

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ God So Loved the World

Last time...Jesus Christ's conversation with Nicodemus continued...possibly concluded.
v14-15

This time...God so loved the world
(need a bookmark in 1 John)

John 3:16-21

[v16-21]

Food for thought (vs Thus saith the Lord)...

Did Jesus' conversation with Nic end in v15 or in v21?

Without doubt, ALL these words are God-breathed...but

- did Nic hear them from Jesus?
- was the Apostle John moved by the Holy Spirit to write them in His rebuttal to Gnosticism about 60 years after this conversation took place?

Writing to the Church, the Holy Spirit's purpose in moving John to write this Gospel and 1John was to combat the growing influence of Gnosticism infecting the Church

Gnosticism

- a disinterested, imperfect creator...world was created imperfectly
e.g. why there is evil and suffering in the world
- a false Gospel
 - man does not need to be saved from sin but from ignorance, a result of which is sin
 - man is not saved by the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ but by His teaching (no need for Cross)
- elevation of human reasoning (the elite few over the common many)

Gospel of John

- “believe”, “life” used more by John than the other 3 Gospels combined
 - “believe” appears 99 times and “believing” twice
 - “faith” does not appear at all in this Gospel...
“faithless” appears once (Ch 20:27 to Thomas)
- “love”, “truth”, “eternal”, “grace”, “know” are also more prominent in Gospel of John than in the others

Consider with me...

1. Jesus, in answering all Nic's questions, gave Nic the Gospel...v14-15
(Jesus Christ is the answer to all Nic's questions)

2. The witness of Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit vs Jesus' witness of Himself

Sent by the Father, Jesus' ministry was to witness of...the Father, not Himself

Sent by the Father and the Son, the Holy Spirit's ministry is to

- witness of Jesus Christ (John 15:26, John 16:13)
- gather a Bride for the Son (Gen 24)
- reprove the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:7-11)

As part of His testimony of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit says "only begotten Son"

John 1:18

John 3:16 (?)

John 3:18 (?)

1 John 4:9

All instances as He moved the Apostle John in the 90's to write to the Church
with the antidote to Gnosticism...
no times in Synoptic Gospels

What was Jesus' favorite title of Himself?

"Son of man"...His assignment from the Father

Matt 32x

Mark 12x

Luke 25x

John 10x

Jesus never referred to/testified of Himself as the "only begotten Son" as
His words were recorded in the Synoptic Gospels...or in the Gospel of
John if John 3:16-21 were recorded by John in the 1st Century

3. The verb tenses are past tense ("loved" and "gave" in v16, "sent" in v17)...
but the fullness of the verbs would be future in time to the conversation with Nic
4. Are there red letters in the original manuscripts?
Are the red letters in our translations God-breathed?
5. The great "companion" of John 3:16-21 is 1 John, recorded as the Holy Spirit moved
John for the same purpose and nearly at the same time

Is it possible John 3:16-21 were written to the early Church but not spoken to Nic?
Just some food for thought as you Acts 17:11 and interrogate the Scriptures yourself

v16 For God so loved the world:

The Good News of God's Plan of Redemption of fallen man...in one verse

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| For God | the greatest Being |
| so loved | the greatest affection |
| the world | the greatest number |
| that He gave | the greatest act of love |
| His only begotten Son | the greatest gift (and injustice) |
| that whosoever believes in Him | the greatest invitation |
| should not perish | the greatest mercy |
| but have everlasting life | the greatest grace |

For...

Because

The Gospel Jesus shared with Nic in v14-15 is restated

For God...

The Supreme Doer in the Plan of Redemption is...God

The great benefactor of His Plan of Redemption is...man

Both must choose for the Plan of Redemption to be accomplished

God chose...past tense:

- loved...agapeo, God's love and God's nature (NOT man's!)
- gave...a gift with no strings attached,
not a trade or a wage earned by good works

man must choose...present tense

- believes...trusts in, depends on (vs others or Self or things)

Matt 10:34...Jesus is NOT the unifier of all men, He is the point of
division between eternal life and eternal death

He has done His part...by suffering, dying, and rising again (v14)

Now individual persons must do their part – to believe in Him or not

1 John 4:15

1 John 5:1a

For God so loved the world...

God set His unselfish, unlimited affection on the world

i.e. its inhabitants, His beloved creatures

1 John 4:10, 19

Rom 5:8

Christ died vs taught

Yet He commands us to not love the world?!

1 John 2:15-17

James 4:4

Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the
friendship of the world is enmity with God?
Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is
the enemy of God.

God set His unselfish affection on the world, His creation
(especially its inhabitants, His beloved creatures)
We are to set our unselfish affection on...Him, not the fallen world,
Satan's dominion and systems of religion, gov't, economy

God the Creator is the beginning and the end of all things, the world is not
He alone is worthy of our total and complete devotion
Before He ends this corrupted world in judgment of fire, He is calling all
inhabitants out of it and unto Himself
To come out of the kingdom of the world and into the kingdom of God,
we must be made new, given a new birth, given His Spirit to love
as He does (unselfishly) and to not love as we do (selfishly)

For God so loved the world, that he gave
gave:

- the teachings of Jesus Christ? Yes, His words to us by His Son
- His Son as His sin sacrifice for our sin? Yes, suffering, death

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.

This is the True Gospel...

- 100% Inclusive **and** 100% Exclusive
- as wide as Jesus Christ and as narrow as Jesus Christ

Satan is a liar, a destroyer, and a counterfeit...
the author of every religious system

He has cunningly crafted many false/counterfeit gospels to destroy men

False gospels...that have infected Christianity

- Not exclusive
 - Coexist...truth & lies, light & darkness cannot coexist
 - Ecumenicalism/Liberalism: doctrine is not important, unity is...therefore unity at the expense of truth
 - Universalism: everybody is a child of God and goes to heaven
 - Social: man-centered e.g. Tony Campolo et al to point of becoming mainstream: inclusion of LGBT as is, no need to repent of sin, God made them that way
 - Prosperity: God wants you to be rich...worldly
 - Jesus Plus: Jesus' work + my good works = salvation ala RCC...rooted in Gnosticism
 - Cross-less Christianity...rooted in Gnosticism
 - Secular psychology...rooted in Gnosticism

- Not inclusive
 - Hyper Pentecostalism: must speak in tongues to be saved
 - Hyper denominationalism: must be baptized into this denomination/church to be saved
 - Calvinism (5 Point): God chooses, man does not... rooted in Gnosticism

Any other Gospel but the 100% Inclusive **and** 100% Exclusive Gospel is a false gospel

1 John 5:10-12

Satan writes false gospels, only God could write the True Gospel

1 John 4:6

Gal 1:6-9 anti-religion letter

Note: Truth comes from the Creator...the Creator is Truth

Yet in the world we hear:

“I am black.”

“I am a woman/man/girl/boy.”

“I am what **I** say I am.”

Problems:

- The world believes the lies of the devil and disorderliness and confusion reigns...Judges 25:21
- An astounding % of Christianity believes a false gospel, having lost its bearings in the True Gospel and the Word of God
- Compromise with the world is running amuck in Christianity

The Church, the Bride of Christ, is to be holy, separate from the filth of the heathen (unbelief) among whom She lives.

The Church is to reach out with meekness and love to those who are dead in their sin and, by sharing the Gospel with them, invite them on Jesus' behalf to repent of their sin and to receive the gift of eternal life.

The Church needs to loudly and lovingly proclaim the True Gospel... both inside and outside of Christianity

Lord sent a mud dauber during my study
flitting around the brown stucco...front door, wife, kids, grandkids
nest is built by the female...mother of pain, suffering, death
don't even let it get started...had to chase away 6x
(had to be watching and be diligent)...
and not with my hand/flesh (ouch!) but with a journal in which
words were written (Word of God)
with love for others, I was active and resolute...no fear
fathers: [1 John 4:18](#)

v17 not...to condemn...might be saved:

God so loved the inhabitants of the world that He sent His only begotten Son
NOT to condemn the world...
because it was already condemned,
making condemnation unnecessary and redundant...
but through Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ alone the inhabitants of the
world might be saved

[1 John 4:14](#) Savior, not Judge (yet)

Therefore, we who are sent by Jesus into the world with His Gospel are
NOT to condemn or judge anyone
Witnesses of Jesus Christ are NOT like the racist in Charleston SC...
witnesses of Jesus Christ are like those 9 and their families

God sent...past tense
His choice
2 Peter 3:9
Ezk 18:30-32

through Him...no other way

might...the inhabitants of the world would have to choose to agree with God and
submit to His peace terms

be saved...from the wrath of the offended God

How have we offended God?!

Not believing Him (disobeying)...believing a lie instead
The fruit of that unbelief is: corrupted love

1. Love Self above God (pride, self-centeredness)
2. Love others (persons and things) above God
3. Love Self before others

So the salvation of God is from God's justifiable condemnation, the status quo (dead in sin) unless/until man chooses to agree with God

Rom 3:10 righteous = pleasing, acceptable in their own right
Rom 3:23 fallen short because are condemned (James 2:10)
Rom 6:23 wages vs gift of God

Eph 2:1-9 by grace
Titus 2:11-14 Jesus is the grace of God (Matt 16:24)
John 1:17 Jesus came with grace and truth

v18 believeth...believeth not:

God has chosen to reach out and be reconciled with fallen man who has so grievously offended Him

The Father gave the Son that ministry of reconciliation to make "new creatures" (2 Cor 5:17-21)

Note: Jesus failed if we need to be saved from ignorance vs sin
And if Jesus failed (imperfect), He is not God and God is a liar

Individual persons must then choose whether or not they want to be reconciled to God...on His terms of Jesus Christ and Him crucified

Those who say, "Yes!" to God's witness

- believe God, trust and agree with Him
- given a new birth, made new creatures
- are not condemned but are saved

Those who say, "No!" to God's witness

- do not believe God, distrust and disagree with Him
- remain dead in their sin
- remain condemned

The difference between

- eternal death and eternal life
- condemnation and salvation

is

- Jesus Christ and Him crucified (v14-15)...His finished work
- Man choosing to believe/trust Him...faith in His finished work

Rom 8:1

John 1:12-13

1 John 5:10-13

v19-20 this is the condemnation:

1 John 1:1-6

1 John 2:8-11

John 8:12

The condemned love darkness/sin/evil/the lies of the devil

Gen 6:5

Jer 17:9

Rom 7:18

Note: Darkness and Light are spiritual realities

The condemned hate Jesus Christ and despise God's terms for coming out of darkness/evil/lies into the Light/Truth

The condemned flee from the Light so how they live will not be discovered.
This is a deception of the destroyer of men's souls.

Ps 139:12 Yea, the darkness hides not from thee; but the night shines
as the day: the darkness and the light *are* both alike *to thee*.

The deceived condemned justify their sin with a false light...a false gospel...
aka darkness

v21 But he that does truth:

The saved, no-longer-condemned, submit to the Authority of Jesus Christ

They come out of the darkness and come to the Light...
in brokenness and helplessness and humility and thanksgiving

They love Him...because He first loved them

Matt 22:36-40 with Matt 10:34-39

John 13:34-35 a manifestation of loving God first
and only possible if we love God first

1 John 3:23

They love Him so will do as He says (obey)

James 1:22-25

1 Cor 8:3 if any man love God, the same is known of Him

They do the work of the Lord

a. The deeds of all men are made manifest...exposed

Matt 10:26-27 Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known. What I tell you in darkness, *that* speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, *that* preach ye upon the housetops.

Luke 8:17 For nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest; neither *any thing* hid, that shall not be known and come abroad.

Rom 2:16 in the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.

Matt 16:27 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

b. Those that do truth, do the work of the Lord

Matt 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Eph 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Eph 1:9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

Phil 2:12-13 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which works in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.

Acts 15:18 Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.

1 Peter 2:12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by *your* good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

1 Cor 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

They are surrendered servants/sons/friends...saints that have eternal life,
the gift of God

According to the One True Gospel...100% Inclusive and 100% Exclusive

So...what is it going to be?

Will you choose to believe/trust/depend upon/lean on Jesus Christ alone...or not

Will you believe the True Gospel or one of the many false Gospels?

Will you choose

life...or death?

light...or darkness?

The Lord God Almighty the Maker of heaven and earth has done all He can

Now...will you believe His witness or not?

The Lord God Almighty Who loved us before we loved Him is calling us to stand firm on Him

Now...will you be watchful and diligent and meek and loving, and bold...or fearful?