

## The Result of God's Greatest Gift

John 3:16-21 <sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. <sup>18</sup> "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. <sup>19</sup> And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

Last Lord's Day we noted that sinful man cannot obtain an entrance into heaven on His own. We saw this in the instruction that no man has ascended into heaven; therefore we noted the necessity of God condescending and coming down to man. We saw that the means of that condescending was provided in the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. This morning we shall consider the result of that condescending on God's part revealed to us in these words that God gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. Now this can be divided into two parts, first, the necessity of the Christ and His saving work in behalf of sinful man and secondly the result of that saving work of our Savior.

### A. The necessity of the Christ and His saving work in behalf of sinful man

#### 1. The necessity is a result of one's natural state.

- a. I speak here of our natural state for at our very conception we are sinners

*Ps 51:5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.*

- b. And because we are sinners at conception we go astray from the moment of our birth

*Ps 58:3 The wicked are estranged from the womb; they go astray as soon as they are born, speaking lies.*

- c. Thus we stand in need of a Redeemer

#### 2. This is a worldwide affliction

- a. Here I just want to take a moment to consider the wording here, for God so loved **the world**

- (1) All the world is in ruin and exposed to the wrath of God
- (2) It is proper to say all nations are under the curse of sin
- (3) Also it is proper to note that the remedy spoken of here is sufficient for all the world
- (4) Heb. 2:9 tells us He tasted death for all men
- (5) In 1 Jn 2:2 we read that He is the propitiation not only for our sins, but for the sins of the whole world.
- (6) We know that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners
- (7) However we must understand that this is not a universal love for every sinner in every nation.
- (8) Rather Scripture tells us that there is a universal wrath of God upon all men

Rom 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness

- (9) This simply speaks of God's universal love for **His elect** in every nation upon the earth.
- (10) The simply meaning that God so loved the world is this, God's love was not to be limited to the physical descendants of Abraham or a people of one single nation but now the gospel message is to go forth into all the world

- b. While life is promised universally to "all who believe" we must be mindful that faith is not common to all, rather, it is a gift from God to His elect

- c. While He loves men in all nations but He does not love all men in all nations.

3. The good news is this, God did not send His Son into the world to condemn mankind, but that the world through Him might be saved
  - a. He could have brought judgment upon all men for man has certainly earned judgment - wages of sin - Rom 6:23
  - b. This gift of God then is based on God's love extending unmerited favor toward man
  - c. This is summed up for us in the message of the angels on the night of our Lord's birth

Luke 2:14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, **goodwill toward men!**

- d. Their message can be understood to mean, 'God's purposed love and kindness toward men.'

B. The result of that saving work of our Savior - *that whoever believes should not perish but have everlasting life.*

1. Everlasting life for all who trust in Him
  - a. Redemption from the curse that fell upon man at the fall
  - b. We have been made heirs of eternal life

*Titus 3:7 That having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

2. Here we see the wonderful effect of faith, for by it we receive Christ and His work in behalf of those God has chosen from all eternity.
  - a. We are freed from the condemnation of eternal death - *For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.*
  - b. What the law could not do God did for us by sending His Son

*Rom 8:3-4 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*

- (1) It does not overlook the sinfulness of sin - He condemned sin in the flesh
- (2) Thus God fulfilled the righteous requirement of the law giving His Son that He might pay in full the penalty of sin in our place

- c. Therefore there is now no condemnation for us who are in Christ Jesus J(cf. rom. 8:1)

3. It is by faith alone that we receive this hope and comfort - *"He who believes in Him is not condemned.*

*John 5:24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and **shall not come into judgment**, but has passed from death into life*

Conclusion: We now have access into heaven itself

*Matt 25:34 Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.*

This includes forgiveness of sin and a covering for our sin for no unclean thing can enter into God's heaven.

Dear flock of God hear the words of your Savior

*Luke 12:32 "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.*

Rejoice in the gift of faith God has granted you

1 Peter 1:7-9 That the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, **receiving the end of your faith — the salvation of your souls.**