how God could possibly love the...**
 - vile person / murderer / immoral person thief / alcoholic / street person
 - wife beater / child abuser / prostitute oppressor / bitter, vengeful
 - God loves every man, not just the religious and the good. (**Jew / Self-righteous**) (**John 10:16**) "And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd". (**Romans 10:12-13**) "For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved".
2. The basis of God's love is His nature. **God is love!**
(**1 John 4:8, 16**) "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love....And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him".
 - **Therefore, He loves. He acts, demonstrates, and shows His love. (to ALL people)**
3. Love acts; it expresses itself.
 - Love does not sit still, doing nothing. It is not dormant, complacent, inactive.
 - Love is **loving**; that is, **love is always demonstrating love to others.**
 - Therefore, **God's love acts - reveals Him to be love.** (God Has and Is showing Love)

B. The Evidence of God's love—God gave His only begotten Son. (v.16b)

1. God demonstrated His love in the most perfect way possible:
 - He gave His only begotten Son to the world.
 - **Without question, the greatest act of love is the sacrifice of a man's own life;** therefore, **God sacrificed the life of His own Son to save man.**(**John 15:13**) "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends".

2. The word **gave** (*edōken*) has **a twofold meaning**.
- God **gave** His Son **to the world**, and He **gave** His Son **to die**.
 - The **idea** of **sacrifice**, of **great cost, is in both acts**.
 - It **cost God dearly** to give His Son **up to the world and up to the cross**.
- (Romans 8:32)** "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?".

3. A glorious evidence of God's love is that God took the initiative to save man.

- Man did not seek to save himself; God sought to save him.

God is the seeking Savior;

God is not...

angry / unloving / unforgiving

God does not...

hate men / have to be persuaded to love men /
have to be convinced to forgive men

4. Glorious **truth is** that God gave His **only begotten Son** - remarkable proof of God's love.

- God **even planned to give His Son throughout eternity**.

(Acts 2:23-24) "Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it".

- He was willing to give the thing most dear to His heart in order to save the world.

C. The Purpose of God's Love: to save men. (v.16c)

- God's purpose in giving His Son was threefold.
 1. To save men from perishing - to be lost, to lose eternal life, to be cut off.
 2. To save men to eternal life – (Eternal Life In Heaven With Him!)
 3. To save men through belief. Note: **this fact says that salvation is conditional**.

D. The Proof of God's Love – (v.17a) (the Incarnation)

(Luke 2:11) "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord". - **(Sent Not to Condemn the World, but to Save the World)**

E. The Means of Salvation – (v.17b) (Mediator)

- Salvation is through Him (Christ Jesus) and through Him alone. **(John14:6)**
(1 Tim. 2:5) "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus".

Don You See the Great Love God Has for You Personally? Will You Respond to His Love? (Could a self-righteous and religious man See and Know the Love of God?)

II. The Condemnation of Man – (vs. 18-21)

- God sent His Son into the world to save the world, but **this does not mean that everyone is automatically saved**.
- In fact, **most are condemned and doomed**. **Jesus reveals man's condemnation**.

A. Who is the Condemned – (the Unbeliever) (v.18a)

- Who is condemned? **Not the believer, but the unbeliever**.
 1. The believer is not condemned. **Note three facts**.

- a. The critical importance of belief cannot be overstressed.
Belief stays, prevents, arrests, and stops judgment.
The person who believes on Christ...
 ➤ Is acquitted as though he never sinned / is released / not to be condemned.

b. The believer is saved. The believer believes on, commits to Jesus Christ.

- c. The believer is released from condemnation because he believes on Christ.
 ➤ The believer believes that Christ died for his sins, in his place, as his substitute, paying the penalty for his sins (which was death).
 ➤ Note who the unbeliever is. He is the person who has "not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."(v.18b)

B. When is the Unbeliever Condemned? – (v.18b)

1. Condemnation is a sure fact.
 - Unbeliever's judgment is sure, so sure it is as though he has already been condemned.
2. The unbeliever is already under the present curse of sin. He is...
 - without Christ / stranger to the promises of God / without hope / without God in the world
3. The unbeliever already stands guilty of all the sins he has ever committed; he is already condemned. The law of God already exists.

C. Why is the Unbeliever Condemned? – (v.18-20) Four reasons are given;

1. The unbeliever has not believed.
 - The great sin of unbelief is that it neglects, ignores, denies, abuses, and rejects God's Son.
 (John 8:24) "I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins."
 2. The unbeliever is condemned because Light has come into the world.
 - The Light came into the world to give light to men, to enable men to walk out of the darkness of a sinful and perishing world. (John 1:4-9)
 3. The unbeliever is condemned because he loves darkness.
 - Why would he love darkness? Because his deeds are evil, and to turn and walk in the Light would expose his evil deeds for what they are: immoral, unrighteous, and disobedient to God.
 - Four reasons why men prefer to walk in darkness and hang on to their sins.
 - 1) The unbeliever loves his sin.
 - 2) The unbeliever is full of pride.
 - 3) The unbeliever is enslaved, in bondage to sin.
 - 4) The unbeliever fears the shame, embarrassment, and consequence of his sin.
- (1 John 1:6) "If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth."
 (Proverbs 4:19) "The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble".
4. The unbeliever is condemned because he does not come to the Light.
 - Whatever his reasons, the believer refuses to come to the Light; therefore, he is condemned.

- D. **Who Escapes the Condemnation?** – (v.21) (Believers in Jesus Christ, 3:7 “born again”) (Rom. 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”.

True Believers will do three things.

1. The believer who **practices truth** and **lives righteously** escapes condemnation.
 - He knows what is right and he does it. (Obeys the Gospel)
 - **He practices truth, continually and habitually.**
 - This does not mean he lives perfectly, without ever sinning.
 - It means that the **man directs his life toward truth: diligently seeks the truth and seeks to be truthful.**
 - Christ said that **the man who does truth hears His voice.** (John 18:37) Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.
2. The man who **comes to the Light** escapes condemnation.
 - Only the Light (Christ) can dispel the darkness in a man's life.
3. The man whose **works are wrought in God** escapes condemnation.
 - Word "**wrought**" means to work, produce, perform, originate, manufacture, and to fashion from something.
 - Idea is that the man **comes to Christ (the Light)** so that his works will be "**wrought, originated, and worked in and of God.**
 - The man **who comes to Christ lives close to God.**
 - He **walks and talks and listens to God (His Word)** and **he does what God says** (Matthew 5:16) "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven". (John 14:21) "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him".

Close:

- Are You Experiencing the Love of God (Knowing and accepting Jesus as Savior)?
- Are You Out from under the Condemnation of God's law? (Received Jesus as payment for Your sins and Freedom from Condemnation)?

Inv.

1. Will You come too and believe God's Love for You Today? Will You Except Jesus?
2. Know that You are already Condemned and that unless - You Believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ, You will Not go to heaven.