

THE GREAT SCRIPTURES: "SHOULD NOT PERISH"

Perish doesn't just mean die. It certainly is one of the meanings and maybe even the primary one... but it is also a state of being. Even the main Bible translations see it differently. KJV and NRSV say "perish," New Jerusalem says "lost," Today's English says "die." The word actually means able to decompose (that fruit is perishable) to rot, weaken, or be numb or to go away. We would not like to be any of those things.

First Step

John 3:16 (Sermon Text) John 3:1-17
Exodus 20:1-17

Step In

What spoke to or challenged you from this week's sermon?

What are some examples of ways that your parents kept you safe and in line and/or ways you keep our kept your children safe and in line?

Step Up

The words of John 3:16 were spoken to a man, Nicodemus. His previous beliefs as well as his understandings of God's Law caused him to question Jesus' claims.

- How can the law of God, which is meant for good, become something that keeps Nicodemus from God?
- What rules, laws, & beliefs stand in the way of our faith and fruitfulness today?

Step Out

Where do you feel a state of "perishing" threatening you potential for bearing fruit in your home, in your work or among your friends, or in your community?

What lesson(s) does Nicodemus provide us for to address the things that keep us from life in Christ?

How can you put this/these lessons into practice?

Sermon Notes