**JOHN 3 : 17-21 Going To The Doctor 8/16/2020**

**Ex.** **Men don’t like to go to the doctor,** because the doctor may have us do something that we think will restrict our freedom. Like the freedom to die prematurely and leave our wives and kids, and grandkids who desperately need us. I must keep this freedom! The freedom to eat anything living or dead that I can put BBQ sauce on. Freedom! Live fast; die young; make a good looking corpse! The freedom to second guess the entire medical community because they only want my money; and my freedom! If I were to go to the doctor I could get quite well for extra beneficial years with a few pills; but no! Freedom to live sick and die soon! “But my life belongs to me!” No, it belongs to the Lord,,,, knot head!

**Ex.** Coming to Christ to heal our sin problem is not a maintenance program for a longer, lesser, temporal life. When you come you will hear **the worst news** you have ever heard and **the best news** you have ever heard. Your condition can not be fixed with a pill here, and a procedure there. The situation is dire; beyond all repair! You have little time to live before you cross over into eternity! By any honest reckoning of time this life is super short! But the doctor has done something for you to save you. It gives life and vitality here and will carry you safely to the other side! He gives eternal life; not just a time thing, but a quality thing. You have to surrender your freedom to receive a better freedom. You have to be willing to die to an old self-focused life before you can live to the new eternal life that Jesus has spoken to Nicodemus about. A new life that is indescribable!

John 3:17-21 is the doctor’s evaluation of the patient’s condition .

**READ John 3: 17-21 \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**V. 17-18** Some believe they might get out of eternal death by pleading ignorance! To escape judgement on some legal technicality! No way,,, No how! Romans 1 makes it clear that all have enough knowledge of God to seek for more. But what good is giving more light to a person who rejects the light he has? If ignorance gives you a free ride to heaven then I have a better plan to get people there. A better plan to save people would be to keep as many people in the dark as possible concerning anything about Jesus, then in a few years no one would have heard of Jesus and they all get saved because they did not know enough to get saved. Do you think that will fly with God who allowed Jesus to be murdered on a cross to save people? Are you going to stand there, in broad daylight, and tell me that the God who fixed the stars in place and created all reality, cannot reach every soul he created? He has an **inside tract** to every heart! Nick responded to the light he had, he did not run away and forget it, and he received more! This has been the reality of all missionary endeavor ! The most unlikely people get saved in all walks of like across all religious backgrounds! You never know who gets saved and how the Lord worked it all out!

**V. 19-21** The ultimate evaluation by the doctor. “If they don’t come to me I can’t fix them!”

**V. 21** Used to puzzle me. Until I realized that someone who “practices the truth” is not a believer yet, but an honest person seeking the truth, no matter where it leads them. Many atheist, scientists, Pharisees, hookers, thieves, naturally pleasant people, the beautiful people, the disgusting people, city people, country, why even cowboys, have sought the truth and found it in Christ!

But still, what or who was working on him while he was lost to seek the truth and find Christ?

The work of the Holy Spirit : John 16:8 “And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness and judgement.”

You get drawn to the truth about your real condition but it does not stop there with the bad news, but then moves on to the good news about what can happen to you. The Holy Spirit “convicts” with a purpose to give you anew life. The devil “ condemns” and says to run away before you get exposed. He say to get exposed is terrible! But he is a liar!

Wuest translation: John 3: 21 “He who habitually does the truth comes and faces up to the light in order that his works might be clearly shown to have been produced by God.”

Someone simply needs to own up to their sin, be man enough, or woman enough to own your own sin. You find out later that God was the one helping you come to that place all along! It was **His work** in the process! The Holy Spirit convicts the lost world of their condition and their need, and now they are ready to receive the free gift of eternal life.

**Ex.** Night I was baptized. My close relative literal ran away right before I was baptized. I course I noticed! I ask him why? “I just felt so exposed; it was a terrible feeling!” I said, “ You simply did not stay long enough!”

I said, “You don’t get crushed by God at that moment, you get embraced!”

**Years later he got saved!**

Barbed wire fence, bondfire, 30 minutes, Comes back and get saved

(check time)

**Ex.** **Cornelius – Acts 10:1-4** Seeking God but a lost , honest man!

 **Acts 10: 34-35** “Does what is right” is not saved, but approaching salvation.

 **Acts 15: 15-18 (**John 3: 16 again) “Whosoever”

**Romans 6: 1- 8** The bad news and the good news all together!