



EXPLORE THE BIBLE[®]

The Gospel of John Sermon Series
Supports Session 5: Everyone Who Believes
Sermon Title: "For God so Loved" (John 3:16-21)

Connection to Session 5

John 3:16 is one of the more popular verses in all of the Bible. However, it is often misunderstood and even used as a license to live a life that is not repentant. This passage shows us that those who do not believe in Christ will perish. However, for all who believe in Jesus, they will experience eternal life.

Introduction/Opening

There are many who do not like the thought of Hell or the idea of a loving God being one who condemns sin. However, John 3 helps us understand that the Bible has no issue with God being loving of the world and condemning of sin at the same time.

Outline

1. God's Love (3:16)

- a) In John 3:16 we see God's saving love directed towards this sinful and fallen world. Are we amazed by God's love? Do we understand what we are saved from?
- b) This verse says God loves the world, but does this mean all will be saved? No, because it teaches that those who believe will have eternal life, while those who do not believe will perish.
- c) God's love is displayed by sending His Son into the world to provide a means of salvation to all who believe.

2. Christ's Mission (3:17)

- a) What is Christ's mission in coming to the world? To bring salvation.
- b) What motivates Christ in His mission? His love for the Father and the Father's love for the world.

3. Our Condition (3:18-21)

- a) Why do we need to be saved? Due to our condition. Verse 18 teaches that all who do not believe are already condemned.
- b) There are two kinds of people in the world: Whoever believes and Whoever does not believe.

4. Our Mission

a) As Christians, we believe that others must hear the gospel of Jesus Christ to be saved. Therefore, our mission is to share the gospel and advance the good news to the ends of the earth.

b) Universalism is a heretical teaching that says all people will be saved no matter what they believe or how they act. Are we functioning like a Universalist? Are we living as if all people will be saved? May that never be said of us.

Conclusion

People who misuse John 3:16 to advance the idea that God will not condemn people of their sin miss the very first word of John 3:16. What is the first word? It is “For,” which connects back to the conversation Jesus had with Nicodemus. In this conversation Jesus said, “Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life” (3:14-15). We must look to Him, Who was lifted up for us at the cross, in order to be saved.

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