

"Men Loved Darkness"  
The Gospel of John Chapter 3:17-21

Jesus has spoken clearly in verse sixteen that God's love for the world resulted in the Son's coming into the world (1Jhn. 4:8, 16). Jesus in verse seventeen elaborates on this intent of God. It is not to condemn but to save! Three times in this verse the word for world is used (Greek *kosmos*). No one is to be left out, for God is not a respecter of persons (Acts 10:34-35, 17:24-31). The very name Jesus means Savior (Matt. 1:21). He came the first time to give His life as a ransom (Mk. 10:45). He will come again the second time as the Judge in all His Glory (2Thess. 1:6-10).

Three times in verse eighteen Jesus uses the verb form of the Greek noun for faith (*pistis*). Faith or belief is not just intellectual acknowledgment or consent. It is total trust and ascent of one's lost condition and belief in God's remedy in Christ. It is trusting your life to the finished work of Christ and no longer trusting in yourself and/or your works (Jhn. 19:30; Eph. 2:8-9). Jesus is the spiritual line of demarcation (Matt. 21:41-44). There is no condemnation to those who believe (Greek present tense; Rom. 8:1-3). Those who **do not** believe are already condemned. God has not predestined them to condemnation (1 Tim. 2:3-6; 2Pet. 3:9). They have willingly and knowingly rejected the Son of God's love (Rom. 1:18-32; Heb. 10:28-31). There is no further plan from God for them (Matt. 23:37-39)

This is the judgment of God. He has sent His Son, the light of the world (Jhn. 1:4, 9, 8:12). But totally contrary to the God who so loved the world that He sent his Son, men **loved** darkness rather than the Light. The Greek word for love here is *agape*, just as in verse sixteen. Men would rather stay in their sin and bondage than to be set free in Christ (Jhn. 11:45-53, 12:9-11). Believers have been delivered from the domain of darkness (evil) and translated into the Kingdom of God's beloved Son (Cot 1:12-14)!

Everyone that continually practices evil (the Greek verb for do is in the present tense) hates the Light (Jhn. 15:18-19; 1Jhn. 3:8-10). Though neither Jesus nor the Holy Spirit would turn them away (Matt. 7:7-11; Rev. 22:17), men choose to yield to sin (Rom. 6:16; 1Cor. 10:13). In contrast, the one who does the truth comes to the Light. He does the truth because the Truth (Jhn. 14:6) lives within him. His deeds are manifest (Matt. 5:16).