

The Best Possible News

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I. Introduction. Text: John 3:16-36.

II. Two ways of life.

- A. A belief that results in truly living now and forever.
- B. A disobedience that results in God's wrath now and forever.

III. Many say that God is not fair because disobedience is so much more fun.

- A. This is not a good picture of God, however.
- B. God's relationship with the world is one of love.
- C. God shows us that what we are is the cause of the agony we feel.
- D. Nevertheless, God is moved with compassion for the whole world.
 - 1. God in seeing our agony wanted to do something about it.
 - 2. He took our place through Jesus Christ.

IV. The gospel is not about condemnation, but about reconciliation. (II Corinthians 5)

- A. This does not mean that God is not concerned about our sin.
- B. Sin must be dealt with--God has removed the condemnation making it possible to come freely and openly to Him.
- C. Yet there is still a choice to be made.
- D. The wrath of God is already--the believer must choose to leave it.
- E. Men do not choose Christ because they love darkness--nobody wants to admit they are wrong.
- F. However, if one is willing he will be drawn to Jesus---if there is a hunger for something more Jesus will free a person. (Hebrews 11)

V. John the Baptist.

- A. It was pointed out that Jesus was the supreme person in the universe.
- B. There was a clash of ritual and a battle for numbers.
 - 1. John reminds the people that all position comes only from God. (Daniel 4)

2. John acknowledged his position from the beginning--he was not the Messiah.
 3. John rejoiced in people following Jesus.
- C. Jesus' Word is far greater because He sees all, He speaks from personal experience, and He speaks the final word of authority.
- D. The inheritance of the believer is love, joy and peace in Jesus.

Application questions:

1. When has God shown you that you were the source of your own agony? What did you learn from this?

2. If the gospel is not about condemnation, why is God's wrath upon mankind?

3. How does John the Baptist model humility in his relationship to Jesus? Explain.
