

## **#10 – John 3:16-21**

**Need:** To understand the nature and purpose of Jesus' work.

**Aim:** Jesus came to save the world, not judge it.

**Title:** "For God So Loved the World..."

**Prop:** In Jn. 3:16-21, Jesus shared His **I. Love for the World – 3:16-19**, followed by the promise of **II. Manifestation as God's Child – Jn. 3:20-21**, as each person outside of Christ is under judgment and that all misdeeds will be exposed and then judged.

**Intro:** One of the first Bible verses I remember learning was Jn. 3:16. It is a simple verse I learned in the King James Version, but though it is childlike in nature it speaks of the infinite love of God, His amazing love which brought Jesus to earth to pay the price for the sin of mankind.

As I have said many times before, I was raised in the church. There was never a period in my life where I stayed away from attending services, even when I was walking in disobedience. Growing up I was never involved in illegal drugs or alcohol, nor illicit relationships of any sort. But there were streaks of arrogance which began to form cracks in my character where I began to live a double life. Although I looked good on the outside at first glance, there were a lot of things going on, evil in nature inside of my heart which eventually became evident by the lifestyle and the bad choices I began to make in my life.

In the spring of my first year of Junior college things began to change. I thought seriously about attending a Bible College to seek answers to my questions about my faith, many of which were raised in my philosophy classes. Originally I planned to attend for a year and then move on to some other form of employment and or educational pursuits. One of those early classes I took was on the book of John and the impact of this series of verses, Jn. 3:16-21 brought me full circle. Although I had never been really “**bad,**” I was struck by the fact that in spite of my sin, God loved me so much He sent His Son to die for me. Not only that His resurrection He promised me eternal life and began the work in me to change me from the inside out, just as verse 21 says: “**That my deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.**” I had a personal relationship with God which was effecting change in my heart and life. that led me to receive the call of God to be a pastor.

**Prop: In John 3:16-21, Jesus shared His I. Love for the World – 3:16-19,**  
**followed by the promise of the II. Manifestation As God’s Child – Jn.**  
**3:20-21,** as each person outside of Christ is under judgment and that all misdeeds will be exposed and then judged.

All private thoughts, words and actions will be exposed and judgment will be rendered accordingly when all stand before God. For the believer, all those bad things we have done are under the blood. We have no baggage.

## **I. Love For The World – Jn. 3:16-17**

### **A. God's Love (16)**

**1. God's Love For the World** – In verse 16 we find one of the most wonderful, powerful, mysterious aspects of God's character – **“For God so loved the world...”** The term **“world”** is to be understood not in the context of this terrestrial ball we live on, but all people from Adam until sin is no more. God loves all people of all time so much that He sent His only **“begotten”** Son... God's words are relative to all of mankind but appropriated only to those who believe.

**2. “Begotten”** – This term **“begotten”** in verse 16 has been the cause of misinterpretation. The major thought was that John's use of this word **“begotten”** supported the idea that Jesus was created by the Father and thus He is not God, but a created being of the highest order. But the term John used was one which emphasized the relationship between the Father and Son as equals. Jesus was the exact physical representation of God, in human form. It was Philip who requested of Jesus: **“Show us the Father.”** Jesus' answer was clear and distinct: **“He who has seen Me has seen the Father.”**

Jesus possessed all the qualities of God, not lesser than the Father, but one and the same and coupled with that relationship, is the Holy, Spirit, and the blessed Trinity.

3. **“Gave”** – We also find in the term **“gave”** that God was not obligated to do anything to rectify man’s predicament; dead in our **“trespasses and sin.”** Of His own free will the Father sent His only Son Jesus to die for the sin of mankind for all time, **“the sin of the world.”**

3. **Requirement of Faith – Belief** - Many religions are based upon man’s work in goodness and blessing, however **“good”** might be defined. For example in Islam, if one dies by suicide in order to kill infidels, they are rewarded in heaven for their sacrifice. They are **“good”** based upon how many infidels they kill. Other faiths regard works as a means to reach God and to be found in His favor. But that raises the question: **“How do I know that I have done enough?”** The Bible, God’s Word tells us **“by works no man can be made right (justified) before God.”** No matter how hard you work or order your life, it will never be enough.

Verse 16 does not list any other requirement but to believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior. It is the recognition that you are a sinner, destined for punishment, but Jesus took your place and died on a cross for your sins. If we would just believe that we will be saved.

**4. Reward** – Because Jesus was raised from the dead, our belief in Him is not only release from our sin, but the promise of eternal life has present daily effects upon our lives today. We no longer live in fear and despair because we have God’s Word concerning our release from destruction. The gift of eternal life speaks not only as to placement but to quality of life, both in the present and especially in the life to come.

### **B. Concerning Judgment (17-18)**

**1. God’s Purpose (17)** – In verse 17, God did not send Jesus into the world to judge the world. That will happen at the tribulation culminated in the Second Coming of Jesus. The purpose for Jesus coming the first time was two-fold: **(1)** To show us what God was like, and **(2)** To die for the sin of all mankind.

I understand that to some the word “**sin**” is an archaic word. It was just an idea constructed by religious men to control people. However sin has been a relevant issue since the time of Adam. We in Adam disobeyed God’s wishes which in reality were for our ultimate benefit. Ever since that time, mankind has chosen to go our own way, and over the course of human history how has that worked out? But in a more personal sense, we as individuals are submerged in sin. We commit acts which the Bible strictly forbids and then wonder why things don’t work out for us.

God speaks, we hear, but choose to disregard God. Sin is a relevant issue and will be unless we trust Jesus as Lord and Savior the most important reason Jesus came into the world. He came to pay the price of eternal death for all who would believe. God was satisfied with Jesus' work, and in Him God accepts and adopts us into His own family, based upon what Jesus has done.

**2. Relevant Consequences (18)** – How does verse 18 fit about judgment if verse 17 said that Jesus didn't come into the world to judge? First of all the judgment of God for sin is death, eternal separation from God in a very unpleasant place. When one places their faith in God, they receive God's payment for sin and thus are released from judgment that was placed upon Adam. Jesus took upon Himself the sin of the world when He died on the cross. It signified the Father's approval when He raised Jesus from the dead.

But judgment is already in place because we are born into this world dead spiritually. We were in Adam, Paul says, when Adam chose to disobey God. And thus as his descendants we are spiritually dead. For those who do not believe in Jesus, the judgment placed upon Adam is still active. If one chooses to disregard God's offer in Jesus, Adam's judgment rests upon that individual, compounded by a life of sinful behavior. We can never do enough to make ourselves acceptable to God.

**Transition: In verses 19-21 John gave a summation of the choices available to all people, and there are consequences of such choices.**

## **II. Manifestation as God's Child – Jn. 3:19-21**

### **A. Exposure (19-20)**

**1. Two Universal Truths (19)** – In verse 19 two universal truths were stated about the affairs of both God and man. **(1)** The Light has come into the world, which exposed evil and brought judgment. **(2)** Men love darkness, non-exposure rather than light, because the Light exposes the evil deeds of people.

While living in Winona Lake, because of lack of financial means we lived in the slums. The house we lived in was owned and maintained by a widow in Warsaw and only rented to seminary students. This house had the distinction of being the only house on our block which was not infested with cockroaches. One day my neighbor next door needed help moving some furniture. So I went over, set up a bed and moved furniture around. When we entered the bedroom to set up the bed, she turned on the light and it looked like the whole wall moved. In mere seconds, the wall which was black went to white. After moving, I felt things crawling up my pant legs.

I went upstairs to the apartment and on the porch I stripped to my underwear and shook out my pants and shirt, even my socks and shoes and there fell out many roaches which I systematically killed. Roaches don't like light as it exposes their existence.

**2. Fear of Exposure (20)** - Sinful men don't like the Light of God because it exposes their evil nature and deeds.

**Transition: But in verse 21 we have the opposite of verse 20**

### **B. Change in Spiritual Venue (21)**

**1. Evil Deeds** – Evil deeds are exposed by the Light of God's Word, the life of Jesus and the ministry of the Holy Spirit. When this Light shines forth, it exposes our own sinfulness and we are left with two choices: run or submit. For those who choose to walk away or run, whatever the case may be, judgment will find them and they will be judged as guilty. But in verse 21 we find yet another choice which brings life and light to the heart of mankind.

**2. Manifestation of Relationships (21)** – If we have received salvation from God and practice the truth of the Gospel, which is a relationship with God, the Light of God will shine forth and our deeds will be manifested to the world that we belong to God. For it is God working in us and thus we manifest God's truth in the way we live and the choices we make.

God came into the world because of His great love for us. It was this love that sent Jesus to the cross to die for our sin; God raised Jesus from the dead that we might be free from the penalty of sin. If we but place our faith in Jesus, we will receive eternal life, which has positive results both in this life and the life to come. For sinful man, the Light of Jesus shines forth to expose their evil deeds, for those who received the Light of God, our changed lives will manifest the fact that we belong to God.

As for we as Christians how bright is our light shining to the world? If the light of Christ shines forth it will expose the evil nature of those around us. And we know from biblical history and Jesus' words that the world will hate us as they hated Jesus. There will be persecution. How bright will our light shine?

## **“For God So Loved the World – Jn. 3:16-21**

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3. “Gave”
4. Requirement of Faith – Belief
5. Reward

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