

SERMON OUTLINE John 3:19-21

The Light of the World Has Come through Christmas

MARKS OF THE CONDEMNED (19-20)

Loves Darkness (19)

Hates Light (20)

MARKS OF THE SAVED (21)

Does What Is True

Comes to the Light

Seeks to Glorify God for Everything Good

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

In these final three verses John explains more fully the marks of condemnation and salvation in relation to Jesus, who is the light of the world. In particular, he explains that those who remain condemned are marked by love for the darkness and hate for the light. While, on the other hand, those who believe in Jesus and are saved are marked by doing what is true, coming to the light, and giving God the glory for everything good in them.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. Which of the three Advent sermons has been most impactful for you (the love of God driving Him to send Jesus to save, Christmas as a message of condemnation before it's a message of salvation and celebration, or the marks of condemnation and salvation)? What impact has it had? Are there any specific ways they have changed your Advent or Christmas?
3. Which mark of condemnation stands out to you the most (loving darkness or hating light)? Why does it stand out to you? Where have you seen it in yourself or in your family or friends? What do you do when you find it?
4. Had you ever thought of Christmas as being either a message of the best or worst news? Had you ever thought of celebrating it as comparable to celebrating your electrocution or terminal cancer diagnosis? How does this change things for you?
5. Which mark of salvation stands out (doing that which is true, coming to the light, or giving glory to God)?
6. Are you glad to have clear marks of condemnation and salvation? Why/not?
7. What would you do if your most sinful sin was exposed for all the world to see? What do you think about the fact that God always sees it, even if people don't?
8. Where have you found people calling evil, good and darkness, light? How do you respond to that?
9. What do you do when you have marks of both condemnation and salvation?
10. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

11. Make a plan to celebrate Christmas for God's glory. Consider one thing you might add or take away to help.
12. Share the Christmas story with someone who does not believe.
13. Make a playlist with theologically rich and musically excellent Christmas music.
14. Decorate your home with things that point to specific attributes of God or elements of the gospel. Consider making some.
15. Commit to a simple Bible reading plan through Advent. Work slowly and prayerfully through it.
16. Participate as fully as possible in the Christmas events of Grace Church.
17. 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

18. Adoration. Praise God for being perfect light. Praise God for being good, beautiful, and true.
19. Confession. Confess any sins of loving darkness or evil. Confess any marks of condemnation.
20. Thanksgiving. Thank God for Christmas, for loving the world, for providing a means of salvation and celebration.
21. Supplication. Ask God to convict sinners of their sin in order that they might turn to Jesus and be saved. Ask God to help us honor and glorify Him in everything we do this Christmas. Ask God to bring comfort to the hurting. Ask God to help us provide meals and fellowship to those in need this year.