

John 3:18-21
Sunday November 30, 1986
Rome Georgia
**August 18, 2013 &
August 25, 2013**

PROPOSITION: Have you thrown your life open to the searchlight of God's word?
Are you standing in a right relationship to God? Do you have a desire to
fellowship with God's people or are you more comfortable with those at
work who know not the Lord?

If you want to be counted in God's CENSUS later, you had better come to
your SENSES now. (Bosch)

**Joh 3:17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through
him might be saved.**

**Joh 3:18 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.**

The prevailing view among the Jew of Nicodemus' day was that the Messiah would come to execute
judgment against all the gentiles and to establish Israel at the pinnacle of world domination.

Remember, "There was a man of the, named Nicodemus," The Pharisees were so leagalistic in their
interpretation of the Old Testament, that their writings and interpretations were held in equal
esteem with the Word of God itself!

In particular, they expected the imminent overthrow of the current reigning champion of the Gentile
world, The Romans.

A theological view by the way, that was not supported by the Old Testament text. Our religious
expectations must always be tempered with an examination and exegesis of the whole Word
of God as it is given us. For the Jew this meant fidelity to the teaching of the WOG as found
in the cannon of the Old Testament.

V. 17 must have been an Eye-Opener for Nicodemus.

**Joh 3:17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through
him might be saved.**

Jesus had come, not to judge the world – but to provide salvation to the world. – Jew and Gentile alike!
I am sure to many Jews this news was about as welcome as God's offer of salvation to the repentant
Ninevehites was to Jonah.

I. THE UNBELIEVER

A. THEIR CONDEMNATION.

Determination of salvation is not a family or national matter, it is a simple matter of BELIEF OR
UNBELIEF.

DB Mar. 18-84. "The Verdict Is In." Painting etc. `Waiting for the Verdict'

' it depicts three people in a small room just outside a courtroom. A look of intense pain is etched on their faces. A man and a woman sit with clasped hands, bearing the agony of not knowing the outcome of their son's case. The young man's sister, frightened and tearful, stands peering through the half opened door into the courtroom where her brother is on trial for a serious crime. Looking at that painting, you can almost feel the tension as they await the verdict.

But so far as man's guilt is concerned, the verdict has already been passed. "He that believeth not is condemned already." Therefore, unless we receive the forgiveness of sins, "according to the riches of His grace" (Eph. 1:7) the sentence of death must be passed.

I Jn. 5:19 "and we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness."

B. THEIR CHARACTERISTICS

1. FAILURE TO BELIEVE

The Hebrews in Numbers 21:4-9. Some did not look and live- they perished. Cf. Jn. 3:14-15.

DB Sept. 30,79. " Failure to do something right can be as bad as doing something wrong. The consequences can be bitter and costly. Barnes' remarks in his commentary. "Neglect is enough to ruin a person. A **man in business** need not commit forgery or robbery to suffer financial disaster; he has only to ignore his work, and his failure is certain. A man who is lying in a **bed of sickness** need not cut his throat to destroy himself; he has only to disregard the means of restoration, and he will die. A **man floating in a skiff above Niagara Falls** need not move an oar, or make an effort to kill himself; he has only to fail to use the oar at the proper time, and he will certainly be carried over the cataract. **MOST OF THE CALAMITIES OF LIFE ARE CAUSED BY SIMPLE NEGLIGENCE.**"

Heb. 2:3 "How shall we escape if we **NEGLECT** so great a salvation....."

This is important. See the same point in verse 36: "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God *remains* on him." The word *remains* makes the same point in verse 36 that the word *already* makes in verse 18. John Piper

BUT YET, MANY WILL NEGLECT BECAUSE NATURAL MAN HAS A....

2. LOVE FOR DARKNESS RATHER THAN LIGHT

The reason that they are condemned is because of their choice of masters.

Their sin is no longer a matter of ignorance but the life-style of choice. They prefer Evil to Christ's Righteousness. (no one is asking them to be Righteous on their own. Only to believe, be in Christ and a partaker of His Righteousness.)

"For He hath made Him who knew no sin, to be sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." **II Cor. 5:21**

DB Mar. 8, 75. " Jesus said that unregenerate men hide from the truth **because they enjoy the temporary fruits of error**. Their love for darkness reminds me of what happens when you walk through

an open field and start turning over rocks and debris. Furry little insects and slimy critters hurriedly scamper for cover as soon as their undercover existence is exposed.

(8/9/2013 – I was by a lake in Wyoming last week. Turning over rocks, looking for worms for Annette. Mostly though, I found black ants and their eggs. Entire civilizations, living in total darkness, hidden from the light – all under a rock the size of my hand. . . .

The week before that, I had rented a wood splitter from Eddie Rents, as I split this old oak tree up, every manner of vermin was exposed to the light – and they did not like it one bit! Such scurrying and hurrying to find the comfort of darkness again!)

"Men love darkness, not for its own sake, but for what it hides. They want to continue undisturbed in their EVIL DEEDS." PONERA Cf. 20 for Dif. word." "in a real sense, man's love for darkness rather than God the LIGHT (Jn. 1:5 ; 10-11 ; 1 Jn. 1:5) is his love for idols.. He worships and serves the "created things rather than the Creator." **Romans 1:25**

Joh 1:4 In him was life; and **the life was the light of men.**

Joh 1:5 And **the light shineth in darkness**; and the darkness comprehended it not.

Joh 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

Joh 1:11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

1Jn 1:5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, **that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.**

Iago said of Cassio in one of Shakespeare's plays (Othello) ,
"He hath a daily beauty in his life that makes me ugly."

And if any of us think for one moment that we are without sin, all we need to do is to stand in the presence of Jesus Christ and we will feel even worse than Iago did in the presence of Cassio. S.L. Johnson sermon online

(Iago is a fictional character in [Shakespeare's Othello](#).

Iago is a soldier who has fought beside Othello for several years, and has become his trusted advisor.

Iago is one of Shakespeare's most sinister [villains](#).

Shakespearean critic [A. C. Bradley](#) said that "[evil](#)" has nowhere else been portrayed with such mastery as in the evil character of Iago)

Just as natural light reveals to us things which we would otherwise overlook, so to Christ the True Light that lighteth every man also reveals in man that which is without value.

Luk 22:60 And Peter said, Man, I know not what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew.

Luk 22:61 **And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter.** And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, **Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.**

Luk 22:62 And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.

When we meet the Gaze of the Savior – our sin is revealed.

Word for evil in v. 20 = PHAULA = worthless; or as per expositors, poor, paltry, ugly, the vulgar
Those who are unbelievers, those who subscribe to and are dominated by the spirit of this age, are as those that [Henry Jowett](#) described as he spoke of those who are "worldly"

"Worldliness is a spirit...It is a life without high callings, a life devoid of lofty ideals. It is **a gaze always horizontal and never vertical.**" The unbelievers have no ultimate meaning in life, there is futility and desperation and a headlong rush to fill the void in his life with temporal pleasures."

ACCORDING TO THE APOSTLE JOHN , THERE IS MORAL IMPURITY AT THE ROOT OF ALL REFUSAL OF CHRIST.

Joh 3:20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.

Not only does he LOVE DARKNESS but he also HATES THE LIGHT. He does not want to come into contact with those who are in the light or with the light itself. He is afraid that his deeds will be shown to be worthless and that he will need to turn from them.

Eph.5:13 "but all things become Visible when they are exposed by the light."

THEY ARE LIKE THE PERSON WHO REFUSES TO GO TO THE DOCTOR FOR A LONG OVERDUE CHECKUP BECAUSE HE'S AFRAID SOMETHING IS WRONG.

{ USE ILLUSTRATION OF [JACK IN TEXAS](#) AND THE "HEAD SIZED" LUMP ON HIS NECK.}

{ Putting off the [dentist](#), etc.}

Any inconvenience or mild discomfort that might be experienced from a thorough examination would be nothing compared to the pain of a problem that hadn't been caught in time. DB Mar. 8, 75.

Jn. 8:44-45. Men are so used to lies that they cannot bear up under the scrutiny of the truth.

Joh 8:44 Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

Joh 8:45 And because I tell *you* the truth, ye believe me not.

SEE **8:44**" And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me NOT."

"If guilty sinners refuse God's mercy now, they will receive His justice without mercy later."

BUT!

II. HE THAT BELIEVETH

Joh 3:18 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.

Here we have justification by faith and we have condemnation by unbelief. 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." SLJ

It is **no longer** " every Jew" or "everyone chosen by God ****" but **every one that BELIEVES.*****

A. THEIR CONDEMNATION

1. IS NOT CONDEMNED.

Rm. 8:1 " There is therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Jn. 5:24 " verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth my word and believeth on Him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into Judgement, but is passed from death unto life."

B. THEIR CHARACTERISTICS

1. IS NOT AFRAID TO COME TO THE LIGHT.

Jn. 8:12 "Then spoke Jesus unto them, I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the **light of life**.

IN THE WORLD, SEEING IS BELIEVING. IN CHRIST, BELIEVING IS SEEING

Those who Know Jesus are drawn to Him. Their sin is also made manifest but their RESPONSE IS **NOT REBELLION BUT REPENTANCE**. This is because they "walk in the truth" as John commends others for in **II Jn. 4** and **III Jn. 4**.

2Jn 1:4 I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.

3Jn 1:4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

Because of this we have direction and purpose in life.

In fact we are told in **II COR. 5:17** " If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature, old things pass away, all things become new. "

and in **Eph. 2:10** " for we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus, unto good works, which God had before ordained that we should walk in them."

THERE ARE TIMES HOWEVER WHEN EVEN AS CHRISTIANS WE ARE NOT DRAWN TO THE LIGHT.

John wrote to warn the believers of the very real danger of worldliness in **I Jn. 2:15**. "Love not the world..."

1Jn 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

The same tendency of the lost to shun the light is also seen in the lives of believers who stay away from church and avoid hearing the preaching of God's Word. Cf. **Heb.10:25**

"Not forsaking the assembly of ourselves together, as the manner of some is, but EXHORTING one another, and so much the more, as you see the day approaching."

We should never allow fear or pride to keep us from regular spiritual checkups. Not only do we need to come often under the searchlight of scriptures, but we must also be willing to accept counsel {EXHORTATION} of others. Refusing to consider such advice could be as dangerous as walking across a busy street with our eyes closed because we are afraid of being hit by a car!.... In God's eyes avoiding what you don't want to know is really a Flight from the Light."

"Light accepted brings light, light rejected brings night."

2. DEEDS DONE IN GOD ARE MANIFEST.

Ps. 1:1-3

Psa 1:1 Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

Psa 1:2 But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Psa 1:3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Ps. 119:105 " thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

Ps. 136:23-24 " search me Oh God, and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts; And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Paul was able to say in **II Cor. 1:12** "For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and Godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God, we have behaved ourselves in the world, and more abundantly toward you."

" **Php 1:10** That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; Being filled with the fruits of Righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God." **Phil. 1:11**.

Cf. **Eph. 2:10**

Eph 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

"Jesus said that unregenerate **men hide from the truth because they enjoy the temporary fruits of error**. Their love for darkness reminds me of what happens when you walk through an open field and start turning over rocks and debris. Furry little insects and slimy critters hurriedly scamper for cover as soon as their undercover existence is exposed. **This tendency to shun the light is also seen in the lives of believers who stay away from church and avoid hearing the preaching of God's Word**. They are like the person who refuses to go to the doctor for a long overdue checkup because they are afraid something is wrong. Any inconvenience or mild discomfort that might be experienced from a thorough examination would be nothing compared to the pain of a problem that hadn't been caught in time." DB Mar. 8, 75.

We should never allow fear or pride to keep us from regular spiritual checkups. Not only do we need to come often under the searchlight of scriptures, but we must also be willing to accept counsel of others. Refusing to consider such advice could be as dangerous as walking across a busy street with our eyes closed because we are afraid of being hit by a car! . . . In God's eyes avoiding what you don't want to now is really a Flight from the Light."

Joh 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

Joh 3:20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

Joh 3:21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

And finally he speaks of the product of the Son's coming in the last three verses, we can pass them by rather quickly because they are very much to the point, "This is the verdict, that light has come into the world, and men loved darkness." You know, you can put that phrase by the phrase in verse 16, "God loved the world, men loved darkness." Men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. SLJ

George Whitefield,

Mr. Whitefield was one day preaching on Market Street in Philadelphia from the balcony of the courthouse and in the midst of his sermon he suddenly stopped and he looked toward heaven and he said,

"Father Abraham, who do you have in heaven? Any Episcopalians? No?

Any Presbyterians? No?

Any Baptists? No? Yes? No? [Laughter]

Have you any Methodists there? No?

Have you any independents or seceders? No? No, no.

Why, who have you then?" And the word came from heaven in Mr. Whitefield's voice,

"We don't know those names here, all that are here are Christians, believers in Christ, men who have overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of his testimony."

And then Mr. Whitefield said, "Oh, is this the case, then God help me. God help us all to forget party names and to become Christians in deed and in truth. Come to the light, come to the light of the Lord Jesus Christ. Come to the light of the saving sacrifice, rely upon him. Stop relying upon anything else, have your confidence in him, he'll never disappoint you. He accomplishes all his purposes, he's the sovereign, immutable, infinite, eternal God, he's sufficient for all of the problems of life, all of the tragedies of life, all of the experiences of life, and for eternal life with him. Come to the light.

WHEN we go the wrong way spiritually, in one sense we do so on purpose.

I was reminded of this truth as I read about "**wrong-way Corrigan.**"

Douglas Corrigan acquired this title in **1938** when he took off in his plane from **Brooklyn, New York**, on an announced flight to **Long Beach, - California.**

A little over 23 hours later, however, he touched down in **Dublin, Ireland**, and asked officials, "**Is this Los Angeles?**"

For years people laughed at his "**miscalculations,**" but finally in 1963 he admitted that his trip across the Atlantic had **really been planned.** Unable to get clearance to cross the ocean, he went ahead and made the **flight "by mistake" on purpose.**

There's a striking parallel between **Corrigan's action** and much of our own experience as Christians.

Romans 1 declares that fallen human nature is self-willed

and resents God. **While Romans 1 describes the undegenerated man, it also helps us understand how the sin principle still operates in the believer's life.**

"And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient."

Although we are new creatures in Christ, the **strong, willful tendency to sin remains in us.** Some people might think that a Christian would not intentionally choose to do wrong. **But the Bible clearly indicates that every believer experiences a struggle between the flesh and the indwelling Spirit (Gal. 5:16,17).** That's why we must determine to submit to Him, for He gives us a desire to follow righteousness. **Such deliberate surrender will keep us from going the wrong way "by accident" on purpose.** Db 3?14/87

Illustrations from Romans 1:28 message:

Our God has a habit to let us have what we think we want. The Jew in the wilderness got sick on meat when they wanted something different from what God had for them.

"PEOPLE who want nothing to do with God make themselves candidates for His ultimate judgment. They spend their earthly days alienated from Him-, and unless they repent and receive Christ they will go to hell after death to spend eternity banished from God's presence. I can think of nothing worse!" Db 1/19/83

Aaron Burr. the **third Vice President** of the United States. was **reared in a godly home** and admonished to accept Christ by his **grandfather Jonathan Edwards.** But he **refused to listen. Instead, he declared that he wanted nothing to do with God and said he wished the Lord would leave him alone.**

He did achieve a measure of political success in spite of repeated disappointments. But he was also involved in continuous strife. and when he was 48 years old, he killed Alexander Hamilton in a duel. He lived for 32 more years, but through all this time he was unhappy and unproductive. It was during this sad chapter in his life that he declared to a group of friends, "**Sixty years ago I told God that if He would let me alone, I would let Him alone, and God has not bothered about me since.**" **Aaron Burr got what he wanted.** Db 1/19/83

To be abandoned by God is the ultimate judgment! Db 1/19/83

There is a way to STAY out of hell, but no way to GET out of hell. Db 1/19/83

Again, though the unregenerate man may be in view in this illustration,, yet I wonder if there are not many who call themselves Christians who have as surely “put God in his place” in their lives . . .