

The Reason for the Fighting

International Bible Lesson

John 3:11-21

Sunday, March 25, 2012

“But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God” (John 3:21—KJV).

“But those who do what is true come to the light in order that the light may show that what they did was in obedience to God” (John 3:21—GNB).

“But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God” (John 3:21—NRSV).

God maintains the highest moral standards called holiness; which means, God always acts according to the perfect law of love. When we evaluate how we have treated God, others, and ourselves, we know that we have failed to love perfectly. To help us, God sent His only Son into the world, an expression of God’s perfect love, not to condemn the world, “but in order that the world might be saved through him” (John 3:17). Jesus Christ came into the world as the light (the truth) that the world needs so people can do what is right, loving, and true. Jesus said that the deeds of those who do what is true have been done in God; therefore, when those who do what is true come into the light, people have an opportunity to see God working through them in their achievements.

The Bible also teaches that some people hate the light and love the darkness because their deeds are evil (John 3:19-20). Great conflicts can arise between those who hate the light (because they want to do evil) and those who let the light of God shine forth through their deeds. The Bible teaches that this conflict between those who do evil and those who do what is true will continue until Jesus Christ returns as He promised. Until then, believers in Jesus Christ can pray, speak, and act according to the Scriptures. Then, perhaps those who hate the light will come to understand the truth, learn to love the truth, and come into the light that they might be saved from darkness. — © Copyright 2012 L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

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Thinking Further

1. What types of things could or would Jesus have seen that He could testify to having seen (give evidence to having seen) that He knew the religious leaders and probably many people would not receive?

2. Explain what Jesus meant when He said the Son of Man had descended from heaven?

3. Why do you think Jesus compared the serpent that Moses lifted up to the Son of Man being lifted up?

4. How can a person have eternal life? What does having eternal life mean to you?

5. Why do you think some people think Jesus Christ came to condemn the world rather than save the world?

Read the verse by verse commentary on this lesson at the BibleLessonForum.com. See the recommended study and worship resources at SmallChurchResources.com.