

Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

April 22, 2020

Notes on John 3: 17 -21

“17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

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.

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.

20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.”

Pastor Tom greeted everyone, surprising us all by planning to cover 5 verses tonight!

Verse 17 “For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.”

*These words are pointing towards a purpose God has for Jesus and for each of us.

Revelation 13:8 (second part)

8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

*The “him” is referring to the antichrist and those who worship him will NOT have their name in the book of life. The Lamb slain (Jesus) was part of God’s master plan from the foundation (the very beginning) of the world to bring us into His saving grace.

*So what is God asking us to do? What is our purpose? Keeping in mind that we cannot know our divine purpose, we were created, without knowing the God who created us. Jesus gives us purpose.

Esther 4:13 & 14

13 Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews.

14 For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?

*Pastor Tom quickly reviewed the story of Esther from the Old Testament, highlighting verse 13 and 14 when Mordecai was speaking to Esther about her purpose in becoming the queen who was to help save the Jews. (Read the book of Esther for the entire story)

*God's purpose for sending Jesus was to save mankind from our sinfulness. And furthermore, we cannot know our purpose until we come to grips with who we are.

Verse 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."

*God's purpose is NOT to condemn us (judge us)

*Without Jesus there will be condemnation

*Quite simply there are 2 choices

1. If you believe in Jesus then there is no judgement
2. If you do not believe in Jesus then there will be judgement.

*A "good life" or "being good" isn't a choice; our judgement is not based on works as it says in Ephesians 2:9 *"Not of works, lest any man should boast."*

Verse 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.”

Romans 6: 1 & 2

“1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?”

*Sin and God are like oil and water.

*Just because we have experienced Jesus’ salvation, it is not an excuse to continue in sin. We must not willfully sin against God after our salvation experience.

Hosea 11: 1 and 7

“1When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.”

*The nation of Israel came out of Egypt and so did Jesus after Joseph and Mary took him there when Herod threatened to kill the babies after Jesus was born.

“7 And my people are bent to backsliding from me: though they called them to the most High, none at all would exalt him.”

*Human nature is the reason we are attracted to sin (tempted) and then we backslide away from God.

*If we are living in a lifestyle that is outside of His rules/Word, then we cannot expect blessings. We cannot expect God to bless our mess!

*It is a lifelong fight between God and the devil.

*As we grow closer to God through His Holy Spirit revealing areas in our life that need to be changed, we are sanctified (set apart for God).

*Wesleyan Theology notes 3 types of Grace:

1. Prevenient Grace - the grace God saw us with before we were saved.
2. Saving/Justifying Grace - The grace by which we are saved through Jesus Christ.
3. Sanctifying Grace - The grace that occurs in and through the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of a re-born person that continues on until we are perfected in Heaven.

*Daily disciplines to approach perfection/completion include prayer, meditation on and study of the Word as well as fasting and making life decisions based on these disciplines. However, just as we strive for this perfection, the devil will attack by trying to distract us from our purpose.

Verse 20 “For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.”

*Reproved means examined or charged with a fault.

*If we love sin/evil then we cannot say we really love God.

*This is a pivotal time for Christians to be in the Word because in uncertain times as these we must know that Jesus and His Word are the only certainties we have.

*If we continue in sin then we cannot get blessings and we will not know our purpose.

* Prayers said with the wrong attitude, with the wrong purpose, not in accordance with God’s Will may not be answered.

*We must be careful what we say to people - not offer our opinions but share God’s truth with them.

Verse 21 “But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.”

*Manifest means to make known or to reveal.

*Wrought means formed, shaped with great care

*As believers, we have a different accountability...we must give God the Glory for our purpose to be children of the light.

A contrast between

God's Purpose for us and the Devil's Purpose for us

from John 3: 17 - 21

GOD'S PURPOSES	DEVIL'S PURPOSES
V.17 God sent Jesus to save us	V.17 If we do not accept Jesus' salvation, then we will be condemned with the devil.
V. 18 We are not condemned under God's salvation	V.18 Devil wants to keep us from Jesus and if we are without Jesus, then we are condemned
V. 19 God wants us to follow the light (Jesus) - that is to feel at home in fellowship with God and to know God's love.	V. 19 Devil wants us to follow darkness (sin), to love the darkness and to feel more at home in the darkness
V. 20 God wants us to say and do the Truth	V. 20 Devil does not want us to be truthful
V. 21 God wants us to come to the light so our deeds are revealed in order to bring Him Glory	V. 21 Our deeds will be examined and we will be charged with a fault because we would hate the light and do evil.