



Series: SEEING IS BELIEVING
(Book Study Gospel of John)

Christ First Church
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Sermon 12: Nic At Night (Part 4)
(John 3: 16-21)

August 23, 2020

INTRO: Turn your Bibles or John Journals to John 3:16. John chapter 3, verse 16. We started in this awesome verse last week. I only managed to get about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through the first statement. I will make every effort to get through v 21, and this passage today. We have a long way to go to get through the Book of John.

For the last 3 weeks we have been listening in on a conversation between a Pharisee named Nicodemus and Jesus Christ, the Son of God. From these first 21 verses of John 3, I have been preaching on the subject, NIC AT NIGHT. Today is the 4th sermon from that same subject, and all these, from the greater theme, SEEING IS BELIEVING, as we make our way through the entire book of John's Gospel. Here's what we've talked about so far in this 3rd chapter of John...

- I) THE INTRIGUE: vv 1-2
- II) THE INSTRUCTION: vv 3-8
- III) THE INQUISITION: vv 9-12
- IV) THE INTERVENTION: vv 13-15

Last week we started looking at our 5th point. We did not finish it, so let's go back. Remember I spoke of...

V) THE INTENTION: vv 16-18a *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son (His one and only, only begotten Son), that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life (life everlasting with Him, with God). 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but (He sent Him) in order that the world might be saved through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned..."*

It's really easy to see the INTENTION of God toward man when you read these verses, isn't it? God desires to save all of mankind from absolute damnation. And He indeed, made it possible for all people to be saved from certain death by believing in His son, Jesus, whom He sent into the world to die in our place. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world...and whoever believes in the Son is not condemned!

The INTENTION of God is to SAVE all the human race; every man, woman, boy, or girl; every shade, every color; everyone of every ability, those who can and those who can't!

2 Peter 3:9 *"The Lord is...not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."*

1 Timothy 2:3-4 *"This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."*

V) THE INTENTION: vv 16-18a CONTINUE It's God's INTENTION to save us!

Now, let's go back to v 16 and pick up where we left off last week. Last Sunday we looked at the first 9 words of this verse, *"For God so loved the world, that he gave..."* If you are unfamiliar with the things of God, and the Word of God, after hearing that phrase, you might be compelled to ask, "He gave what?" Well, it's not what He gave, but WHO...

V 16 *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son..."* (His one and only, or only begotten Son) Let me back up just a little. The Greek word translated "gave", is a word that refers to the bestowing of favor by One in a superior position to one in an inferior position. In this case, it was Father God who GAVE His Son to the human race.

The Father gave His ONLY SON (Gr. **Monogenes** [mono-gha-neece] from **monos** = alone or one + **genos** = birth, race, kind) A very literal translation would be, "one of a kind". Now, I need to explain this. If you carry a KJV or NASB, and there's a couple more, you will notice the word BEGOTTEN, *"he gave his only begotten Son"*. But the word, monogenes, speaks more to the uniqueness of one, than it does the "begetting" of an offspring. It's very important that you understand that the SON of God is God. And because He is God, He has always existed with Father God. As John has already made this clear,

John 1:1-3 *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made."*

V 16 *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, his unique, one of a kind Son..."* William Barclay says, monogenes means "unique and specially beloved. Obviously an only son has a unique place and a unique love in his father's heart. So this word came to express uniqueness more than anything else. It is the conviction of the New Testament that there is no one like Jesus. He alone can bring God to men and bring men to God."

James Boice adds that "Unique means being without a like or equal, single in kind or excellence, matchless. It is an important word, and it is particularly important at just this point in our study since it occurs twice in the space of five verses. In Greek, the word is monogenes; the New International Version says "One and Only"; the French say unique. In each case, however, the same teaching is in view... We see at once, then, that Jesus is unique because there is no one quite like Him... He is unique in his person, birth, doctrine, works, miracles, death, resurrection, and future triumphs."

What a Savior we serve, amen?

V 16 *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his one of a kind, unique, and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.* BELIEF is the means of salvation. The belief is IN HIM, which is shorthand for saying believing everything about Him; that He was fully Man, fully God, that He was without sin, that He died on the Cross as the substitute for our sins, and that God showed He was satisfied with His Son's "sin offering" by raising Him from the dead. Stated succinctly, the means of salvation, is belief in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, God's one and only Son!

The reward of believing in Jesus Christ is, a new birth, eternal life, and salvation. The consequence of unbelief is to perish, to lose one's life, and destruction.

V) THE INTENTION: vv 16-18a CONTINUE The question is, do you BELIEVE?

"Believes" (Gr. Pisteuo) Marvin Vincent in his Word Studies of the NT states that pisteuo "means to persuade, to cause belief, to induce one to do something by persuading, and so runs into the meaning of to obey, properly as the result of persuasion." Has the Spirit of God produced in you the "FAITH" to believe? The Bible teaches us that the faith we need to believe in Christ is given to us by God! Ephesians 2:8 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God."

V 16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his one of a kind, unique, and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. Listen to me, you should not perish! You may very well, if you do not believe. But you SHOULD NOT, because God has made a way for you to not perish. (Gr. apollumi) means to destroy utterly, but not to cessation. Apollumi as it relates to men, is not the loss of being per se, but is more the loss of well-being. The gospel promises everlasting life for the one who believes. The failure to possess this life, the failure to believe, will result in utter ruin and eternal uselessness. Apollumi has the basic meaning of describing that which is ruined and is no longer usable for its intended purpose.

God's INTENDED purpose for man kind is to enjoy a relationship with Him. He desires to save us through faith in His Son, so that we might tell others of our fellowship with Him and bring those to faith through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. When someone perishes, which God DOES NOT desire, that person suffers an eternal annihilation. Those who perish will know an eternity of utter destruction of life. They will know forever ruin, and pain, punishment, and torment, and separation from God! Matthew 25:46 says of the lost (those who reject Christ), "These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." Just like those of us who are saved, who have believed, will be WITH God forever, throughout eternity, so, the Word of God says that those who do not believe will be eternally damned in the torment of Hell and the Lake of Fire.

"...but have eternal life." Eternal, is an adjective which means existing at all times, perpetual, pertaining to an unlimited duration of time. And it refers to both eternal punishment and eternal LIFE!. What kind of life? Our verse is referring to supernatural life in contrast to a life subject to eternal death. This eternal life speaks of a quality of life. It speaks of fullness of life which alone belongs to God the Giver of life, and is dispensed by His Spirit to those who believe in His Son. Jesus said in John 10:10 "...I have come that they may have life, and have it in all its fullness."

Do you have confidence in the knowledge that you have the LIFE of Christ in you?!!! Are you living the Christ Life? You may say to me, how do I know? Well, did your life change after you claimed to have believed in Jesus? The Word of God tells us there will be a noticeable change in our behavior, our attitude, our beliefs, and our motivations when the Christ life takes over our life. 2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." Did that happen to you?

God's INTENTION for you is that you be saved from your old self, and the sin that wants to destroy you. And that you will know the life He has purposed for you to live. God has great intentions for you! vv 17-18a For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but (He sent Him) in order that the world might be saved through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned..."

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Notice lastly..

VI) THE INDICTMENT: vv 18b-21 *“...but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the (one and) only Son of God. 19 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. 20 For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. 21 But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”*

These are very sobering verses. Here, we see God as the one who brings the charges against all those who reject belief in His Son, Jesus Christ. He then weighs out the evidence, and passes judgement. And He does so in one fell swoop!

V 19 **“AND THIS IS THE JUDGEMENT:** *the light has come into the world...”* **Jesus Christ is the light!** **John 1:4** *“In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.”* **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.”* **We are talking about Jesus!**

V 19b *“...and people loved the darkness rather than **the light** because their works were evil.”* **Can you believe that statement?!?!**

Vv 20-21 *“For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. 21 But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”*

You don't have to be a theologian to know these verses are true, just look around. Read them for yourself and tell me if that's not the world we live in.

CONCLUSION: Listen to me, the charges have been brought, the indictment made, but for you, the Savior is still pleading His case. You have time right now to turn from your sin, and turn to the light. You can still believe! Call on God, tell Him you believe, run to the light as fast as you can run! Don't wait another day. Don't wait another minute! Do wait for the Judge to say it's too late, depart from me. Now's the time, today is the day of salvation! If you miss your opportunity, God's Word is plain, you will forever know the punishment and torment of hell and separation from God. But if you trust in Jesus, trust Him as your Savior, trust Him for who He claims to be, trust in His death, burial, and resurrection, You can know the ETERNAL LIFE that God so desperately wants you to enjoy! What are you going to do?