



SERIES: November – December – Walking with Jesus

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Friday, 12/24/2021

Scripture: John 3:14-19

TITLE: Escape the darkness

I hate blowing a fuse. And I mean a literal fuse at the house. I hate it because it means I need to navigate the basement in the pitch black of night. And if you're like me, your basement is an obstacle course of legos, toys, and trip hazards. In other words, navigating the darkness is dangerous.

Too many Christians today try to navigate life in the dark. It's dangerous and frankly unnecessary for the follower of Christ. What do I mean by that? Listen to Jesus' words in John 3:14-19 (CSB).

“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Anyone who believes in him is not condemned, but anyone who does not believe is already condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God. This is the judgment: The light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil.”

You may be thinking, “What an odd passage for the weekend of Christmas.” But friend, this is what Christmas is all about. Jesus came to rescue sinners from their sins.

Jesus has been talking with Nicodemus about being reborn. And He then uses a familiar story of the Old Testament to point to both Jesus being the source of eternal life and the necessity of being lifted up. This was a foreshadowing of His crucifixion.

And how is this eternal life made possible? Jesus tells us in the familiar verse: John 3:16. “For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”

The Bible describes people as enemies of God. We were God's creation, but sin has tarnished our souls and our desires. Here we are described as condemned. We are condemned sin-criminals. But because God loved His creation, He took on flesh to rescue us. He did what we could never do. He offers us peace with God and eternal life.

How? Is it what we do for God? No. Is it what we do at church? Nope. Is it what we can do for charitable contributions at the end of the year? Nope. Jesus says, “everyone who believes in Jesus.”

Believe means to trust fully. It means to surrender your way, your sin, your desires, and trust Christ to be enough. Jesus said, "The light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil." The darkness is dangerous. But where there is light, there is safety and hope.

So here's my challenge for you today:

Choose to live in the light. If you're never believed in Jesus, do so. Life in the dark is dangerous for your physical life and a death sentence for your soul. So choose Jesus and His light.

If you're a follower of Jesus, how have you tried to navigate life back in the darkness without the light of Christ? We think we can sneak back in and not get hurt or caught. It doesn't work that way. Jesus Christ came so we might have the light of life.

So let's choose to live in the light.