

## WHY JESUS WAS SENT TO EARTH

### John 3:16-21

Many people like court room dramas. But the ultimate courtroom drama is being played out right now in our response to Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. Where do you stand with Jesus?

#### **1. JESUS CAME TO SAVE NOT CONDEMN – John 3:16-18**

- God sent Jesus to save sinners who trust in Him. The gospel begins with God's love. God so loved the world He sent Jesus to save all who believe in Him. To believe or trust in Jesus means to acknowledge our need of Jesus, yield allegiance to Him, and trust in His Work on the cross as our only hope. *"Eternal life is a present possession as well as future promise". – Grant Osborne.*
- Jesus was not sent into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world. Condemn means "to judge a person to be guilty and liable to punishment." The believer is not being condemned now. In Christ we are already free from condemnation – John 5:24; Romans 8:1. The true believer does not have to fear judgment because the punishment was paid for us when Jesus was lifted up for us on the cross – 1 John 4:10. *"In my place condemned He stood, sealed my pardon with His blood."* The verdict is already in for those truly trusting Jesus. We are regenerated, justified, and saved from the wrath to come in Jesus by the love and grace of God.
- But those who do not trust in Jesus are already condemned. Death is the result of sin – Romans 6:23. There will be hell to pay. Each man or woman who rejects Jesus will spend eternity in hell. Jesus Himself will be the Judge.
- *"It is not the purpose of the shining of the sun to cast shadows. But...shadows are inevitable. The shadows are, so to speak, the other side of the sunshine. So it is with condemnation and the coming of the Son of God. He did not come in order that people be condemned. But there are great moral issues involved, and those who refuse salvation thus condemn themselves. The condemnation is as real as the salvation."* – Leon Morris.

#### **2. JESUS CAME TO BRING LIGHT AND EXPOSE DARKNESS – John 3:19-21**

- Our problem: we love darkness and hate light. The verdict is already in. Your response to Jesus now is showing your destiny at the judgment. Jesus is the Light – John 8:12. The coming of the Light forces a choice on everyone – John 1:9-12. Jesus exposes how dark things really are in our hearts. Everywhere Jesus went He exposed sin. He shows our pride, self-righteousness, lusts, hypocrisy, etc. Even his own brothers did not believe in Him – John 7:5-7. The sin-sick world has turned against God and the Light He sent. The world has chosen darkness and does evil. But darkness will not win – John 1:4,5. Those rejecting Jesus walk in darkness. Unbelievers actually hate the light and they hated Jesus. Unbelief is usually not intellectual, but moral. We purposely reject God's Word and deny His authority over us.
- *"If you want to know what this world is like, look what it did to Him. He was the Son of God. He had left the throne of heaven, He had come and humbled Himself, and He gave Himself to healing people, and to instructing them. He never did anyone any harm. He went about doing good. What was the response of the world? It hated Him, it persecuted Him, it rejected Him. It chose a murderer before Him. It crucified Him, it killed Him. And there on the cross He exposed the world for what it is."* – D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *The Cross*.

- God's solution: Those He brings to Jesus the Light live only by God's power. Those who live by the truth are willing to have their deeds exposed – Psalm 19:12-14. The truth is that Jesus, the Light, does the work through them and in them. True belief is shown in daily action. Saving faith results in a changed life – “whoever does what is true comes to the Light.” We live by the light of God's Word – Psalm 36:9; 119:105. We follow Jesus – Ephesians 5:8. True belief is motivated by a desire to exalt the glory of God, not ourselves – “his works have been carried out in God, meaning by God's power.” It is only in God's power, and for His glory that we live. Those who are in the light reflect the True Light – Matthew 5:14 -16; 1 John 1:6,7.
- In the end *“it will be Christ who judges the world and not the world that judges Christ.”* – Richard Phillips. Jesus will be the Final Judge and have the final word – John 5:22-23. What verdict is being shown in your life?

#### Concluding Applications:

- Where do you stand with Jesus? Will you be able to stand before Him without condemnation?
- Are you walking in the Light and desiring to honor Jesus? Do you turn daily from pride, self-righteousness, and seeking your own glory?
- Is your goal in life to exalt Jesus?
- Do you acknowledge your daily need of God's power and His light, especially in His Word?