

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE HEART OF GOD

RLJ-1717

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YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN

“God loves you!” This is a common thing for a Christian sharing the gospel to convey and John 3:16 is used to reinforce this statement.

Imagine that someone approached you and began to speak about your upcoming surgery and how it would change your life. *What surgery you would ask? I'm not sick; I don't need to go under the knife!* This is a common mistake Christians make in witnessing because they fail to adequately explain God's position and why every human being must be born again.

Nicodemus came to Jesus and was hit with a dose of surprising truth that left him with more questions than answers. **John 3:1-9**

Nicodemus did not comprehend that God – incarnated in the flesh and standing in front of him – was sharing a great spiritual truth with him. **verses 10-15**

GOD LOVES HUMANITY

Jesus spoke about God the Father's great love for humanity and reiterated the part about not perishing. **verse 16**

Jesus continued to elaborate how God the Father had sent Him to pay for the sins of humanity. **verse 17**

Anyone who is not born again will perish in the Lake of Fire. Why? Because they rejected Son of God and were not born again. **verse 18**

“Light” is an attribute used to describe God. **John 1:1-13**

The contamination of sin makes humanity naturally evil. **verses 19-21**

THE HEART OF GOD

People in the Old Testament were not saved by the animal sacrifices they offered to the Lord. It was their faith in God, belief in the coming Messiah, and repentance from sin that saved them.

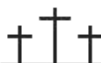
Today we look back to cross 2,000 years ago and the work Jesus did when He paid for the sins of Adam and Eve and everyone else that followed.

The apostle Peter tried to convey an urgency that time does not stand still and waits for no one. It is up to us to use our time wisely. **2 Peter 3:8**

God the Father doesn't want us to become disheartened or impatient when it comes to His promises. **verse 9a**

God is extremely patient with humanity, working with our inconsistent nature, being tolerant with our self-absorbed lives, and never giving up on us. **verse 9b**

God does not want anyone to end up in the Lake of Fire. **verse 9c**



It is God's desire that every human being repents. **verse 9d**

The second return of Jesus will come quickly. **verse 10**

1. The people weren't prepared for the cataclysmic events that followed Noah's flood. **Luke 17:26-27**
2. The people of Sodom and Gomorrah were also blissfully ignorant of the impending judgment. **verses 28-29**

PEOPLE OF NINEVEH

The people of Nineveh were wicked. **Jonah 1:1-2**

The city of Nineveh was so large that it took three days to travel from one side of the city to the other. The inhabitants heeded God's call to repentance and they are awaiting us in heaven. **Jonah 3:1-10**

Was the outcome of their action any different than what God promised King Solomon?

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14)

We find God's nature is consistent down through the ages. **Psalms 103:8-18**

Jonah was a prophet of God but he had the wrong attitude. **Jonah 4:1-4**

God was simply waiting for the people of Nineveh to repent. **verses 11; Acts 10:34-35**

SUMMARY

It might seem like we have a lot of free time, but do we really? **2 Peter 3:11-13**

God's love for humanity is what prompted Him to send Jonah with a message of repentance to the people of Nineveh. While Jonah was a prophet of God, he did not want to deliver the message given to him by the Lord. He was resigned to speaking God's truth after being swallowed by a great fish, but his poor attitude surfaced when the Ninevites repented and escaped God's judgment.

It was God the Father who sent His only begotten Son.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

God the Father desires to spend eternity with humanity in heaven.

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9)

This is the heart of God.