

John 3:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

Analysis

Judgment is explained: 'And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.' Condemnation isn't arbitrary divine decree but response to deliberate choice. Light came; darkness was preferred. The problem is moral, not intellectual—'their deeds were evil.' People don't reject Christ for lack of evidence but because His light exposes their darkness. Preference for darkness reveals moral resistance to truth.

Historical Context

John's Gospel presents Jesus as the Light (1:4-9, 8:12, 9:5). Light imagery dominates the Gospel's symbolism. The coming of light intensifies accountability—now there's no excuse for remaining in darkness. The moral root of unbelief explains why evidence alone doesn't produce faith; hearts must be changed.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does moral condition affect the ability to receive spiritual truth?
2. Why do people often prefer comfortable darkness to exposing light?

Interlinear Text

αὕτη δέ ἔστιν ἡ κρίσις ὅτι τὸ φῶς· ἐλήλυθεν
this And is the condemnation that light is come
G3778 G1161 G2076 G3588 G2920 G3588 G5457 G2064

εἰς τὸν κόσμον καὶ ἡγάπησαν οἱ ἄνθρωποι μᾶλλον
into the world and loved men rather
G1519 G3588 G2889 G2532 G25 G3588 G444 G3123

τὸ σκότος ἢ τὸ φῶς· ἦν γὰρ πονηρὰ αὐτῶν τὰ
darkness than light were because evil their
G3588 G4655 G2228 G3588 G5457 G2258 G1063 G4190 G846 G3588

ἔργα
deeds
G2041

Additional Cross-References

John 8:12 (Light): Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

2 Thessalonians 2:12 (Parallel theme): That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Romans 2:8 (Parallel theme): But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,

Romans 1:32 (Parallel theme): Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

John 12:43 (Love): For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

John 5:44 (Parallel theme): How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?

2 Peter 3:3 (Parallel theme): Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

John 1:4 (Light): In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

Luke 12:47 (Parallel theme): And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.