

February 10, 2021

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. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. John 3:16, 17 NIV.

Here is the entire gospel in two verses. God is love. He sent His son to save, not condemn. To expand on this beautiful truth, consider this interaction between the Pharisees and Jesus found in the 8th chapter of John.

“Who are you?” they asked.

“Just what I have been telling you from the beginning,” Jesus replied. “I have much to say in judgment of you. But he who sent me is trustworthy, and what I have heard from him I tell the world.”

Jesus is essentially telling the Pharisees that there is a lot He could say against them, but He is only going to say what His Father tells Him to say. If even Jesus, the Son of God, understood that judgment was **not his purpose**; shouldn't Christians also understand that it not our purpose either?

17th century Bible Scholar, Matthew Henry, makes this observation about Jesus' response in John 8: “He [Jesus] suppresses His accusation of them. He had **many things** to charge them with, and many evidences to produce against them; but for the present He had said enough... Let us learn hence not to be forward to say all we can say, even against the worst of men; we may have many things to say, by way of censure, which yet it is better to leave **unsaid**, for what is it to us?”¹

Jesus explicitly warns us not to judge. *Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Matthew 7:1,2 NIV*

It is such good news, that Jesus came to save and not condemn. It is such good news that our salvation depends only on our belief in the Son of Man. The first angel's message of Revelation 14:7, that warns of the coming judgment, does so that humanity can make the choice for Jesus. *Fear God and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come, So can take hold of Jesus and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water. Revelation 14:7 NIV.*

That's good news! Let's not waste our time calling out, and battling, the sin that abounds around us. Instead, let's lift up the saving power of Jesus to all who would hear and accept him. Let's reflect the mercy and grace of our Savior onto the world around us.

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8 ESV.

This devotional was written by Ramona G. Thompson

¹ Matthew Henry Bible Commentary, John 8