

May 8, 2022
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
THE GOSPEL
Believe: Ep. 3 Good News
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John 3:16-18

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that **whoever** believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁸For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

THE GOSPEL: In the Greek New Testament, *gospel* is the translation of the Greek noun *euangelion* (occurring 76 times) "good news," and the verb *euangelizo* (occurring 54 times), meaning "to bring or announce good news."

THE PROBLEM OF SIN

Sin must be pardoned, and the impurity of the heart washed away before any soul can possibly enter into the kingdom of God. As this new birth implies the renewing of the whole soul in righteousness and true holiness, it is not a matter that may be dispensed with: heaven is a place of holiness, and nothing but what is like itself can ever enter into it.

Who was Nicodemus: wealthy, politically powerful and connected, fearful, **a pure seeker**

- **Jeremiah 29:13** *You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.*
- **Proverbs 8:17** *"I love those who love me; and those who diligently seek me will find me.*
- **Matthew 7:7** *"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.*

BEING BORN AGAIN

"A transformed life is the greatest of all miracles. Every time a person is "born again" by repentance of sin and faith in Jesus Christ, the miracle of regeneration is performed." - *Billy Graham*

1. The starting place of the Gospel is a Father's love.

Vs. 16 *For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

- God saved humankind to something rather than from something.
- The Gospel is more about life than it is about sin.

2. The mission of Jesus was to invite people into life, not condemn unto death.

Vs. 17 *For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.*

- *There is no need to judge that which is already under judgment.*
 - **Matthew 7:1** *Do not judge, or you too will be judged.*

3. Faith cleanses all sin.

Vs. 18 *Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.*

- **Romans 3:23** For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS:

1. Restate John 3:16 in your own words.
2. Verse 18 speaks about belief leading to the removal of condemnation. Can you articulate what we are invited to believe in?
3. Gospel means "good news". Do you live as if you have life-giving good news to share with people?
4. What is the most effective way of sharing the Gospel?
5. How is God's version of love different from perhaps the world's version of love? Is there a difference?