

# LIFE'S GREATEST DECISION

PASTOR PAUL CHAPPELL | MAY 5, 2024

**Text:** John 3:1-7, 16-19

"There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: 2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. 3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. 4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? 5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again." (John 3:1-7)

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. 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. 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." (John 3:16-19)

## INTRODUCTION

- Nicodemus part of Sanhedran ruling council over Judea
- private conversation with Jesus

"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." (1 John 4:10)

## 1. THE Revelation OF GOD'S LOVE (v. 16-17)

### A. A sacrificial Gift (parental love)

HE GAVE PERSONALLY - Jesus' life

"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh..." (1 Timothy 3:16)

**Quote:** "You may accept the lofty claims of Jesus. You may take Him as very God. Or else you must reject Him as a miserable, deluded enthusiast. There is really no middle ground. Jesus refuses to be pressed into the mold of a mere religious teacher."

- J. Gresham Machen

"I and my Father are one." (John 10:30)

"Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am." (John 8:58)

HE GAVE SACRIFICIALLY - God is ultimate parent

Quote: "You can give without loving but you can't love without giving."  
—Amy Carmichael

"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:6-8)

B. An atoning Gift

THE ATONING OF HIS BLOOD - Mt ~~26:28~~ <sup>26:28</sup> blood of the New Covenant

"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;" (Ephesians 1:7)

"In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:" (Colossians 1:14)

"For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. 27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:" (Hebrews 9:26-27)

THE ATONING OF HIS FINISHED WORK

"And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures;" (1 Corinthians 15:4) - "It is finished." (Jn 19:30)

## 2. THE Rejection OF GOD'S LOVE (v. 18-19)

A. Men Choose darkness (of evil)

BY REJECTING CHRIST

"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. 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." (John 3:18-19)

BY REJECTING GOD'S LAW

"And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?" (Deuteronomy 4:8)

"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." (1 John 3:4)

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God." (Romans 13:1)

BY REJECTING GOD'S ORDER

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." (Genesis 1:27)

B. Men Choose sin (fail God's goodness)

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." (Romans 5:12)

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" (Romans 3:23)

### 3. THE Reception OF GOD'S LOVE (v. 16)

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9)

#### A. A choice Is Made - whoever wishes

##### AN EXCLUSIVE CHOICE

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6)

##### AN ETERNAL CHOICE

"Whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

**Quote:** "Believing in Christ involves an awareness of the depth of our sin and the power of His sacrifice."

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3)

#### B. A destiny Is Changed - after death

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." (John 3:36)

"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." (Revelation 20:11-12)

"And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." (Revelation 20:14-15)

### CONCLUSION

- Once for all (Heb 7:26-27; 9:11-12; 9:24-26; 9:28; 10:10)  
- God's work is the work Jesus finished

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." (Romans 10:9-10)

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Romans 10:13)

