

Looking at the World through the Eyes of God

John 3:14-21

I can't think of a greater condemnation to be levied against a people than this: They loved darkness instead of light. I would never want that to be said of me. But that is the way God sees the world. You and I see the world as it is right now. Most of the people around us try and do the right thing and when we are wrong hopefully, we apologize. So, we tend to think well of most people. But look out on the passage of time....

The Ancient World of Mesopotamia, Egypt, Hellenism, Rome, Persia, India, and East Asia was filled with the ignorance of hundreds of thousands of gods, magic, rituals, superstitions, human sacrifice, conquests, sewage was mostly thrown into the streets for the rats and dogs. And the list doesn't end there: ethnic bigotry, civil wars, persecutions, despots, tyrants, class rule, and the systematic murders of tens of thousands.

The Middle Ages of Persia, Constantinople, Islam, Britain, China, India, Genghis Khan, and the Mongols, Timur and the Turks, Europe, African Empires, and the Americas. All of them covered in the darkness of man's inhumanity to man: Revolutions, expansionism, Mohammad's Conquest and Christianity's Crusades, warlords, heretics, witchcraft, increased trade bringing death and plagues to millions, and the crowding in the cities spreading the misery even more. And on top of this misery wars fought for every ridiculous reason known to man.

The Enlightenment and the Modern world have fared no better. We too have loved the darkness instead of the light. Europe, Africa, Mid-East, India, and the Americas have all dipped their finger into the cesspool of sin: Guns, germs, slavery, the need for women's suffrage, massacres, resistance to democracy, religious fundamentalism's resistance to progress, Fascism, Communism, The Holocaust, the Ku Klux Klan, greed, the market crash, The Depression, world wars, The Bomb, and lest we forget 9/11, the shootings in our schools.

I can't tell you what a short list this is. And this says nothing of the millions of women and children who have suffered throughout the ages at the hands of ruthless men. There is no way to write that history because it is hidden from the pages of history.

We humans are people of darkness. We complain, rebel, work against the Kingdom of God. Death is all we know. Lives filled with the patterns of sin. These are the first things God sees as he looks down upon us, those whose deeds are evil, who fear the light because their evil deeds will be exposed.

Yet God does an astonishing thing. God brings the light anyway. God erects a cross of death that we might look up and live. God leads us out of the darkness. God loves the world and does not condemn it. God does not condemn you, if you do not fear the light...if you will believe.

God sees there are those who acknowledge their need for forgiveness. When Nicodemus came to Jesus, he did so under cover of darkness. Jesus said to him, Nicodemus, you must be born again. You must go through a rebirth and learn to live all over again, because up until now you have tried to please God by the Law. You have tried to be righteous through your own efforts. And you see the mess that's gotten you into. You see all the destruction in the world. But now, Nicodemus, God requires one thing. Acknowledge your need for forgiveness, acknowledge that you need to go in a different direction with your life, and acknowledge God's love for you in Jesus Christ.

God loves you and is telling you today, "He loves you!" "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."

Let us repent of the things we have done in darkness and embrace the light. Embrace the love of God that is given freely to all.

God bless,
Pastor Barbara