

- Videos available on our YouTube channel: [www.htchurch.tv](http://www.htchurch.tv)
  - All notes, etc. available at: [www.htchurch.com/john](http://www.htchurch.com/john)
  - Contact Pastor Nick at: [pastornick@htchurch.com](mailto:pastornick@htchurch.com)
- 

**Recap**

- Last week we talked about John 3:16, and God’s unconditional love. Compared to the other words for love in the New Testament, the agape love of God is unique.
- God took the initiative to save us while we were enemies of God.
- Although the world is under the sentence of condemnation, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come!

**The Light And The Darkness (John 3:18-21)**

*18 “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. 19 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. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”*

- Jesus entered the world the first time on a mission of mercy.
  - The *next* time Jesus comes, He’s coming to judge the world.
  - The word *saved* seems to create embarrassment today!
- 
- 
- 
- 
-

- The coming of Jesus was not to *decide* who is condemned; the coming of Jesus *demonstrates* who is already condemned.
- People have come to see their problems as arising from *anything* other than sin.
- Our tendency is to blame our environment or education. C.S. Lewis: “*Education without values, as useful as it is, seems rather to make man a more clever devil.*”

**Loving The Darkness**

*...because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 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.*

- The condemnation occurs because the person has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. Like Nicodemus, we don't believe God's testimony.
- The light doesn't cause you to be condemned, it reveals the state of your heart.
- Men love (*agape*) the darkness. People truly love and cherish their “pet sins.”
- But when it comes to pet sins, who's on the leash?

**Exposure (John 3:20-21)**

*20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”*

- Another unflattering portrait of our hearts. God's holiness makes us uncomfortable.

---



---



---



---



---

- Peter: “Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man.”
- Isaiah: “Woe is me!”
- Those with renewed hearts don’t fear to have their lives examined.

**A Season Of Transition (John 3:22-24)**

*22 After these things Jesus and His disciples came into the land of Judea, and there He remained with them and baptized. 23 Now John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there. And they came and were baptized. 24 For John had not yet been thrown into prison.*

- Understanding the chronology of Jesus’ early ministry.
  - After Cana (and the Nazareth synagogue?) Jesus went to the Passover.
  - A time of ministry followed in Jerusalem.
  - His dialogue with Nicodemus.
  - Now He comes out into the Judean countryside.
- Somewhat surprisingly, Jesus had His own ministry of water baptism.
- Jesus didn’t personally water-baptize, for He had come to baptize in a different **element**: He had come to baptize people in the Holy Spirit.
- John the Baptist was continuing his own ministry in a place of springs.
- John might have been avoiding harassment from the leadership.
- Notice that people are still coming out to see John. This is a transitional time in their two ministries, before John had been arrested.
- A lot of ministry was happening even before Jesus’ ministry in Galilee, as recorded by Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

---

---

---

---

---

**Jealousy In The Ministry (John 3:25-26)**

*25 Then there arose a dispute between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purification. 26 And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified—behold, He is baptizing, and all are coming to Him!"*

- Obviously, Christian people and ministers have always struggled with jealousy!
- We don't know who the Jewish man (singular) was, or what the fight was about.
- It appears he was trying to create controversy between John and Jesus.
- Notice the elements of their jealous presentation to John:
  - John is called Rabbi here, unique in this gospel. They're giving him an elevated level of respect.
  - They don't mention Jesus by name.
  - They complain because Jesus was baptizing.
  - They exaggerate Jesus' ministry "success."

**But He Is From Above! (John 3:27-29)**

*27 John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven. 28 You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent before Him.' 29 He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled."*

- See John's beautiful heart. Nobody can receive anything unless God gives it.
- John is very patient; he doesn't rebuke them; he teaches them.

---



---



---



---



---

- John’s argument:
  - He refers to Jesus as the Christ (Messiah)
  - He reminds them that he’s been bearing witness to Jesus is the Christ.
  - He was only sent to be his herald.
  - John sees himself as the friend of the bridegroom, a position similar to but more important than what we call the best man.
  - John rejoices when the Lord rejoices over His bride; his joy is complete.
- In the Gospel of John, John the Baptist is the first person to bring out the very important concept of joy being fulfilled.

**He Must Increase (John 3:30-33)**

*30 “He must increase, but I must decrease. 31 He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all. 32 And what He has seen and heard, that He testifies; and no one receives His testimony. 33 He who has received His testimony has certified that God is true.”*

- More evidence of a beautiful heart. John understands that from this time forward his ministry will diminish in impact and fame.
- The will of Jesus, and the joy of Jesus are what we need to pursue.
- Each one of us has a role assigned by Heaven! There are times we can injure ourselves and the cause of Christ by seeking to change and adjust our place.
- Another reason Christ is superior: Jesus is from above, and therefore **is** above.
- Only Jesus can deliver the testimony He’s bearing.
- No one receives His testimony; but, if you do you agree with God’s testimony!

---



---



---



---



---

### **All Things In Jesus' Hands! (John 3:34-36)**

34 "For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure. 35 The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand. 36 He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

- Another reason Jesus is different is that He can fully reveal God. The prophets received a measure of the Spirit; not so with Christ!
- Jesus has a limitless anointing of the Spirit. Recall the special Prophet that Moses had spoken of: God's words would be in Him.
- Not only this, the Father has given everything into his hand. (Continue to look for the important idea of what the Father has given the Son.)
- Verse 36 closes this chapter perfectly; it repeats the idea that there is nothing to be *decided* by the coming of Jesus; there is only something to *escape* from.
- Recall, John had preached: *Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?*
- The coming of Jesus will only confirm *outwardly* what has already been an *inward reality* for that person.
- Thank God, Jesus said: *I have come that you might have life, and that you might have it more abundantly!*

---

---

---

---

---

All quotes NKJV except as noted. New King James Version®  
Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.