

The Lost and Saved

John 3:16-21

Introduction:

- A. John 3:16 one of the most quoted verses of Scripture.
 - 1. Favorite of “faith only” advocates.
 - 2. Yet it says nothing about faith *only*.
- B. John 3:1-21 reveals than some great insights into both the lost and the saved.

Discussion:

I. The Lost.

- A. Responsible for their own condemnation. (vv. 17-18).
 - 1. Jesus did does condemn them – already condemned.
 - 2. Judge themselves unworthy (Acts 13:46)
 - 3. Without excuse – both Jew and Gentile (Rom. 1:20-21; 2:1).
 - a. Gentiles did not live up to the revelation they had (Rom. 1:20-21; 2:14-15)
 - b. Jews did not live up the revelation they had (Rom. 2:17-25).
- B. Loved darkness rather than light (vv. 19).
 - 1. Light reveals sin for what it is.
 - 2. Light upset the status-quo for sinners.
 - a. Why Jesus disturbed Jewish sectarians.
 - b. Why Paul upset the pagan world.
 - 3. Light is welcomes for good men (v. 21).

II. The Saved.

- A. Saved by God’s “only begotten son.” (v. 16).
 - 1. Begotten by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin.
 - 2. Died to remove our sins (Matt. 26:28; 1 Cor 15:3).
- B. Saved by faith in the Son (vv. 16, 18).
 - 1. Includes faith in His person and attributes.
 - 2. Includes faith in His word and will.
 - 3. Includes faith in His power, position and promises.
- C. Saved by *doing* the truth (v. 21).
 - 1. Not merely believing the truth, but *doing* it.
 - 2. Our faith must be broad enough to include deeds wrought in God.” (Cf. Gal. 5:6).
 - a. Verse 16 does not contradict verse 21.
 - b. Rom. 4:3-5 does not contradict Rom. 4:12 nor James 2:23-24.
 - c. Faith leads to repentance, confession, baptism and godly living.

Conclusion:

- A. If you are lost, accept responsibility for it; repent of it and turn to Jesus.
- B. If you will be saved, believe and do the truth – obey the only begotten Son of God.