Man’s Only Opportunity

John 3:17-21

Introduction: I hear folks often make the remark “there is no opportunity around here.” When we speak of jobs, education, retirement, communities and many similar examples we can truthfully say opportunity varies from place to place. Depending upon what end result you are looking for will determine where you must look. What I just described was worldly opportunity and we all work with it every day. Christians have to function and live in the world, but we are not to be of the world. Those are two very different things. Spiritual opportunity is something very different. According to the Bible, we have a mortal life on this earth and we have an immortal (eternal) life beyond this earth (after death). In this discussion with Nicodemas Jesus began by telling Nicodemas he must be born again, by both water and spirit. As I reflected on that I realized there is one opportunity for birth and there is one opportunity for re-birth. This message has us looking at “Man’s Only Opportunity” for re-birth, or being born again. Spiritual opportunity is not like worldly opportunity, you do not find it in various places or in various degrees. To understand the phrase “Man’s Only Opportunity” you must understand the answer to three questions. Those questions and their answers are my message today. So give your heart and head to the Holy Spirit as we consider “Man’s Only Opportunity.” Notice with me…

# Why did Jesus come? V.17

Is better answered by first asking “what did Jesus not come to do?”

Jesus did not come to condemn (man was condemned already). This is Jesus the messiah, the deliverer, aka “The Lamb of God.” Jesus the King is soon to come, as Judge, aka “The Lion of the Tribe of Judah.”

Which Jesus will you meet? Jesus the Messiah, or, Jesus the Judge?

Jesus came that it might be saved (might be, not must be) the phrase “might be saved” is one Greek word that refers to the opportunity for rescue or protection.

The word “sent” translates the Greek ap-os-tel'-lo; from which we also get our word apostle. In the simplest term, Jesus came to give the message of redemption and personally provide that redemption by His blood. He is the messenger and the mediator.

# Who does Jesus condemn? V.v.18-19

The short answer is; everyone and no one!

## Redemption from Judgment.

## Reality of Judgment

## Reason for Judgment

This is the “Law of Cause and Effect” illustrated through eternal security. The “Law of Cause and Effect” tells us that every action has a reaction or consequence. (Rom 5:18) Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. (Rom 8:1) There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

# What does it all mean? V.v. 20-21

The Bible tells us Jesus is light in a dark world. The world is dark because of evil. Notice the word evil. Jesus doesn’t say sin, He plainly and simply calls it what it is, evil. Man cannot love both evil and holiness.

The born again remember when they stepped out of darkness into His light. Responding to the call of Jesus requires us to come face to face with the evil that is in our lives. That’s right our deeds that we thought we had hidden and locked away in a secret place are brought out to be confessed; then we experience redemption! What a blessing, redemption! What once was dark and lonely and scary is now revealed and forgiven by the blood of Jesus.

Conclusion: Jesus came to save the world. That should make everyone hearing this, sit up and take notice. I hope this message stirred you, as much as it did me. Not because I am hiding gross sin but because I have been redeemed from a condemnation that was passed along to me. Not because I didn’t deserve it, I did, and so do you. God loves us enough to send His Son Jesus and if you know Jesus as your Lord and savior today you too know from experience what I am talking about, therefore knowing Jesus should really stir you up. Man’s Only Opportunity for eternal life comes from Jesus Christ, have you been called to this Opportunity. Maybe today is the day for you to answer the Lord’s call to come to Him? Maybe you realize you need to come say thank you Jesus! If God is dealing with your heart will you come.