

## Do You Love the Darkness or the Light?

*John 3:19-21*

**Thought for the Day:** Our conduct reveals whether we love the Lord and the things of God, or the world and the things of the world. Love for God and love for the world are mutually exclusive. (1 John 2:15-17)

Jesus has challenged Nicodemus with the idea that, in order to participate in the kingdom of God, he must be spiritually born again by the Holy Spirit (John 3:1-15). Spiritual rebirth takes place when we place our faith in Jesus Christ for salvation (John 3:16-18). We must decide: Will we choose to love the light, or will we choose to love the darkness?

### **19 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil.**

- Jesus, Himself, is the light, and His coming brought truth, the knowledge of God, and spiritual life into this dark world. (John 1:1-5, 9-13)
- Jesus knows the heart of all men, and He knows that people love the lies of this world and the pleasures of sin more than God. (John 2:24-25)
- Therefore, God is justified in condemning all who reject Jesus Christ and the light He offers. (Luke 8:4-15)
- "Jesus is **the light** who came **into the world**. He was the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. He died for the sins of all the world. But do men love Him for this? No, they resent Him. They prefer their sins to having Jesus as Savior, and so they reject Him. Just as some creeping things scurry away from the light, so wicked men flee from the presence of Christ." (*MacDonald, p. 1435*)

### **20 For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.**

- Here is the truth of the matter: People love evil and hate the light. (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12)
- "Unbelievers are not ignorant, but willfully reject the truth. Therefore everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed." (*John MacArthur*)
- "Those who love sin hate **the light**, because the light exposes their sinfulness. When Jesus was here in the world, sinful men were made uncomfortable by His presence because He revealed their awful condition by His own holiness. The best way to reveal the crookedness of one stick is to place a straight stick beside it. Coming into the world as a Perfect Man, the Lord Jesus revealed the crookedness of all other men, by comparison." (*MacDonald, p. 1435*)

### **21 But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been carried out in God."**

- If we love God, we will walk in the light. When we fail, forgiveness is available (1 John 1:5-10)
- "If a man is truly honest before God, he will come **to the light**, that is, the Lord Jesus, and realize his own utter worthlessness and sinfulness. Then he will trust the Savior for himself, and thus be born again through faith in Christ." (*MacDonald, p. 1435*)

- “Unbelievers hate the Light, knowing it will reveal their sin. As a result, they seal their own condemnation because they reject the only One who can save them from their spiritual darkness. The one who practices the truth, however, willingly comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God. Believers hate their sin and love righteousness. They have nothing to hide, and thus no reason to fear what the light will reveal.” *(MacArthur)*
- Walking in the light means walking in love and putting off the deeds of darkness. Walking in the light is doing that which is good, right and true, those things which are pleasing to God. (Ephesians 5:1-21)

If, as we examine ourselves before the Lord, we find areas of our lives where we love darkness rather than light, we need to confess and repent. And when we do, we will be restored to fellowship with the light. (1 John 1:9)