

Love, Light, and Loyalty

John 3:16-21

The verses we've read come in the midst of one of the most recognized passages in all of Scripture. Nicodemus, a ruler among the Jews, has come to Jesus seeking the way of eternal life. It was there that Jesus reveals that all who will come unto Him must be born again.

Likely we know many of these verses well, but we often stop with [V. 16](#). It is probably the most recognized and quoted verse in the Bible. John 3:16 holds great and immeasurable truth, but there are other great truths associated with this wonderful verse that we need to study and comprehend.

This is arguably the greatest passage concerning salvation. I cannot emphasize the importance of this passage enough. There are a lot of decisions that we make in life, but none are as important as the decision we make concerning Christ. That decision will remain with us throughout eternity. I want to carefully look at the verses we've read and try to uncover the truths of salvation as we think on: [Love, Light, and Loyalty](#).

I. The Promise (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.](#) As we go through life we encounter many promises. Some are kept and others are broken. The promises of God are certain and sure. If God said it, you can believe it; His Word and His promises will never change. There are a couple of aspects about the promise I want to point out.

A. It is Universal – Many of the promises made in life only apply to certain people or specific circumstances. We've all seen the promises made on TV ads, but the fine print often reveals that certain restrictions apply. The promise of God is not that way. This promise is offered to [whosoever](#). It isn't dependent upon our works, our merit, or our worth. God promised that whosoever believes can come unto Him. I am glad to be a whosoever!

- [1 Tim. 2:4 – Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.](#) [2 Peter 3:9 – The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.](#)

B. It is Eternal – All who believe in Christ and come to Him in salvation are promised [everlasting life](#). This is a powerful phrase. It literally means what it says. We shall never [perish](#). We shall never be put away or rejected. We shall live forever in the presence of our blessed Lord and Savior.

- I don't know of anyone else who can make promises like that and keep them. The redeemed are eternally secure in the Lord. We will never wake one day to find that God's Word and His promises were not true. There has never been a saint of God who found God to be lacking in His promises when it came time to make the crossing! God's promise is eternal!

I. The Promise (16)

II. The Proof (16a; 17) – For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son; v.17 – For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. All of that sound good doesn't it, but for those who desire proof, the question is raised: how do I know that God loves me. How can I be assured that God will keep His Word? He forever settled those questions in the sacrifice of His only begotten Son. God proved His love for all of humanity as He sent His Son to bear our sins and take our place as He suffered the judgment of God for sin.

- Rom.5:8 – But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 2 Cor. 5:21 – For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. Clearly God has proven His love for us in the gift of His Son. Jesus proved His love for us in the sacrifice upon the cross. His love and promises have been proven beyond doubt. It is up to us individually to embrace those promises and accept Christ as our Savior.

III. The Purpose (17) – As we ponder these verses we might wonder why Christ came at all. Why did He condescend to the form of a humble servant? Why did He lay aside the glory of heaven to take upon the form of a man? Why did He die upon the cross? Why was all of this necessary?

- v.17 – For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. Christ came into the world that we might be saved. Because of sin, mankind was separated from God. We were all born in sin and condemned by the righteous demands of the holy God. Christ didn't come to condemn us, but to save us from sin and provide a means of salvation. Christ came as the only way of redemption and eternal life. There are not many ways to God; only one, through Christ!
- Before we leave this thought let me say that Christ did not die upon the cross needlessly. This was not some terrible mistake. It was not a situation that went terribly wrong and simply got out of hand. This was the plan and will of God before the foundation of the world. Christ came to this earth for one purpose, to become the sacrifice for the sins of humanity!

- I don't see how love can be shown or proven in any greater manner than that! Consider how sinful and wicked humanity is. Consider the lives we lived before salvation. Consider the many times that we have failed our Lord even after we were saved. Consider the millions who have rejected this great offer of salvation. Now consider that Christ knew all of that prior to Bethlehem and Calvary and yet He came anyway. It isn't so much a miracle that He came as a humble babe; it is a miracle that He came at all!

I. The Promise (16)

II. The Proof (16a; 17)

III. The Purpose (17)

IV. The Principle (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. Jesus reveals to Nicodemus the principles of salvation. These principles are absolute and will never change. These aspects must be understood and addressed in this life for the life to come will be too late. Considering the principle of salvation, notice:

A. The Saved – He that believeth on him is not condemned. Jesus reveals a comforting fact concerning those who believe. The saved are no longer condemned. We have been cleansed in the blood of Christ and have been set free from bondage and condemnation. There is liberty in the Lord. The saved are no longer bound by the dread and fear of standing before God accountable for their sins.

- 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. Have you considered how it will be when we stand before the Lord in judgment? All who ever lived have an appointment in judgment. As the saved stand before the judgment seat of Christ our account will be marked paid in full. There will be no condemnation for our sins; they were covered by the blood!

B. The Sinner – but he that believeth not is condemned already. There is coming a day when sinners will stand before the great white throne and judgment will be carried out. Their eternal destiny will be separation from God in eternal torment and separation. Here Jesus reveals an alarming fact. The lost stand condemned already. Their unbelief and rejection of Him is all that is necessary to stand accountable for sin. They live in a condemned state, accountable to God.

- The word **condemned** is a strong word with serious implications. It means “*separated, put asunder, to be judged according to one's deeds.*” I certainly wouldn't want to stand before the Lord in myself and have to give account of the life I've lived. Man has no means of righteousness within himself. To stand before the Lord apart from Christ will result in eternal condemnation. **Mat.7:22-23 – Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.**

C. The Son – 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. The key to salvation rests in the Son of God. He is the focal point of our redemption. Those who believe are set free and those who reject Christ are condemned. He is the one figure that all must choose or reject. There is no middle ground or indecision. We are either saved in Christ or lost apart from Him.

- Acts 4:12 – Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. Phil.2:9-11 – Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Jn.14:6 – Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

I. The Promise (16)

II. The Proof (16a; 17)

III. The Purpose (17)

IV. The Principle (18)

V. The Presentation (19-21) – In the remaining verses Jesus speaks of His witness and man's obligation to Him. Notice:

A. The Light (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. Jesus came as the Light of the world. He came to reveal God and His truth. Jesus is the standard by which all men will be judged. He came to shine the light of the glorious gospel to a lost and dying world. I rejoice for that Light and the fact that my eyes were opened to it!

- Jn.8:12 – Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. 2 Cor. 4:6 – For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

B. The Lust (19b-20) – and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

V.20 – For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. Here Jesus reveals the lusts and desires of men. They love darkness rather than light.

They refuse to come to the Light because of their desire to please the flesh. Many today refuse the Lord because they enjoy their sinful lifestyle too much to give it up in salvation.

- Just keep in mind that this life is brief. It is but a vapor that appears for a short time and vanishes away. What pleasure upon this life is worth going to hell for?

C. The Leading (21) – **But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.** Here we find a key verse that is often overlooked in this passage. Jesus was talking to Nicodemus concerning salvation and reveals that there is opportunity to come to the Light of Jesus Christ.

- A life that is lived in the Light of Christ will reveal His light. Our lives will no longer be lived as before. We will have a new desire within our hearts. We will no longer love the darkness of this world, but crave the Light of Christ.
- As believers we are obligated to let our lights shine. **Mat.5:16 – Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**

Is all well with you today? The Lord has promised eternal life to all who will come by faith to Him. He has proven His love for you at Calvary. If you have never accepted Christ as your personal Savior, you stand condemned in your sin. I urge you to come to the Light and abandon the life of sin and darkness.

Why not come and receive Christ as He leads you today? You will either confess Him as Lord in salvation in this life or in separation in the life to come. You must decide today what you will do with Jesus.