



John: The Great "I AM" Gospel
John 3:17-21
From Sermon 4.30.23

Read *John 3:17-21*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: After dissecting John 3:16, we can see it is not a comprehensive doctrine on salvation, but one key component/truth. However, these final words of Jesus to Nicodemus (and our previous verses 1-16) do touch on every aspect of sound salvation doctrine. Like so many, the Pharisee now hears that Messiah won't be restoring Israel's sovereignty and glory at His first coming. [In fact, later and in the other Gospels, Jesus will predict the utter destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple and the dispersion of the Jews until the final days]. Nicodemus' breakdown can only be intensifying.

1. Previous Truth Review: Discuss...

- Everyone's a sinner = dead in spirit & hostile to God
- No one is saved by Heritage or Works (of the Law)
- God only/always saves by grace thru Faith

2. John 3:17-21 New Truth Dilemma: Discuss...

Jesus now reveals He won't be restoring Israel or conquering the Gentiles. This results in a new, fair series of questions. Read the passage and answer each.

- What happens to the Law? See *Galatians 3:23-25* & *Hebrews 8:6-7 & 13*
- What about the Covenants? See *Romans 11:25-29*
- What about all the Prophecies concerning Messiah and His conquer/reign? Using the Romans 11 passage above, the Kingdom prophecies are literal and true. There is this break, however, (the age of grace. The age of the church) for the evangelizing of the nations/Gentiles first.

3. Discuss: The answers in the New Testament are consistent with the Old Testament. When explaining the connection with the Law and the Covenants going forward, Paul and the writer of Hebrews will use Old Testament scriptures to support their teaching and demonstrate God's immutable character and plan.

4. 1st Coming and 2nd Coming Confusion: Then and Now.

In Nicodemus' day, no one wanted or expected a spiritual, personal savior, but a military champion.

Today, the Church has done a 180. Everyone wants Christ's return to result in unity, world peace, social justice, human celebration. But, when Jesus returns, what will He be? Judge, Executioner, wrath, fire, divider. See *2 Thessalonians 1:6-9*

5. Read *Jeremiah 31:31-33* & *Ezekiel 36:25-27*. Based on these rich passages and the words of Jesus what is the heart of the Gospel? Radical, life-giving change, sanctification, and justification.

What is Not the Gospel? The goodies, power, self-esteem, psychological health, material blessing...