

April 18, 2021
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
The GOSPEL // Episode 1 : For God So Loved
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John 3:16-21

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. ¹⁹This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

THE GOSPEL: In the Greek New Testament, *gospel* is the translation of the Greek noun *euangelion* (occurring 76 times) "good news," and the verb *euangelizo* (occurring 54 times), meaning "to bring or announce good news."

Essentials of the Gospel:

LOVE-JUDGEMENT OF SIN-GRACE THROUGH THE CROSS-REPENTANCE-SALVATION BY FAITH

Sin must be pardoned, and the impurity of the heart washed away, before any soul can possibly enter into the kingdom of God. As this new birth implies the renewing of the whole soul in righteousness and true holiness, it is not a matter that may be dispensed with: heaven is a place of holiness, and nothing but what is like itself can ever enter into it.

Who was Nicodemus? He was wealthy, politically powerful and connected, fearful; **a pure seeker.**

- **Jeremiah 29:13** *You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.*
- **Proverbs 8:17** *I love those who love me; and those who diligently seek me will find me.*
- **Matthew 7:7** *Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.*

BEING BORN AGAIN

"A transformed life is the greatest of all miracles. Every time a person is "born again" by repentance of sin and faith in Jesus Christ, the miracle of regeneration is performed."

- Billy Graham

Vs. 16 *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.* _____

Vs. 17 *For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.* _____

Vs. 18 *Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.* _____

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS:

1. Restate John 3:16 in your own words.
2. Are the essential elements of the Gospel in the correct order?
3. Gospel means good news. Do you live as if you have life giving good news to share with people?
4. What is the most effective way of sharing the Gospel?
5. How is God's version of love different that perhaps the world's version of love? Is there a difference?