



**SERIES: September 2022 – February 2023 Believe**

**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Monday, September 26, 2022**

**Scripture: John 3:18-19**

**TITLE: Live in the Light**

Years ago, my family was struggling financially. My wife had been on bed rest for over 4 months, and my income was not sufficient. The bills were behind. It was overwhelming. One day I was able to scrape together enough cash to go pay our electric bill. The clerk pulled up our account and informed me that the bill had been paid in full. No payment was necessary.

I walked away in shock but forever grateful for the grace. Jesus offers us something far greater than the payment of a bill, but many people reject that gift. Why?

Jesus has the answer for us in John 3:18-19.

*"Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. 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."*

In case you're here for the first time or don't remember, Jesus has been talking with a religious leader about salvation. Jesus has rocked the world of religion. Jesus said that salvation comes not by works or religion but through Himself alone. In verses, 16-17, Jesus says that God so loved the world that Jesus came to save the world and not condemn the world. Why?

Well, verse 18 tells us that the world stands condemned. By nature, they are already guilty in the court of life because of their sins. And if they do not receive Jesus' gift, in other words, believe in Jesus' power to pay for our sin, they remain judged.

But why would anyone reject such a gift? Verse 19 tells us that Jesus Christ – the light, has come into the world, but the world loved the darkness. They love their sin and themselves more than freedom from slavery and eternal judgment.

It sounds ridiculous, but it happens all the time. People know the coming payment for reckless spending, but they do it anyway. People know the coming health problems from smoking, overeating, and alcohol abuse, but they love the addiction more than the freedom.

Here's the tragedy of mankind. People who are far from God are not ignorant of God or Jesus' gift; they willingly reject Him and His scandalous offer. The light reveals their sin, brokenness, and their true need. This is why people avoid the doctor, dentist, or counselor. It reveals the truth.

But not you. That's why you are here.

So here's my challenge for you today: live in the light. Every Christian is tempted to go back to the darkness...even for a little while. But God rescued you from the darkness. It's dangerous in the dark. So, God's Word is a lamp for our lives. Let's engage, listen, and live by God's marvelous light.

If you're not a Christian, but you're tired of living in the darkness and racking up that sin debt, come to the light of Christ. Jesus Christ came so you might have life to the fullest. Believe in Him, and you will have peace with God today.

When you resist the darkness and engage the light, you will win the day!