

John 3

Part 4c

John 3:14-21

- The following words may be the words of Jesus. (Jn. 3:16-21).
- They may have been the words of the apostle John about Jesus.
- It is impossible to know for certain and makes no difference if Jesus spoke them or John wrote them about Him

Why God Sent His Son Into The World

John 3:17 "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world [condemn], but that the world might be saved through Him.

- "World" again refers to "the world of humanity." See Jn. 3:16; 1 Jn. 2:2.
 - "Condemn" is from "krino" [**kree** noh] meaning "to judge, to condemn." Here it is the antithesis of "saved." Men are either saved or lost. All men stood hopelessly condemned before Christ's vicarious death on the cross.
 - John uses the verb "krino" [**kree** noh] 19 times in his gospel, and the noun form of the word "krisis" [**kree** sis] 11 times in his gospel.
 - It is evident this was a subject John wished to strongly emphasize to his readers.
1. God did not send His Son into the world to condemn it, but He will judge [condemn] it when He comes again. (Jn. 12:47,48; Matt. 25:31-46; 2 Cor. 5:10; Acts 17:31; Rom. 2:16).
 - a. Christ had authority to judge during His ministry. (Jn. 5:22, 27, 30; 8:16; 9:39).

All Judgment Is Given To The Son

John 5:22 "For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son."

John 5:27 "and He [the Father] gave Him [Jesus] authority to execute judgment, because He is {the} Son of Man."

Christ's Judgment Is Just and True

John 5:30 "I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; **and My judgment is just**, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."

John 8:16 "But even if I do judge, **My judgment is true**; for I am not alone {in it,} but I and the Father who sent Me."

Christ Came Into The World For Judgment

John 9:39 And Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind." The Greek is "krima" [**kree** mah] meaning "judgment."

Our Salvation On Judgment Day Depends On Our Relationship To Jesus (The Judge)

John 5:24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

John 3:18 "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

- b. Jesus, as the time of the cross drew nearer, emphasized Satan had already been condemned. (Jn. 16:11). NIV has "now stands condemned."
- c. He did exercise judgment during His ministry, but not final judgment.
- d. Final judgment will occur when Jesus comes again to judge the world. (2 Cor. 5:10; Acts 17:31).
 - 1) All must appear before the judgment seat of Christ.
 - 2) God will judge all men through His Son.
- e. **Here are just a few things Jesus condemned.**
 - 1) Jesus condemned returning evil for evil. (Matt. 5:38-48).
 - 2) He condemned the unforgiving. (Matt. 6:14,15).
 - 3) He condemned oaths in common conversation. (Matt. 5:33-37).
 - 4) He condemned lust. (Matt. 5:27, 28).
 - 5) Jesus condemned hypocrisy and evil. (Matt. 6:1-8; 23).
 - 6) He condemned following traditions of men. (Matt. 15:9).
 - 7) He condemned false teaching. (Matt. 7:15).
 - 8) He condemned failing to help those in need. (Matt. 25:31-46).
- 2. The world was already in a state of condemnation when Christ came. (Isa. 53:6; Rom. 3:10, 23; 6:23).
 - a. Sin went back to the garden of Eden and began with the sin of Adam and Eve.
 - b. All accountable people had sinned and stood condemned before Christ came into the world.
- 3. Jesus was sent to save mankind. (Lk. 19:10; Matt. 20:27,28).
 - a. The word "send" in John 3:17 speaks of the fact Jesus was sent by God into the world.
 - b. The sending of Christ was an action of love on the part of God, and it was a voluntarily action of love on the part of Jesus. (Phil. 2:5-8; Jn. 10:18).

Phil 2:5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,
Phil 2:6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,

Phil 2:7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, {and} being made in the likeness of men.

Phil 2:8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

John 10:18 "No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father."

4. The Greek "sozo" [**soh** zoh] translated "saved" in John 3:17 sometimes is used to refer to physical health (Mk. 5:28), but here of spiritual salvation. (Jn. 5:34).

Mark 5:28 For she thought, "If I just touch His garments, I will get well." Lit. "I shall be healed [saved]"

John 5:34 "But the testimony which I receive is not from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved.

5. The words "through Him," at the end of John 3:17, attribute salvation to the Father who sent His Son into the world to save it.
 - a. As already stated Jesus was not forced to come, but voluntarily gave His life for mankind.
 - b. We rightly speak of the love of the Father, but we must not overlook the immense love of the Son. (Jn. 15:13).

Importance Of Faith

John 3:18 "He who believes in Him is not judged [condemned]; he who does not believe has been judged [condemned] already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

- "He who believes" is literally "the [one] believing"
 - The present tense denotes continuous faith - not a mere intellectual faith or even a temporary commitment to the Lord.
1. The one who continues to believe in Jesus will not be condemned, but the one who does not believe in Him is already in a state of condemnation.
 - a. One is not lost because he rejects Jesus.
 - b. One is lost because of sin. (Rom. 3:10, 23; 6:23).
 - 1) Men were lost before Jesus came into the world, and remained lost if they rejected Jesus.
 - 2) Men were lost because of their personal sins - not the sins of others. (Ezek. 18:20).

Ezek 18:20 "The person who sins will die. The son will not bear the punishment for the father's iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son's iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself.

- 3) Animal sacrifices or human deeds could not atone for sin. (Heb. 10:4).
- c. Those who reject Jesus remain in the state of condemnation because their unbelief keeps them from obeying Christ.
- d. Jesus is the only way to heaven. (Jn. 14:6; Acts 4:12).

- e. Jesus must be accepted and obeyed as God's "only begotten Son."
 - 1) See notes on John 3:16 explaining the significance of "only begotten."
 - 2) Jesus is God's unique, one of a kind Son who gave His life for those who trust in Him for redemption.
 - f. The way men live now determines the verdict on judgment day.
2. Refusal to believe in Jesus and accept in obedience God's one of a kind Son keeps a person in a state of darkness and condemnation.
 - a. It is sad that many who reject Christ boast of their superior enlightenment.
 - b. They based their claim to superior enlightenment on worldly opinions and values.
 - c. They ignore the view of God and His Son of them and what Jesus taught about true enlightenment.
 3. There is great similarity between what is affirmed here and what Jesus uttered in John 12:47, 48.

John 12:47 "If anyone hears My sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world.

John 12:48 "He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.

- a. Jesus came "to save the world" from eternal condemnation.
- b. Those who reject Jesus will stand eternally condemned "at the last day."
- c. "The last day" is the day of Christ's coming and the day all are raised from the grave and judged. (Jn. 5:28, 29; Acts 24:15).

"The Light Has Come Into The World"

John 3:19 "This is the judgment, that the Light [Jesus] has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.

1. Jesus is "the Light" having "come into the world." (Jn. 1:4, 5; 8:12; 9:5).
2. Men who love the darkness and pursue its evil deeds reject Christ.
 - a. They do not want to give up their evil deeds.
 - b. They have become enslaved to the pleasures and the miseries of sin.
3. "Darkness" is used by John for the wicked state of the sinner. (Jn. 8:12; 12:35, 46; 1 Jn. 1:6 2:8,9, 11).

John 8:12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

John 12:35 So Jesus said to them, "For a little while longer the Light is among you. Walk while you have the Light, so that darkness will not overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes.

John 12:46 "I have come {as} Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness.

1 John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and {yet} walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;

1 John 2:8 On the other hand, I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true Light is already shining.

1 John 2:9 The one who says he is in the Light and {yet} hates his brother is in the darkness until now.

1 John 2:11 But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

4. Paul and Peter also used "darkness" to refer to the realm of evil. (Acts 26:18; Rom. 2:19; 13:12; 2 Cor. 6:14; Eph. 5:8, 11; 6:12; Col. 1:13; 1 Thess. 5:5; 1 Pet. 2:9).

5. "The god of this world" blinds the eyes of men so they do not see the light. (2 Cor. 4:3,4).

2 Cor 4:3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,

2 Cor 4:4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

a. Satan convinces some that darkness is really light.

b. He convinces some that darkness is better.

c. He persuades others that darkness has no consequences in the hereafter.

d. He even dupes some into believing there are no consequences to sowing evil in this world. See Gal. 6:7,8.

e. He falsely alleges one can mock God. (Gal. 6:7,8).

6. Some have turned from darkness to light by allowing the gospel to penetrate their hearts.

a. The gospel is powerful and it will change those who will listen to it and obey it.

b. The gospel changed many in the first century world and it has changed many all through the ages.

c. The majority will always follow the broad road that leads to destruction. (Matt. 7:13,14).

The One Doing Evil

John 3:20 "For everyone who [continuously] does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.

1. Evil men, past and present, hate the Light because it exposes their evil deeds.

a. Evil men make light of the truth and oppose what is good.

b. They speak evil of it and sometimes oppose it in malicious, violent ways.

2. Light shows just how bad and horrid darkness is, and evil men hate that Light.

3. Once a person obeys Christ he comes into the kingdom of light and becomes the light of the world.
 4. Light is used with several meanings.
 - a. It is used of Christ - the Light.
 - b. It is used of His followers.
 - c. It is used of what is good and right as opposed to what is darkness and evil.
 4. Before one comes to Christ one is in a state of condemnation and lies in the power of the devil. (1 Jn. 5:19).
- 1 John 5:19 "We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in {the power of} the evil one."

The One Practicing The Truth

John 3:21 "But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

1. Lovers of truth come to the Light and practice "the truth."
 - a. We usually think of men as telling the truth, but the one coming to the Light also does the truth.
 - b. Just as one can practice evil, he/she must also practice the truth to please God.
2. Lovers of truth practice the truth because they love God and His word, and want to bring glory to God.
3. Those who come to the Light show their deeds have "been wrought in God."
 - a. "Wrought" is from "ergazomai" [ehr **gah** zah mi] meaning "to work, to do, to perform."
 - b. ESV has "so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."

NKJV "But he who comes to the light that his deeds may be clearly seen, they have been done in God."
 - c. This does not mean the believer will be sinless (1 Jn. 1:8, 10), but he seeks to do right and confesses his sins. (1 Jn. 1:7, 9).
 - d. It means he strives to remain in the light and be a shining light to the world.
4. Christians must constantly strive to be the light of the world. (Matt. 5:14-16; Eph. 5:8; 1 Jn. 1:7).
5. Men must: (1) Come to the Light - Jesus (2) Become light (3) Walk in the light-do what pleases God.

"Scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®,
 © Copyright 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation
 Used by permission." (www.Lockman.org)