

SERMON OUTLINE John 3:17-18

There Is No Condemnation through Christmas

JESUS WASN'T SENT TO CONDEMN THE WORLD

Already Condemned

Condemned for What?

Condemned to What?

JESUS WAS SENT TO SAVE THE WORLD

SALVATION COMES THROUGH BELIEF

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The basic argument of our passage has three parts. First, God did not make Christmas to condemn the world. Second, God made Christmas to save the world. And third (once again), salvation comes through believing in Christmas. In other words, the good news of this passage, the good news of Christmas, is that Jesus came to end condemnation, not bring it and that salvation comes through Jesus' performance, not ours.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. When was the last time someone condemned you for something? How did you respond?
3. Have you ever thought or heard of someone who thought that God (especially the God of the OT) is mean and angry, while Jesus is kind and loving? Where do you think that idea comes from? How does John 3:17-18 address that?
4. Do you remember when you first heard that you were condemned by God? What did you think when you heard that?
5. Pastor Dave mentioned three things that we are not condemned for (doing things we didn't know were wrong, not being a descendant of Abraham, and not believing in Jesus). Do any of those surprise you?
6. Which of the verses on the sinfulness of mankind stands out to you the most? Is there any doubt in your mind that God's Word teaches that we are all born into sin and death? Why do you think people get so upset by this?
7. How would you explain the justice of hell to someone who didn't understand?
8. Can you name any specific ways that John 3:17-18 is (or should) shape your Christmas celebrations?
9. If you were to grade yourself on the godliness of your Christmas, what would it be? How might you "raise your grade"?
10. Why do you think God chose to save us through believing in Jesus?
11. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

12. Make a plan to celebrate Christmas for God's glory. Consider one thing you might add or take away to help.
13. Share the Christmas story with someone who does not believe.
14. Make a playlist with theologically rich and musically excellent Christmas music.
15. Decorate your home with things that point to specific attributes of God or elements of the gospel. Consider making some.
16. Commit to a simple Bible reading plan through Advent. Work slowly and prayerfully through it.
17. Participate as fully as possible in the Christmas events of Grace Church.
18. What is one specific thing you mean to do differently in the power of the Spirit as a result of the things you saw or heard in this text or sermon? How will you celebrate Christmas differently this year?

PRAYER POINTS

19. Adoration. Praise God for being gracious. Praise God for being generous. Praise God for being eternal. Praise God for being life. Praise God for being just. Praise God for being truth.
20. Confession. Confess any worldliness, selfishness, or indifference that creeps in around Christmas. Confess any unbelief.
21. Thanksgiving. Thank God for sending His only Son to be an example and die in your place. Thank God for rescuing you from destruction and bringing you eternal life. Thank God for Grace Church.
22. Supplication. Ask God to help the people in your life (including yourself) be sufficiently amazed by His grace to trust in and worship Him. Ask God to comfort the hurting especially during Advent.