

**"Jesus and Nicodemus"**

**John 3:1-21**

**Part 7**

**Introduction:** Last week in our study of John we stopped on verse 18. Tonight I want to back up to verse 17 and see a few more thoughts from that verse and then we shall look at verse 18 again.

➤ **The Offer to Mankind**

**Notice John 3:17**

God sent Jesus Christ into the world not to bring condemnation, but He sent His Son to make a way for all men to be forgiven of their sin. Jesus came into the world to be the Sacrifice that God required to be the payment for the sin of all mankind.

**1 John 2:1-2**

*My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:*

<sup>2</sup> *And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*

**Hebrews 2:9**

<sup>9</sup> *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*

Jesus died for each and every person but His blood is only applied to the account of those who believe. Consider the story of George Wilson.

*In Pennsylvania, during 1829, George Wilson was convicted of mail robbery and murder. He was sentenced to death. Later pardoned by President Andrew Jackson, Wilson refused the pardon. Confusion reigned among all who were concerned about the case. Nothing like this had happened before. What were they to do with a man who refused a pardon and chose to die on the gallows instead? Finally, the Chief Supreme Court Justice, John Marshall, ruled: "A pardon is a paper, the value of which depends upon its acceptance by the parties implicated. It is hardly to be supposed that one under the sentence of death would*

refuse to accept a pardon. But if it is refused, it is no pardon. George Wilson must hang." A few weeks went by, and Wilson walked up thirteen steps. A black hood was placed over his head and a rope around his neck. Like a bolt of lightning, his body fell six or seven feet. The head jerked, the neck snapped, a few convulsive movements, and all was quiet. Wilson was dead! Why? Because he had to die? No. Because he refused the pardon.

**Notice John 3:17 again.**

Notice closely the word "MIGHT". This word allows room for the freewill of man. There are some who teach that grace is irresistible and say when God chooses a man for salvation that he has no choice in the matter. The word "MIGHT" here defeats that teaching. Because if man has no choice, then this word casts great doubt upon God's ability to save those whom He would choose.

The idea here is that man has a freewill and he must choose to place his faith in Jesus Christ to be saved. But there are far too many people who are confronted with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and they turn and walk away. We can clearly see man's freewill to choose in the life of Cain.

**Genesis 4:3-7**

<sup>3</sup> And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.

<sup>4</sup> And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

<sup>5</sup> But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

<sup>6</sup> And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

<sup>7</sup> If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

Cain had a choice to trust in a blood sacrifice and keep sin under control or to reject God's way and allow the sin to rule over him. He made the choice to reject God's way and following his rejection he murdered his own brother. Sin ruled over Cain until the day he died.

**Notice John 3:18**

We who know the Lord are covered in the righteousness of our Lord and therefore when God sees us, He sees us in His righteousness.

**Romans 3:21-22**

<sup>21</sup> *But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;*

<sup>22</sup> *Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:*

We are clothed with a new garment. But the person who does not know the Lord is under the judgment of God. This person's condemnation rests upon them. Their sins are still on their account and are still in need of being paid for. The unsaved world is on a path that is leading them to the judgment of God. There are reminders of this in our world today as there is evidence of the flood. The flood is a reminder that God judged the world in Noah's day, and He will judge the world again. But most of the unsaved world does not believe this. They deny a past judgment, and they deny a future judgment.

**2 Peter 3:1-7**

*This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:*

<sup>2</sup> *That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:*

<sup>3</sup> *Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,*

<sup>4</sup> *And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.*

<sup>5</sup> *For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:*

<sup>6</sup> *Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:*

<sup>7</sup> *But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.*

One of the most denied doctrines of the Bible is the Doctrine of the Second Coming. Why? Because if there is a second coming of Jesus Christ then there will be a day of reckoning/judgment. There is only One Way for a sinner to escape this coming judgment and that is by trusting in Jesus Christ.

**Notice John 3:18 again.**

Jesus took our judgment when He was hanging upon the cross and His blood was shed to pay for our sins. When we place our faith in Him His blood is applied to our account and our sin is washed away. We will NEVER be judged for our sin!

**John 3:36**

<sup>36</sup> He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

**Romans 8:1a**

*There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus,*

*God is righteous and He demands that all sin must be paid for and it must be paid for with a blood sacrifice.*

**Genesis 3:21-24**

<sup>21</sup> Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

<sup>22</sup> *And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:*

<sup>23</sup> *Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.*

<sup>24</sup> *So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.*

**Hebrews 9:22**

<sup>22</sup> *And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.*

So, unsaved man is under condemnation, but the penalty has not yet been administered. All of this then raises a question, "Why will men not come to Jesus Christ?"

**Notice John 3:19**

Jesus has brought spiritual light into the world.

**John 8:12**

<sup>12</sup> 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.

Light can do several things. It irritates when a person is accustomed to the dark and it exposes that which exists in the dark. This verse tells us that men love the darkness rather than the light because their deeds are evil. What is it about spiritual light that men hate? It exposes their sin and man loves his sin. Why? Because sin brings pleasure for a short season.

**Hebrews 11:24-25**

<sup>24</sup> By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;

<sup>25</sup> Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

We can clearly see men's reaction to the Light in the life of Herod.

**Matthew 2:1-3, 16**

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

<sup>2</sup> Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

<sup>3</sup> When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

<sup>16</sup> Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts

*thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men.*

Herod tried his best to extinguish the Light. Because sin brings pleasure for a season, when the light gets closer it irritates the sinner as his or her sin is exposed. The sinner would rather live in the darkness and continue to stay addicted to their sin. But what they do not believe is that there are consequences which come with sin. They believe they can escape the consequences of sin. The Bible is very clear concerning sin. There are consequences for sin, and the sinner does not get to pick the consequences. The sinner believes that he or she can manage the consequences and keep it all under their control. What they do not realize is that they are not in control but instead they are slaves to the sin. The sin is controlling them, and the consequences are always greater than they had expected. We see this in David's life.

## **2 Samuel 11:1-5**

*And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem.*

<sup>2</sup> *And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon.*

<sup>3</sup> *And David sent and enquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?*

<sup>4</sup> *And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house.*

<sup>5</sup> **And the woman conceived**, and sent and told David, and said, I am with child.

### **Conclusion:**

Sin will cost a person much more than they ever desired to pay. We can be forgiven but the consequences can last for the rest of our lives.