



Prayers Anchored in the Gospel of John

John 3:16-21

Monday, February 24, 2014

* Merciful Lord, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

* The Collect

Collecting your thoughts so you can focus on God.

Book of Alternative Services, p.353

www.anglican.ca/resources/liturgicaltextsonline/

John 3:16-21 (NIV)

- * ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
- * ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.
- * ¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

- * This is a time when you will want to understand the passage and the original intent of the author.
- * Since this week's passage includes perhaps one of the most famous verses from the Bible, take time to read the entire passage. Take note of the context of these verses.
- * Write down any of your thoughts and questions.



* Meditation

1. What do we learn from this passage about God's love? “John's Gospel does not offer the world a superficial idea of the love of God in salvation. The verbs for ‘loved’ (*egapesen*) and ‘gave’ (*edoken*) here express the genuine self-giving nature of God in having sent (*apesteilen*) his ‘only Son’ ...on an unrepeatable mission into the world (3:16; cf. 1:14,18).” (Gerald L. Borchert, *John 1-11: The New American Commentary*, vol. 25a, p.183)

2. What does it mean to believe in Jesus, God's Son? “To believe that Jesus is the Son of Man from heaven and that his revelation of God is true gives one *eternal life*, that is, a share in God's own life (3:15).” (R. Whitacre, IVP NT Commentary, <http://www.biblegateway.com/resources/ivp-nt/Glory-Is-Revealed-Jerusalem-Signs/>)

3. How does God both offer salvation and judgment? “Since salvation is found in the Son (v.15), and so through faith's acknowledgement of the Revealer and his redemption (v.16), the coming of the Son for *salvation* can be turned into the occasion of *judgment*, and that possibility is present for all who hear the gospel (v.18). ...The Redeemer has come into the world as Light... But before that Light men separate themselves; they either approach it or move away from it.” (G. Beasley-Murray, *Word Biblical Commentary*, p.51)

 **Meditation**

Love Revealed

“God’s purpose in sending ...his only Son...was not to destroy the world or humanity. God is not angry and self-centered... God is a caring God. Loving-kindness (*hesed*) is a principal characteristic of the God of the covenant. (Gerald L. Borchert, *John 1-11: The New American Commentary*, vol. 25a, 184)

“[Another] lesson is at the heart of this passage—indeed, of the whole Gospel. ...If we are to be saved God must take the initiative, and he *has* taken the initiative, for he has sent his Son. In the Son we see heaven opened and the heart of God, which is love, revealed.

(R. Whitacre, IVP NT Commentary, <http://www.biblegateway.com/resources/ivp-nt/Glory-Is-Revealed-Jerusalem-Signs/>)

 **Meditation**

Living God,
help us so to hear your Word
that we may truly understand;
that, understanding, we may believe;
and believing,
we may follow your way in all faithfulness,
seeking your honor and glory in all that we do.
Amen.

http://www.browndowntown.org/files/Liturgist_Resources.pdf

 **Response**



* Jesus came so that we could receive Him and open ourselves to have many conversations with Him. Take a few minutes to receive the presence of Jesus into your whole day. Ask Jesus to walk with you through each coming event.

* Prayer



Book of Alternative Services, p.682
www.anglican.ca/resources/liturgicaltextsonline/

* Let us join in prayer for those suffering from addiction:
“O blessed Jesus, you ministered to all who came to you. Look with compassion upon all who through addiction have lost their health and freedom. Restore to them the assurance of your unfailing mercy; remove the fears that attack them; strengthen them in the work of their recovery; and to those who care for them, give patient understanding and persevering love; for your mercy’s sake.
Amen.”

* **Prayer**

The **love** of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself;
The **power** of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in
his service;
The **joy** of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;
And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
Be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Copyright © 2014 Better Gatherings. Used with permission.

 **Blessing**