

## **“God Did All He Can”**

John 3:14-21

Hello friend and welcome to *Hope for Today*. My name is J. Mark Horst; I'm your friend and Bible teacher. The program you're listening to is produced by Heralds of Hope, an international Gospel radio and literature ministry. Thousands are tuning in each week to receive spiritual nourishment and blessing.

You are listening to this broadcast in English, but we also broadcast in more than 20 other languages to some of the most unreached areas of the world. Places like Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Iran, Iraq, Nepal, and more. Why do we do it? Because we have God's promise that His Word will not return to Him empty; it will accomplish what He sends it to do. And you know something, we have ample proof that His promise is true.

A recent report from Trans World Radio in Nepal contained this testimony. A listener wrote, "Life has a lot of challenges, difficulties, and stress, but God has given me the ability to manage in a very proper way today. My life was in trouble, but when the word of God taught me to trust in him and obey his commands, I became a man of endeavor in my life. The secret is that I enjoy hearing and obeying God's word. I enjoy listening to the radio program from *Heralds of Hope*. As a result, God has blessed my life so richly. Today I encourage all of the people to listen to this radio program to benefit their spiritual life. Thank you."

I praise God for this report because this listener is living proof of the power of the Gospel. They are undeniable proof that Jesus is who He said He is, the Son of Almighty God. Even though hostile governments may try to suppress the Gospel, it is still reaching the hearts of men and women, boys, and girls, and transforming them from sinners to saints. Hallelujah!

In just a few moments, Dr. Yoder will present today's teaching from the Gospel of John. But before he does that, let's pray.

Gracious Heavenly Father, we thank you and praise you for the listeners in the country of Nepal. We are thankful that they're being encouraged in their walk of faith by listening to the Bible teaching programs in their native language. We're thankful that the Gospel has transformed their lives. What a privilege to bless and encourage them in this way.

And now, Father, as Dr. Yoder comes to open the Word for us, I pray that you will open our hearts to the truth. I pray for my listening friend to understand the great plan of salvation that

God has provided for all humanity. And then, to accept that free gift if they haven't already done so. I pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

Now, here's Dr. Yoder with today's teaching.

When we get into trouble, we are often inclined to blame God. At least some of us are. Sometimes I hear people say, "If there is a God why all this trouble?" Such men do not know the real nature of God. They do not know even their own nature. Why does a man make such a statement, "If there is a God?" The reason is they do not know themselves and they do not know the real nature of God.

I want to explain something about you and me. We can make our own choices. But many times, the basis of our choices is not right. That is why I always come to you with the Bible. Here in the Bible, we have the basis for all right choices. So, we can't really blame God for our troubles. He has given us the right to make the right choices.

Our Scripture is a continuation of the conversation that Jesus had with Nicodemus that night long, long ago in Jerusalem. It is found in John 3:14-21.

14 *And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:*

15 *That whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

16 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

17 *For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.*

18 *He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

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

20 *For everyone that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.*

21 *But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.*

From these verses in the Bible, I want to show you the REASONS why I can say emphatically, GOD DID ALL HE CAN!

Here, let me show you first **The Comparison.**

Jesus said, “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up.” Jesus is taking an experience out of the life of Israel when they were coming from Egypt to Canaan many, many years ago.

They began to complain against God, and He sent poisonous snakes among them. Many of them were bitten. There was no cure. Many of them died. If God had not instructed Moses what to do there would have been no cure at all. But God told Moses to fashion a snake out of bronze and put it up on a pole and everyone who would look at this image of the snake would live. It was desperate with these people. There was no other hope for them.

Now notice what Jesus said to Nicodemus. “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness even so must the Son of man be lifted up.” In other words we also have an incurable situation. Unless God does something we are without hope.

But God has done something. See? God did all He can do. So when we look unto Jesus we also will live. The direct instruction from the Lord is in this comparison. He said whoever believes in Him, the Son of man, should not perish but have eternal life. That is a quality of life, my friend, you cannot get in any other way.

And then there is a second reason why I can say that God has done all He can: **The Compassion.**

John 3:16 has often been referred to as the golden text of the Bible. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Now wait just a moment. Let us look at the compassion of God: His love, how broad was it? What was it’s magnitude? “God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Then it was God's act: so merciful that He gave His only begotten Son. You couldn't ask for more, could you? Didn't God do all He could when in this act of love, He sent His only Son, gave His only Son? That compassion was merciful.

Then there was God's offer: Oh! how gracious, for that includes you and me. This Scripture says whosoever believes in Him.

There was God's purpose: it is redemption. How redemptive is God in His compassion! Whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. The implication is clear. Whoever does not believe in Him will perish. That's what Jesus said later on, but it's implied here, too. God's compassion is for the salvation of everybody, for the next verse tells us, "God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

I must insist that God's compassion includes me, and it means you. How marvelous! How wonderful! You and I can be included. Praise the Lord. Yes! God did all He can.

The third reason why I can say this so emphatically is **The Condemnation**.

I want you to notice very carefully, Jesus makes it absolutely clear, the sentence has been passed. The condemnation is on us unless we believe. He said that the one who believes on Him is not condemned. Belief is the escape from the condemnation, from the sentence of death. Unbelief brings it on you, friend. "But he that believeth not is condemned already because He hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

My friend, that is very serious when God has done all He can, and you do nothing. Just to remain as you are without believing in Jesus Christ means you are under the condemnation of God. The sentence has already been passed; the execution is on the way. That's certain. Condemnation is absolutely certain. "And this is the condemnation," Jesus said, "that light is come into the world and men loved darkness rather than light." Isn't that a pity? Men choose darkness because of their evil deeds. So, the condemnation is certain.

But there is security. Praise God! I want you to notice verse 21. Yes, Praise the Lord! Truth leads to light, and light reveals. When we understand by the light of God who we are and in what condition we are then we have taken a great step forward. For he who believes in Jesus Christ is not under condemnation. Praise the Lord!

God did all He can! The proof is Jesus lifted up like Moses lifted up the serpent. The proof is God's compassion gave His only begotten Son. The proof is deliverance from condemnation can be yours.

My friend, are you willing to consider the claims of Jesus your life? Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God?

Now, if you were blessed by this teaching and would like an audio CD or a printed copy of it, just write and ask for the teaching "God Did All He Can." We would be happy to send a copy to you as soon as we receive your request.

The quickest way for you to contact me is to send an e-mail to [mail@heraldsofhope.org](mailto:mail@heraldsofhope.org). That e-mail address is [mail@heraldsofhope.org](mailto:mail@heraldsofhope.org). Or you may write to *Hope for Today*, Box 3, Breezewood, Pennsylvania 15533. Remember, you can request a printed manuscript or an audio CD of this teaching, "God Did All He Can." I'd be happy to send one to you.

If you have questions about the Bible or how to live as a Christ-follower, we invite you to send those questions to us. We will take your questions to the Holy Scripture and find an answer. We want to help you grow in your understanding of God's Word and in your relationship with Him. So, write to us today. Here's the contact information again.

The quickest way for you to contact me is to send an e-mail to [mail@heraldsofhope.org](mailto:mail@heraldsofhope.org). Or you may write to *Hope for Today*, Box 3, Breezewood, Pennsylvania 15533. Remember; you can request a free copy of this teaching, "God Did All He Can." It's available in print or on an audio CD.

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Now, I urge you to tune in next week as Dr. Yoder continues our study in John's Gospel with a question, "What is Really Important?" And until then, keep looking for that blessed HOPE.