

3/14/21

Scripture: John 3:1-3, 14-21

Title: "Whoever Believes in Jesus Should Not Perish"

Introduction: Are you getting tired of Lent, yet?

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." John 3:16

And this brings us to a Pharisee named Nicodemus, and a rabbi, who comes to Jesus under cover of darkness.



"He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." John 3:2

"If I tell you all of earthly things, like wind & water, & you don't get it, how will you be able to grasp heavenly things, like spirit and rebirth?" John 3:12

"And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." John 3:14-16



“And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.” John 3:19-21

These words don't have the same “warm fuzzy” feelings of that familiar verse that starts “God so loved the world...”

How God loves us:

- God loves us by lifting up his Son so we can believe in him. (verses 14-15)
- God loves us by sending his only Son to give us eternal life (verse 16)
- God loves us by saving us from our sin (verse 17) – not just our petty little everyday sins but from all our Sin with a capital S.
- God loves us by shining the light of Christ into the dark places in our lives, the places where we try to hide our sin (verses 19)
- God loves us by drawing us into the light, so that what we do is “done in God” (verse 21)

Why would God bother to love us in this way?

Conclusion: How are you like Nicodemus? What keeps you in the dark, and preventing you from turning toward the light? How do you try to keep your faith hidden, or separated from the other parts of your life?