

BACK TO THE BASICS

John 3:14-17

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Gospel means “good news.” It refers to the good news that God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life. The most basic statement of the Gospel is found in the conversation Jesus had with an inquiring Jew named Nicodemus. Nicodemus came to Jesus at night because he was concerned about having his interest in this popular rabbi discovered. The night-time visit is also symbolic of the spiritual darkness in which he lived, in which we all live.

Nicodemus represents all of us, not only in his spiritual darkness, but in his tendency to complicate things. Just look at the debate he has with Jesus in John 3:1-13 about being born again. For the benefit of Nicodemus, and for all of us who live in the darkness of looking for meaning, the darkness of confusion, and the darkness of sin, Jesus invites us back to the basics of God’s unconditional love and his plan to bring us into the abundant life for which he created us.

The F _____ For God so loved the world

- Romans 5:8 *But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.*
- Ephesians 2:4-5 *But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, [5] made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved.*
- 1 John 4:9-10 *God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. [10] In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.*

The A _____ that he gave his only Son,

- Isaiah 9:6 *For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*
- 2 Cor. 5:19 *In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them.*

The C _____ so that whoever believes in him

- Mark 16:16 *The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned.*
- John 6:29 *This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.*
- Ephesians 2:8: *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.*

The R_____ shall not perish but may have eternal life.

- John 6:40 *This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.*"
- John 11:25-26 *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, [26] and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"*
- John 3:36 *Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life.*

Bonus: The Reason

- John 3:17 *For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.*
- Romans 5:8 *But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.*
- 1 Timothy 2:4 *God desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

The Big Question: "Do you believe this?" (11:26)

*The Fact, the Act, the Condition, the Results:
If you don't know the Good News, this is it!
If you DO know the Good News, do you Believe It?
If you BELIEVE it, it's time to show it and share it!*