

John 3:17-21

“The Privileges of Believing and the Perils of Not!”

INTRO-

How does Jesus' teaching relate to you personally? (James 1:22-25)

Applicational Thoughts and Questions related to the morning sermon

Why is the doctrine of *the new birth* (the evangelistic truth that one “must be BORN AGAIN”) so difficult to swallow, especially among self-righteous religious individuals? The default mode of Nicodemus was to “do, do, do!” Yet regeneration is something the Holy Spirit does (Titus 3:5-7; John 3:1-10). God (must) beget, and we (must) believe- if we are to be saved. “You must be born again.”

What happens when we lose sight of God’s general love for the lost world of men? Consider the prejudices that prophet Jonah had which impacted his calling in Nineveh. Are there any people in your heart of hearts that you would rather see not repent (and be saved)? How do we overcome this sort of ministry prejudice and hatred? Today hatred against white people and rich people has been normalized.

Some people misquote John 3:16-17 suggesting that in the end God saves everyone. How would you show someone that John 3 does not promote universalism; (though it certainly encourages global missions; Romans 1:16-17; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; Gal. 3:28)?

Jesus’ first coming ministry is summarized in passages such as John 3:17 and Luke 19:10. Jesus’ second coming ministry will certainly involve judgment and wrath (Acts 17:30-31; 2 Thess. 1:5-10). What happens if we focus exclusively on Jesus’ first coming or exclusively upon His second coming?

Gentile Christians can be guilty of anti-Jewish thinking. Paul warns against this form of pride and religious snobbery in Romans 10-11.

What about Jesus’ ministry and message would have made it difficult for Nicodemus and other Jews to recognize Him as the long-awaited Messiah (the Greater Son of David; the Lion of Judah; the King of the Jews, etc)?

What are some of the privileges/blessings of believing in Jesus Christ (John 3:14-21)? What are some of the perils/consequences of not believing?

Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. The Protestant Reformers rediscovered these precious Gospel truths (against the darkness of Roman Catholicism sacramentalism) but they certainly did not invent them. Keep in mind that John 3 was penned 1400+ years before Martin Luther, John Knox, and John Calvin by the apostle John.

The Coronavirus pandemic has exposed *how desperately people want to live*. But a long life without Christ is extremely dangerous- EXPLAIN WHY THIS IS SO; (see Romans 2:5-6). We will give an account for every single moment of every single day (Heb. 9:27; Rev. 20:11-15).

Why do unbelievers remain on the broad road? They love _____ and they hate _____.

How should the implications John 3:19-21 shape the Christian church? Should we be surprised when the lost world tempts us to conform our message to the world? When they cancel us? Marginalize us? Attack us? Slander us? Censor us? Fine us? Put us in jail?

False converts and worldly professors will run from the light and will open up their own “tolerant” churches (2 Tim. 4:1-5; John 3:19-20) or will find a compromised “church” that offers more shade- one that tolerates their favorite pet sins. Jesus said “this is judgment!”