

# The Righteous Come to the Light

Nigeria, 2019

It's good to be back here today to speak of the glory of God. Speaking of the glory of God is the greatest thing we can do. This is what we were created for, to praise the living God. The more we understand who that God is through how He has been revealed through His word, the greater ability we have to praise Him, to praise Him in spirit and in truth. The last two nights I have been talking about the meaning of John 3:16, by putting it into the context that Christ gave it to us. The context is Him speaking to Nicodemus and He's telling Nicodemus, who is a ruling Pharisee in Israel, that he doesn't know basic things about God. He doesn't know that you must be born again. Only if you are born of the Spirit can you see the kingdom of God and the way you are born in the Spirit is how the Holy Spirit works. The Holy Spirit is like the wind, blowing where it wills. We cannot control the wind and we cannot control the Holy Spirit and that is how everyone is who is born of the Spirit. It is because the Spirit chose to save them because they were elected from before the foundation of the earth. Then He goes on and asks Nicodemus, 'Why don't you know these things?' God said that every Christian is to be a prophet, every Christian is to be able to declare who God is and He says, 'Look at the world, the world testifies that you must be born again.' That's why there is birth in the first place and in that context He comes to John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." One of the ways this verse is taken is to twist the word 'world'. The 'world' means 'the world', it does not mean 'people'. We are part of the world, we are not the world and most people take John 3:16 and say that God so loved people that He sent His only begotten Son. That's not what He is saying, the word there is 'cosmos', a Greek word that means 'the created order'. To understand what He is saying here you have to go back to Genesis 1:31, it's at the end of creation, "Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day." God loved the way He created the world, He loved that there was no death, He loved that there was no sin, He loved that there was no stealing, no murder, no adultery. He loved the way that He made creation because it all testified of Him. He loved the way that He made man and woman because they were made in the image of God. He looked at the stars and the moon and the sun and He said, 'This is lovely'. And then men sinned and this thing that was lovely became filled with death. What reflected the goodness and kindness of God now reflected the evilness of Satan. This perfect image He made of man and woman became twisted and was no longer the perfect image of God. That's what it means that God so loved the world. The first Adam came and ruined it so He sent the second Adam to fix it. He sent the second Adam to fix the world, not just to fix men. The first Adam sinned and brought death and destruction into the world, the second Adam came to bring life. He came to bring life back into a dead world. God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son. He sent Him to restore the world. Romans 8:18-19, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God." Understand what Paul is

saying, he is saying all creation is waiting to see those who will be saved because the last one who is saved, the last son of God who will be revealed, Jesus Christ will come back and restore creation. Verse 20, "For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope." Creation is subject to futility, it's purpose was to glorify God and since God put Adam in charge of the world, when Adam sinned, it changed everything. Where the world, where creation had a purpose, it's now become futile. Not without hope because Him who subjected it in hope. God said if you eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, then death will reign in the world, but God didn't have death reign in the world for no purpose. In 8:28, it says God does everything good. The restoration of creation will be greater than the creation at first. Creation understands this, when Jesus Christ said, 'If you don't glorify Me, the rocks will cry out', Christ had subjected it to futility where it had a significant purpose, it's purpose was to glorify God. God had twisted it through Adam's sin so He could subject it in hope, the hope of Jesus Christ. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. Verse 21, "Because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God." God caused sin to reign in the world so that He could glorify Himself even more by showing how He can restore all of creation through His Son. Revelation 21:1, "Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea." This is John speaking. When Jesus Christ comes back, He restores the world, He restores the world so it's better than it was at the time of creation. When Jesus Christ taught His disciples to pray, He taught them 'Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.' That was a prayer of a righteous man, that's been the prayer of the church for generations. There have been many fervent, effective prayers of that prayer. Christ is teaching here that God hears My prayers, He answers the prayers of righteous men, those who are in His name that are aligned with His will, and He says pray that God's will be done on earth. In one way God's will is always done because it says in Daniel 4, who can resist His will? No one can resist the will of God, but He doesn't just say 'God's will be done', He says, 'That it may be done on earth as it is in heaven.' In heaven, people don't sin, there is no death. This prayer is the prayer of saints of every generation. I guarantee that God is going to fulfill the prayer that Jesus Christ said to pray. He's not just come to save some people, He came to restore creation to the point that no one will ever sin again. This promise will be fulfilled, God's will will be done on earth. We tend to make Christ's coming too small, we make it about man and man is an important part of creation, but in Jonah He says He loves the cattle too. It's not just about man. We need to make sure we get over our pride, God didn't send Jesus Christ just for men, He sent Jesus Christ for He so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:20-22, "But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive." Animals die now, they die because of Adam's sin, and they will live forever because of Christ's righteousness. Everything died because of Adam and everything will be made new and alive through Christ. Then Paul goes on to say in verse 23-24, "Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees?" You don't need authority and power unless there is sin because He put authorities, He put civil authority in, He

put elders in authority because there is sin. The law was given because of iniquities. When corruption is put away, when sin is put away, those things aren't needed anymore. When God the Father and Christ are our sun and moon so we all walk by the light of God, all authority and power will be put away. When God recreates the world, He judged the world once by water in Noah's flood and after Noah's flood the world was remade. The ocean's exist because of Noah's flood because the ground broke up and the water poured out. He promised He would never judge the world with water again, but He will judge it with fire. The picture of being judged with fire is that you remove everything that offends. He will purge it, He won't make it disappear and heaven and earth will become one for God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son. Don't make Christ's sacrifice small and we can make it small by thinking it's just about this age. He says whoever shall believe in Him shall have everlasting life. The reason we suffer in this life is for everlasting life, it's for when Christ will recreate the world. That creation that was in bondage and groaning will be set free through Christ and people will have everlasting life. It's so easy to make the profession of Christ about this life, about being part of a community, being part of a church, but Paul says if that's what you do then you are the most pitiable of man. 1 Corinthians 15:32, "If, in the manner of men, I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantage is it to me? If the dead do not rise, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!" If it's not about the recreation of the world, then it doesn't matter what you do, you might as well eat what you want, drink what you want, abuse people, it doesn't matter, but Jesus Christ was sent to recreate the world and there will be those that have a part in that world and there will be those that are cast into eternal damnation. I'm not here because I want to eat and drink, no offense to your food, but I like American food better, I like my roads and air conditioning better than Nigeria, but I'm here because of your eternal life, because I want you to have eternal life. That's why Paul was in Ephesus, because he wanted people to have eternal life. In Ephesus he was preaching to the people that were positive were saved, they were positive that they were right with God because they were children of God and Paul goes to them and wrestles with them and was almost killed by them. He says, why do I do this? Because there is eternal life. Make your calling and election sure, work out your salvation with fear and trembling because God is going to cast out all who offend and if you make God small, if you make God just about saving some people instead of saving all of creation, be fearful that you don't believe in the true God because God is going to reverse all sin. All rebellion against Him will cease and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven. John 3:17, "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." He's perfectly clear about what He is saying, He is saying He came to save the world, not just men or condemn. His condemnation through Adam's sin affects everything and He sent His only begotten Son because He loved the world, He loved His created order and He wanted to restore it to something even better when He said it was good. Death surrounds us, pain and suffering surrounds us, and Christ came to wipe all that away. Not just after He returns, even before He returns that is the effect of the church in the world. It says in Psalm 110, Jesus Christ must reign until He puts all His enemies under His footstool. Everything that rebels is an enemy of God, all of it is rebellion and an enemy of God, but the church comes in and starts this leavening effect in the world so sin gets constrained. You think sin is bad in Plateau state now, but without reading any history, I can guarantee without a doubt, that it was worse here before the gospel came. Even with all the sin here, the shining light of the gospel always causes darkness to flee,

it always makes things better, it's the promise that the increase of His government will have no end, and the increase of His peace will have no end. Isaiah 65:17-19, "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; For behold, I create Jerusalem as a rejoicing, And her people a joy. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, And joy in My people; The voice of weeping shall no longer be heard in her, Nor the voice of crying." That sounds like when heaven and earth are made one, but it's not. Verse 20, "No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, Nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; For the child shall die one hundred years old, But the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed." When Jesus Christ comes in the second coming, when He removes all corruption, when He casts into hell all things that offend and those that practice lawlessness, what no longer exists after that point? Death, because He comes to defeat the last enemy which is death. So when it says a child will die at one hundred, it's not talking about after the second coming of Christ, it's talking about the effect of the church in the world before that. Just to prove the point again, it says a sinner being a hundred years old will be accursed, what else won't be there when there is no corruption? There will be no sinners when heaven and earth are made one. After the bride of Christ ascends from heaven like a city, there will be no sin. Don't make the sacrifice of Jesus Christ small. The leaven is spreading through the world, the leaven that He said is the kingdom of God that would be hidden in three measures of meal and would spread through the whole meal. A hundred years ago it spread to the Plateau state, but it still has a lot of work to do here. Don't be hopeless because there are promises that God's gospel will cure the world, His enemies will be defeated. Trust in the church of Jesus Christ because she will be successful because she has the power of God in the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ before He ascended said, 'I will give you power', and that power will conquer the enemies of Jesus Christ except for death and then Jesus Christ will return. The last enemy defeated is death, it's in 1 Corinthians 15. Understand what God does when He comes. In Matthew 13, he talks about how God caused the gospel to go in the world in a parable, it was like seeds being scattered and then weeds came up among the wheat and He explains to His disciples what this means. Starting in verse 37, "He answered and said to them: "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man." The testimony of the gospel was there in the beginning of creation. The things I have been talking about, father and son, husband and wife, Adam was there at the beginning of creation. But then something happened, verses 38-39, "The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels." The farmer says not to pull the tares, we will pull them in and separate them at the time of harvest, we will separate the tare from the wheat and he will take out the things that are useless. Verses 40-41, "Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness." Other things offend God, not just men, and all that will be destroyed. Men will be destroyed too, not like they will disappear and be no more, but destroyed in the sense that they will be cast into the lake of fire. They will be burned with fire for eternity, they will be in utter darkness so they can't see anything to know where the fire comes from and they will scream in pain for eternity and they won't even hear their own scream. That's what God does to those who practice lawlessness. Check your soul. Where are you with God? It's about eternal life, not the life that's on this earth. God sent

His only begotten Son because the world was condemned and that through Him the world could be saved. John 3:18, "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." The Spirit blows where it will, God shows mercy to whom He shows mercy. This is the greatest testimony to His glory, that God will show mercy to whom He shows mercy. It is by God's will that you are saved, it is not by your will, but God's who shows mercy. You are already condemned, because of your sin, to eternal hell, but if you believe in Him, if you look to the cross of Christ, you can be saved. All will be condemned who do not believe in the name of God for there is no other name in heaven by which you can be saved. Verse 19, "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." Do you love darkness more than light? Do you want to hide what you do? Do you want no one to find out your sin? Jesus Christ came to the Jews and they all saw their sinfulness because of Christ so they despised Him. Have you seen Christ? If you've seen Christ you see your own sin and you can do two things with that. He's not physically here so you can't kill Him, but you can twist Him and make Him different from the God I am describing. You can make Him a God that's just begging people to come to Him or you can see Him as the God that does what He wants, the God who didn't just come to save men, but came to save the whole world. Are you like the Jews or are you like the apostles? The Jews hated Christ, all the Jews except a very small remnant hated Christ because men love darkness rather than light. Do you love darkness? Do you want your sin to be hidden? If you love darkness, if you want to hide your sin, be afraid that you don't live the light because Christ is the light. The Jews were sure they were saved, they were sure that they were the sons of God, but they loved darkness not light. Do you want to know who Christ is? Do you read His word where He has revealed or do you love darkness? Do you not want your evil deeds to be exposed? Verse 20, "For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed." Don't deceive yourself, please don't deceive yourself. If you love to practice evil, you hate the light and God is light. There is not darkness in Him, God ordered the world so we could understand that He is light, how He exposes all things. When Jesus Christ came to the Jews, they all saw their sin so they wanted to kill Him. If He was here, if He was standing in our presence, when He was demonstrating the holiness of God, causing the lame to walk, causing the blind to see, having people rise up in hatred against Him and then responding in love instead of hatred, would you want to kill Him? Don't lie to yourself. If He looked at you and spoke of all your sins, would you want to kill Him? Matthew 23:29-31, "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, and say, 'If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.' "Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets." What Jesus Christ is saying as He is talking to these men who say they love Elisha, Daniel, Isaiah. These people who the fake believers despised, Zechariah who they killed. They are saying they respect Zechariah and Jesus Christ is saying if he was there, they would murder him because they were the sons of those who murdered him. Are you the sons of the people who murdered Christ? If He was standing here revealing all your sin, would you love Him for it or would you hate Him for it? Christians want the light, the sons of Satan want the darkness. John 3:20, "For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed."

Everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light lest his deeds should be exposed. Do you want to be cleansed of your sin or do you want to say you're going to keep your sin and love Christ? Those who say they want to keep their sin but they love Christ, their fathers are the ones who killed Christ. Do you love the light? Jesus Christ came and He changes people so they love the light. It's what it means to be born again. A description of it is in John 3:21, "But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God." Those who have the truth come to the light, those who have the Spirit of truth, which in John 17 is how He names the Holy Spirit, if you have the Spirit of Christ who was the truth, the way and the life, you do truth. One of the most basic aspects of being a Christian is that God says they do not lie, His children do not lie. This doesn't mean that we never slip up and sin, but it does mean that nobody can call us a liar because Christ's children walk in truth. There's those who hate the light and there's those that do the truth and they love the light. Jesus Christ is making a sharp distinction here, He looks at you and knows that you either love the light or you love darkness. Figure out how Christ looks at you. Are you a lover of darkness or are you a lover of truth? The people that love the truth love the light so that their deeds can be clearly seen. Do you want people to clearly see your deeds? Do you want people to see what your life is like? Not the facade that you put on when you go into church on Sunday morning where you look so holy and treat people with respect, but the deeds that happen when you live your life. Do you want them to be seen? Do you want the accountability of your deeds being seen? Do you love the light or do you love darkness? Those who desire holiness love light even when it can be extremely embarrassing. They love light because it purges them of sin so they aren't part of what's purged in the last day when all creation is judged with fire and God casts into hell everything that offends and those that practice lawlessness. One sign of walking in light, letting your deeds be clearly seen, is people will hate you for it. God says all those who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will receive persecution, but that's how we increase the light in the world, that's how we fulfill the duty of the church, to be the leaven that causes righteousness to be expanded in the world. Notice what this says, and it's not just those who know the truth, it is those who do the truth. The Pharisees knew the truth, that's why Jesus Christ said to do what they say, but they didn't do the truth which is why He said, 'Woe to the hypocrites because you are the ones who killed the prophets.' Knowing the truth is not enough, those who have been born again, those who have been born by water and spirit, they do the truth because they have the Spirit of Truth, because they have Christ and Christ is truth. Is this a description of your life? Doing the truth, that is what Christians are created to do and that's how we fulfill Matthew 5:16, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." Those who walk in the light fulfill this verse because they desire their deeds to be seen, not for their glory, but for the glory of God which is the purpose of all creation and it is the purpose of everyone that hears My voice. Everyone will fulfill His purpose and their purpose is to glorify God. They will either glorify Him by testifying to His justice because He will be glorified by casting them into hell where there will be no hope that the pain and torment will ever end or they will walk in the light so their deeds will be seen by men. The people who do the truth love the light, they want their deeds to be seen by men so those men will glorify their Father in heaven. Is that a description of your life? Is that a description of your life or do you love darkness? If you love darkness there is only one hope, flee to the light, seek Christ. That's the only hope. I'm going to take some time here to

let people consider this message. Lying to yourself can become a habit. The people who lie to others lie to themselves even more. They start to believe their own lies. Paul said to Timothy that wicked men wax worse, deceiving and being deceived. Don't deceive yourself tonight. Look at your heart, look at your life, look at the things you do. Are you a child of truth? Are you a child of light? Are you a child of darkness? Let's take some time to examine our hearts and then I will pray.

Oh Lord God, I pray that You let anyone here that is deceiving themselves, who thinks they are Yours because of the family they are in or the church that they are in, open their eyes Lord. Let no one be deceived where they stand towards You. Let them see the face of Jesus Christ, let them see Your holiness and let them see whether they desire their evil deeds and good deeds be known or whether they love darkness. We all make an excuse as to who You are to excuse our sin. Give them a vision of how holy You are, give me a greater vision of how holy You are so we can turn from our sin and walk in the light so that Your name will be glorified, so the church will be the light to this community and the world will be changed as You promised. We know faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. We pray that word that went forth tonight, that in Your sovereign will that You decide for the wind to blow, that You would be glorified and for Your church to be changed and grow. Not grow in numbers, but grow in holiness because that's what Miango needs, that's what Plateau needs, that's what Nigeria needs, that's what the world needs, for the church to be shining forth Your righteousness so people so that our good works and glorify Your Father which is in heaven. Blessed be Your name oh Lord, we thank You that You so loved that world that You gave Your only begotten Son so that whoever believes in You should have everlasting life, for we have no hope except by You. May Your Spirit move among us. We ask this in Your Son's name, amen.