

THE GOSPEL *of* JOHN

CHAPTER 3:13-21

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM-365 MARCH 05, 2000

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“For God so Loved...”

THE THEME OF THE BOOK:

John 1:12

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

BORN AGAIN, NEW LIFE, SALVATION

In Our Previous Study John 3

We looked at the all-important, late night meeting between Judaism’s preeminent teacher Nicodemus and Jesus Christ.

Nicodemus, a of power, position and wealth a man who also became keenly aware of the fact that all that he held dear and meaningful was now in question...

John 3:9

Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?"

Nicodemus was in need

of an Internal revolution!

**Just Like What Had Happened to Another
Great Scholar in Israel – Saul of Tarsus / Paul!**

Philippians 3:7-8

But whatever I attained to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What’s more, - I consider everything I gained as now a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost everything. In fact, I consider all that I have as useless waste, rubbish, - that I may gain Christ!!!

Paul Had Seen All That He Was
and All That He Lacked In Light of The Cross

It's At The Cross That All Men Are Equal

Romans 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

The cross of Jesus Christ

was no accident, rather it was a premeditative thought and plan of God. It wasn't an event that God had to deal with, or juggle to pull off.

Revelation 13:8

...the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Before the world was ever created, God knew that man would chose to sin and disobey him and the result of man's rebellion would be the death of man both physically and spiritually.

Acts 2:23

"Him (Jesus), being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;

1 Peter 1:18-20

knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. 20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you

It's been said more than once that
"Jesus didn't die to make bad men good, He died to make dead men live."

"How Can these things be?" – asked Nic
Jesus Responds..." For **God so Loved**"

Nic, salvation is the work of God and cannot be earned. It is by Him and of Him and through Him

For God so Loved...

1.) *Those Who Believe in Him*

vv. 13-15

"No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. 14 "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 "that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

a.) *Recognize Jesus' Unique Sacrifice*

vv. 13

"No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven.

"No one has ascended to heaven"

(there has never been, nor ever will be, a human from earth qualified to enter into the presence of God

Jesus is all together Unique

(there is none like him)

Proverbs 30:4

Who has ascended into heaven, or descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has bound the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name, and what is His Son's name, if you know?

Jesus Had to Ascend Back into Heaven

Not just because it was His home

Not just because it was God incarnate. But
because He was Man's Great Priest & Sacrifice

The Priestly Order of Jesus

Hebrews 9:11-12

But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. 12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

Verse 13

but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven.

“who is in heaven”

**Before His Incarnation and After His Resurrection
Jesus Resided in Heaven from all Eternity**

John 14:2-3

"In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come again** and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

b.) Understand the Work of Christ

vv. 14-15

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 "that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

**A Passage of the Old Testament
That Nicodemus would have been very familiar with**

Numbers 21

Numbers 21:4-9

...But the people grew impatient on the way; 5 they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die

in the desert? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable manna!" 6 Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. 7 The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people. 8 The LORD said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." 9 So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, he lived.

Every Jew understood that

#1

the people had sinned against God

#2

Their sin brought upon them judgment

#3

God provided the source of salvation

#4

the rules of salvation were appointed by God

#5

salvation was had by simply looking to the pole

The Pole

Speaks of the Cross

The Serpent

Speaks of Our Sin

The Bronze

Speaks of Sins Judgment

The Standard, Ensign or Banner staff. They were shaped like a cross with the identification of the tribe suspended from the cross beam of the Staff

It formed a perfect crucifix or cross

Galatians 3:13

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"),

John 12:32-33

And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. 33 This he said, signifying what death he should die.

Romans 8:2-3

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh,

John 12:31

"Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

Revelation 20:2

And He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

The Serpent as in the "Garden Variety"

Verse 14-15

"That whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

believes grk 4100 pisteuo (pist-yoo'-o);
to have faith upon, to apply firmly to

**"How Can these things be?"
...For God so Love!**

2.) You Who Believe in Him

vv. 16

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

the great catholic monk and father of the reformation,
Martin Luther,
stated that john 3:16 **“was the gospel of God in
miniature”**

*Martin Luther came to the understanding that it was Jesus Christ who had
died for him on the cross,
- not the pope, not Mary, and not the church*

The cross belongs to Jesus alone

a.) God's Character is His Love

vv. 16

"For God so loved the world

God's Character is...

Love

This love is the noblest kind of love found in the Greek language

“Agape”

the love of God

it's a love not based upon whim, emotion, infatuation, or any external reason or purpose. It is solely based upon the deliberate, willful, and logical decision of God

First John 3:16

By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us.

1 John 4:8

...for God is love.

1 John 4:16

**And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love,
and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.**

Verse 16

"For God so loved the world

No limited atonement here

1 John 2:2

And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only **but also for the whole world.**

b.) God's Ability Provided His Love

vv. 16

that He gave His only begotten Son

God's ability provided...

Love

He Gave - The Gift

Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a Child is born, unto us **a Son is given**; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Galatians 4:4-5

But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

The flesh would have formed

The S.E.F.S.

Society for the Extermination of Fiery Serpents

The flesh would have formed

a committee to determine the cause and effect of snake bites on the modern man

or maybe a fundraiser to purchase snake repellent for the needy

the answer was to look to the cross

this was the necessity of Jesus' death & offering

Leviticus 17:11

11 For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.

Hebrews 10:5-7

Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You have prepared for Me. 6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin you had no pleasure. 7 Then I said, 'Behold, I have come-- in the volume of the book it is written of Me-- to do Your will, O God.' "

Isaiah 48:16

"Come near to Me, hear this: I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, I was there. And now the Lord **GOD** and His **Spirit** have sent **Me**."

c.) God's Invitation Announces His Love vv. 16

**that whoever believes in Him should not perish
but have everlasting life.**

God's invitation announces...

Love

perish grk 622 apollumi (ap-ol'-loo-mee);
to be totally destroyed. To be vanquished fully. To suffer utter
and total failure of one's entire self. (body, soul & spirit)

God the Father Has a Saving

Love for Us

Isaiah 45:22

"Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.

How Can these things be? ...For God so Loved

3.) *He Who Believes in Him*

vv. 17-19

"For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

a.) *Is Saved from Sin's Penalty*

v. 17

"For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

#1

The Love of The Father is for Us

Colossians 2:13-14

And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses 14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

#2

His Love has Shown Us the Way

but that the world through Him might be saved.

Who Else Can There Be?

John 6:66-69

From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. 67 Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" 68 But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 "Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

b.) *Can Never be Condemned*

v. 18

He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

He who believes in Him is not condemned; **but.....**

c.) *Will Love the Things of God*

v. 19

"And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

Psalm 51:10

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Psalm 119:165

Great peace have they who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble.

**How Can these things be?
...For God so Loved**

4.) *If You Believe in Him*

vv. 20-21

"For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 "But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

a.) *You Will Love the Light*

v. 20

"For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed

1 John 1:6

If we say that we have fellowship (know) with Him, and walk (live) in darkness, we lie (the words do not agree with the actions) and do not practice the truth.

b.) *You Will Come to the Light*

vv. 21

"But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

To "Do the Truth" is to live in the light

1 John 1:7

But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

The Love of God

And The Light of God Cannot be Separated

Jude 1:21

keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

First John 1:7

"But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another..."

c.) You Will Do What is Right

v. 21

"But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

James 1:22

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

1 John 5:3

For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

The Assurance of knowing -

That We Have His Love

Romans 8:38-39

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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