

BRIDGING THE GAP

JOHN 3:16

INTRODUCTION:

1. **JOHN 3:16:** “*God so loved the world that...we should not perish but have everlasting life.*” Eternal life is offered by love.
2. The death of Christ is what made it possible for God to bridge the gap between Him and humanity.

I. A SCENE

- A. The scene begins at a place called “Golgotha.” (John 19.17)
- B. Consider the scene at Golgotha.
 3. Their charge: “*King of the Jews.*” (John 19.21)
 4. He asked God to forgive them. (Luke 23.34)

II. A SEPARATION

- A. Who is God?
 1. God is transcendent. (Ps. 145.3; Rev. 4.8)
 2. God is all-knowing. (Ps. 147.5; Heb. 4.13)
 3. God is pure. (Ps. 111.9; Isa. 57.15; 59.2)
- B. Who is man? (Ps. 51.1,2)
 1. Man is a sinner. (1 John 3.4)
 2. Man is a transgressor. (Heb. 3.15-18)
 3. Man has iniquities. (1 Cor. 13.6; 2 Pet. 2.20-22)

III. A SOLUTION

- A. Jesus endured the punishment for our sins.
 1. **2 CORINTHIANS 5.21:** “*For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us...*”
 2. **ISAIAH 53.5:** “*The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes, we are healed.*”
- B. Jesus chose to suffer on our behalf.
 1. **1 PETER 2.24:** “*who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree...*”
 2. **JOHN 10.18:** “*No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself.*”

CONCLUSION: Is Jesus asking too much from us?

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

NOVEMBER 13, 2022

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“*Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature*”

-Mark 16.15

November 13, 2022

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

LOVE DOES NO HARM

To the Romans, Paul taught that the entirety of the law of God can be fulfilled by only making one attribute a part of our lives. **ROMANS 13.8,9:** “*...for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments...are all summed up in this one saying, namely, ‘you shall love your neighbor as yourself’*”

Why is love all we need? The reason given is this: “*Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law*” (Rom. 13.10). Loving our neighbor, our spouse, our children, our brethren, our enemy, is not as easy as it sounds.

To love one another is not defined as most think of it. Love does not mean that we are affectionate but that we desire what is best for them. Love does not mean that we withhold that which may cause another pain, for not all pain is harmful. Would a parent refrain from spanking a child because she loves him too much to hurt him? The punishment is performed to benefit the child (Prov. 23.14). Would a brother in Christ refuse to correct another who is in sin because he does not want to hurt his feelings (James 5.19,20)? Loving one another is not always easy. In many cases it can be the most difficult thing to do.

Indeed, love does no harm. When love is a choice and a call to action, we will do what we can, however unpleasant, to show love to those who need it. CLP

IS SALVATION UNCONDITIONAL?

ROMANS 10:13

INTRODUCTION:

1. Calvinism teaches the doctrine of unconditional election and predestination. Has God decided beforehand who will be saved?
2. Does the Bible attach conditions to salvation?

I. CONDITION #1: GRACE

- A. **ACTS 15.11:** *“through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they.”*
- B. What is the grace of God?
 1. It is the mercy, love, and kindness of God. (Eph. 2.4-7)
 2. **EPHESIANS 2.8:** *“For by grace you have been saved”*

II. CONDITION #2: JESUS

- A. **JOHN 10.8-10:** *“I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.”*
- B. To be saved, you must be in Jesus.
 1. **JOHN 14.6:** *“No one comes to the Father except through Me.”*
 2. **EPHESIANS 2.18:** *“For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.”*

III. CONDITION #3: PREACH

- A. **ACTS 11.,13,14:** *“who will tell you words by which you and all your household will be saved.”*
- B. To be saved, the gospel needs to be preached.
 1. The message centers around Jesus. (Acts 10.36)
 2. The message produces faith. (Acts 10.43).

IV. CONDITION #4: CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD

- A. **ACTS 2.21:** *“whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved.”* How? (Acts 2.36-28)
- B. How do you call on the name of the Lord? (Rom. 10.13)
 1. Believe in Jesus and confess His name. (Rom. 10.9,10)
 2. Hear the gospel. (Rom. 10.14)

V. CONDITION #5: REMAIN FAITHFUL

- A. **MATTHEW 10.22:** *“he who endures to the end will be saved.”*
- B. Endure (hupomeno): To remain under the pressure.

CONCLUSION: To evangelize, we must emphasize all conditions. Have you met the condition of salvation?

VOMIT AND MUD

The devil does his best to make the world as appealing as possible. In fact, the things of the world are enjoying and pleasurable. If they were not enjoyable, there would not be any temptation. James tells us that *“each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed”* (James 1.14). The world is enticing and desirable. Even Jesus warns us about the *“pleasures of life”* which can choke out the word (Luke 8.14).

The context of 2 Peter 2.18 and following addresses those who have departed from the faith and have gone back into the world. They were being persuaded by those who *“speak great swelling words of emptiness”* (2 Pet. 2.18). These individuals were persuading Christians to return to the world in two ways.

First, they appealing to them by using the *“lusts of the flesh”* (2 Pet. 2.18). They were painting the world as a wonderful and desirable place that we ought to enjoy. Two thousand years later, the devil is still appealing to us through the lusts of the flesh.

Second, they were describing the world as a place of freedom. The text goes on to say that *“they promise them liberty”* (2 Pet. 2.19). The appeal of the world is the freedom from restrictions. The people of the world live without rules. How many times have we heard someone turn down the invitation of the gospel because they did not want to give up their sinful behaviors?

In this same passage, we also find how God sees the world. The way of the world may seem to be place of pleasure and freedom, but watch how the world is described in reality. 2 Peter 2.18 uses the word *“lewdness”* and *“error.”* Those who have obeyed the gospel are not described as imprisoned but as those who have *“escaped.”* The Holy Spirit refers to those who are in the world as being *“slaves of corruption,”* *“overcome”* and *“brought into bondage”* (2 Pet. 2.19; cf. John 8.34).

Christians who have *“escaped the pollutions of the world”* and then return to the world are compared to a dog who *“returns to his own vomit,”* and a pig who returns *“to her wallowing in the mire”* (2 Pet. 2.22).

The desires for the things of the world can be hard to resist. On the surface, the world has great appeal. But when we see the world as it really is, a place of corruption and bondage, it should help us to say “no” to ourselves and set our minds on the things above (Col. 3.1,2). The apostle John said, *“do not love the world or the things that are in the world”* (1 John 2.15). When we see the world the way God sees it -- as nothing but vomit and mud -- then it will cause us to recoil.

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