

# The Gospel According to John

## “The Unfathomable Love of God”

John 3:14-21



# **John 3:14-16**

As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness,  
even so must the Son of Man be lifted up;  
so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.  
For God so loved the world, that He gave His only  
begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him  
shall not perish, but have eternal life.

# John 3:17-19

For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.

# **John 3:19-21**

For everyone who does evil hates the Light,  
and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds  
will be exposed. But he who practices the truth comes  
to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested  
as having been wrought in God.

# Main Idea

God's unfathomable love is most clearly revealed by His act of giving His one and only Son for the redemption of a people corrupted and condemned by sin.

# **Some preliminary work:**

**John 3:14-15**

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,  
in the same way it was necessary for the Son of Man  
to be lifted up in order that all those believing  
would in Him have eternal life.

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in the same way **it was necessary** for the Son of Man  
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# Here is certainty!

**John 3:14-15**

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,  
in the same way it was necessary for the Son of Man  
to be lifted up in order that all those believing

**would in Him have eternal life.**

# Why this certainty?

John 3:16

**For** in this way God loved the world in that He gave the son,  
the only begotten one, so that all those believing on Him  
would not perish but would have eternal life.

# The reason for the guarantee!

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# **Why!**

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# **God's Unfathomable Love**

**What is the “world” and its condition?**



**John 3:16, 17, and 19**

For in this way **God loved the world...**

For God did not send the Son **into the world**  
to judge **the world**,  
**but that the world might be saved** through Him.

**...the Light has come into the world.**

# **What is the world and its condition?**

The world is God's corrupted and condemned creation.

**John 3:17 and 19**

For God did not send the Son **into the world**  
...the Light has come **into the world.**

**John 1:9-10**

There was the true Light which, coming into the world,  
enlightens every man. He was in the world,  
and the world was made through Him,  
and the world did not know Him.

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and the world did not know Him.

The world is God's creation, but it has been corrupted and has become a realm of darkness, evil, hatred, and disbelief.

**“...the Light shines in the darkness.”**

(John 1:5)

# But notice...

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**John 1:9-10**

There was the true Light which, coming into the world,  
enlightens every man. He was in the world,  
and the world was made through Him,

and **the world did not know Him.**

Though the world is a realm of darkness;  
more specifically, the world is the  
corrupted and condemned *people*  
who dwell in it and who love the  
darkness and reject the Light.

**John 3:19**

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that the Light has come into the world,  
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John 3:19 and 20

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that the **Light has come into the world,**  
and **men loved the darkness** rather than the Light,  
for their deeds were evil.

For **everyone who does evil hates the Light,**  
and does not come to the Light for fear  
that his deeds will be exposed.

**John 7:7**

**The world ... hates Me**  
because I testify of it, that its deeds are evil.

# What is the world and its condition?

The world is God's corrupted and condemned creation.

The world is *all kinds of people*  
*over against Israel only.*

John 3:16

For in this way **God loved the world...**

This statement alone would have  
been a shock to Nicodemus!

**John 10:16**

**I have other sheep**, which are not of this fold;  
I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice;  
and they will become one flock with one shepherd.

# Caiaphas' Prophesy

**John 11:51-52**

Now he did not say this on his own initiative, but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation, and not for the nation only, but in order that He might also gather together into one the children of God who are scattered abroad.

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## **1 John 2:2**

...and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins;  
and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

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**the children** of God who are **scattered abroad.**

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...and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins;

and not for ours only, **but** also for those of **the whole world.**

Jesus did not come to save Jews  
only but to save a people out from  
*every* tribe and tongue and nation.

**Revelation 5:9**

Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals;  
for You were slain, and purchased for God  
with Your blood men from every tribe  
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# **God's Unfathomable Love**

What is the “world” and its condition?

**What did God do?**



# **What did God do?**

**He loved the world despite its condition.**

John 3:16

For in this way **God loved the world...**

What was the condition of the people when Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness?

The astonishing truth of God's love  
is not that it is universal  
but that it is set upon *the world*:  
the corrupted and condemned sons of  
disobedience and children of wrath.

John 3:19

This is the judgment, that the Light has come  
into the world, and **men loved the darkness**  
**rather than the Light.**

Romans 5:8

**But God demonstrates His own love toward us,  
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### **Ephesians 2:4-5**

But God, being rich in mercy,  
**because of His great love** with which He loved us,  
even when we were dead in our transgressions,  
made us alive together with Christ.

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# **So, was this love of God universal?**

**John 13:1**

Jesus knowing that His hour had come  
that He would depart out of this world to the Father,  
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# **So, was this love of God universal?**

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that He would depart out of this world to the Father,  
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**He loved them** to the end.

Though God loves all of humanity,  
*His redemptive love* is only set upon  
His people who are believing.

# What did God do?

He loved the world despite its condition.

He gave the Son, the only begotten One,  
to redeem His people.

John 3:16

For in this way **God loved the world**  
in that He gave the Son, the only begotten one,  
so that all those believing on Him would not perish  
but would have eternal life.

# How?

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in that He gave the Son, the only begotten one,

**so that all those believing** on Him  
**would not perish**  
**but** would **have eternal life.**

Out of an unfathomable love,  
God sent His one and only Son  
to die on behalf of His people  
for their redemption!

John 18:14

Now Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it  
was expedient for one man to die *on behalf of the people*.

# What did God do?

He loved the world despite its condition.

He gave the Son, the only begotten One, to redeem His people.

He *effected* the new life promised  
to His people.

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**Ezekiel 36:25-26**

Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean...

...I will give you a **new heart** and put a **new spirit** within you.

**John 3:5**

“Unless one is born of water and the Spirit...”

**Colossians 2:13**

He **made you alive** together with Him...

**1 Peter 1:3**

God...**caused us to be born again** to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

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God...caused us to be born again to a living hope

**through the resurrection of Jesus Christ  
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God had promised a new covenant  
of new life, and He ratified this  
covenant and effected this new life  
through the blood of His one and  
only begotten Son.

# **God's Unfathomable Love**

What is the “world” and its condition?

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**What is the result?**



# **What is the result?**

Unbelievers are confirmed  
in their condemnation.

**John 3:17-18**

For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

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of the only begotten Son of God.**

This disbelief in Christ is confirmation of the just verdict of condemnation against them.

John 3:19

**This is the judgment**, that the Light has come  
into the world, and men loved the darkness  
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**Titus 3:4-5**

But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, **He saved us**, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, **by the washing of regeneration** and renewing by the Holy Spirit.

# **What is the result?**

Unbelievers are confirmed in their condemnation.

New born believers are saved.

The saved bear fruit in keeping  
with the truth.

**John 3:21**

But he who practices the truth comes to the Light,  
so that his deeds may be manifested  
as having been wrought in God.

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**Ephesians 2:10**

For we are His workmanship,  
created in Christ Jesus for good works,  
**which God prepared beforehand**  
so that we would walk in them.

The good works practiced by believers are manifestations of God's regenerating work and can be said to have been done by Him.

# Conclusion

The love of God is unfathomable!  
Come to the Light that your sins may  
be exposed and that you might find  
forgiveness and life at the foot  
of His cross.