

The Gospel of John

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Lesson #29

The Journey

Jim Hoffman

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The Gospel of John

John 3:19 “And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. **20** For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. **21** But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

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The Gospel of John

This truth, that when Light came into the world he was rejected for the most primitive of reasons – men loved their sin more than the Light. The Light that would offer eternal life and joy beyond measure was thought so little of that he was not considered worthy of being compared to their sin. This is the insidiousness of sin – its workings can be subtle and its deadly end predictable. Were it not for the grace of God no one would survive the onslaught of its tentacles.

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- **Judgment** – In this case, the word judgment is not a specific punishment like a plague, or a curse, but should be understood as a decision.
- The verdict has been handed down from the Judge – this Judge not only knew the verdict in advance, but he also confirmed his judgment by observation.
- Mankind has a love for the deeds of darkness and hate for the deeds of light and all who do them.

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- Chapter 3 has been about **who can go** to heaven, **who will go** to heaven, **who will be condemned** and **who will not** – now a new separator is introduced, **LIGHT**.
- John 1:9 **The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.**
- John 3:19 **And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.**

verdict

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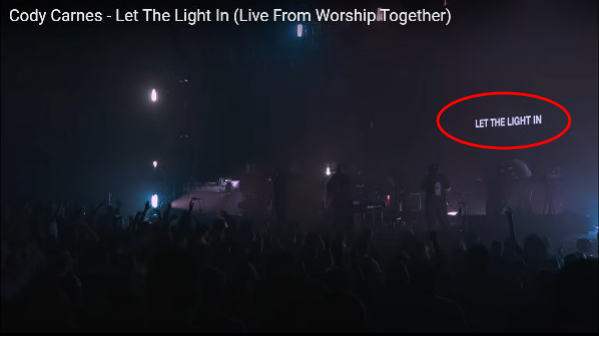
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The Gospel of John

- The sinner’s affinity for the darkness is why most crimes take place under the cover of darkness.
- Night clubs and bars are almost always dimly lighted because if the lights are dimmed then evil is more easily facilitated.
- It’s not that God cannot see in the dark places – it’s that sinners think he can’t see in dark places! 😊

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- We tend to get used to the dark like the proverbial “frog in the pot” that doesn’t feel the heat as it should because the temperature rises slowly over time.
- Light helps us to see things more clearly – without the light we receive from Jesus we do not see the world as it is, or for what it could be.
- A Christian world view is always superior to a secular one if for no other reason than we see better!

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- In a sense sinners seal, and seal, and seal their own fate by continuing to avoid the only one who could help them – they reject the Light of the world.
- **John 8:12** Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”
- It logically follows that if we follow in the steps of Jesus it is impossible to walk in darkness.

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• 1st John 1:5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

• The Greek word for fellowship in the above text has to do with "participation" – if we want Jesus to participate in our lives then we must avoid sin.

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• Must we avoid sin perfectly in order for Jesus to participate in our lives?

• I hope not or we are all going to be doing life alone if the standard is perfection – the standard is 1st John 1:9.

• 1st John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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1st John 1:9 is not about acquiring salvation – it is about maintaining fellowship with the Lord. If we want his participation in our lives, then we will keep a "short" account with him. If we do not want his participation, then we are not his!

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Giant Foods Tab	
Date	Amount Charged
April 19th	\$ 84.80
April 23rd	\$ 23.49
April 28th	\$ 101.11
May 1st	\$ 53.99
May 5th	\$ 26.67

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- **“For everyone who does wicked things hates the light”**
- So, the question is this – are men wicked because they hate the light, or do they hate the light because they are wicked?
- They hate the light because they are wicked but make no mistake about it – one feeds upon the other and the longer the wicked stay in the dark, the more wicked they become.

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“Christianity is a fairy story for those who are afraid of the dark”.
Atheist, Richard Dawkins

“Atheism is fairy story for those who are afraid of the light”.
Apologist, John Lennox

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- There is a parallel thought to inject here - just as the wicked become more wicked by staying in the dark, the righteous become more righteous by staying in the light.
- 2nd Corinthians 6:14 Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what **partnership** has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?
- The word that shows us what to avoid is “yoked” – if two oxen shared a yoke and each had different objectives, nothing good would get done.

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- Paul is not forbidding contact with the unbelievers – he is forbidding things like dating and business partnerships with the unbelieving.
- People who love darkness rather than light will not be a good fit for close nonfamilial relationships – you can pick your friends, but you are stuck with your relatives.
- You may have to work with unbelievers, but you ought not to go into business with them – you can **minister to** and serve anyone, but you can't **minister with** anyone.

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1st John 3:6 **No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning** has either seen him or known him. 7 Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. 8 **Whoever makes a practice of sinning** is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. 9 **No one born of God makes a practice of sinning**, for God's seed abides in him; and **he cannot keep on sinning**, because he has been born of God.

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Questions?

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