

Morning Worship - July 28, 2013
John 3:16-21, This is the Verdict

1. **Introduction - Read John 3:16-21**
 2. Verses 16 God sent _____ for the salvation of the _____.
 - a. **16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.**
 - i. What does God mean by **world**? The term is _____ and Scripture describes the “world” being fallen and at enmity against God (Gen 3) - “cursed is the ground because of you (Adam)...by the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” [Rom 8:18-25]
 - ii. But...God loves the world because he created it and especially humans because he created us in his _____; so “from the beginning” God had planned to send Christ to redeem us.
 - b. **He gave his only Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.**
 - i. John uses the most intimate of ways to describe God’s love to humanity...for Him to give his only son’s life for all.
 - ii. We have **two responses** to Christ’s coming:
 - i. Whoever believes in him - everlasting life
 - a) Everlasting life - eternal life with God in heaven; to be with the triune God forever and ever; to become _____.
 - ii. Whoever does not believe - perish - to kill or destroy; in this context, it has similar meaning as everlasting life, but not with God, but with Satan and the demons in _____.
 - iii. **Believe** - [pistew] - to have complete trust and reliance; this is NOT simply an intellectual assent to claims, though that is involved; it is similar to the trust you have that your husband/ wife will be faithful to you in life; it means that we have to believe what Christ says about _____ and what the Bible says about everything - as He is the Word incarnate.
3. Verses 17 Christ’s mission is _____ not _____
 - a. **17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.**
 - i. Jesus did not come to condemn...as we will read in the next verse, the world is already under the judgment of God.

- ii. Jesus came for a rescue mission - his primary job given to Him from the Father was to come and save all those who would believe in His name.
4. Verses 18 Belief in _____ alone, _____ salvation
 - a. **18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.**
 - i. This is so simple, but we make it so complicated - Christ died for all, but only those that believe in Him will be saved. We must be very careful to avoid [universalism].
 - ii. Again, John puts it into a contrast, as there are two groups:
 - a) Whoever **believes** in him is not condemned
 - b) Whoever **does not believe** in him is condemned already
 - iii. What makes the difference?? Belief in “the name of the only Son of God.”
5. Verses 19 The _____ of genuine _____ in Christ
 - a. **19 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. 20 For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. 21 But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”**
 - b. Again John uses a **contrast** between two positions:

Those in Light	Those in Darkness
Do what is true	Do what is deceptive and evil
Love the Light	Hate the Light
Come into the Light	Avoid the light
Evil works are exposed, forgiven/ new works carried out in God	Evil works are hidden and remain in the darkness

6. **CLOSE**
 - a. While belief is the determining factor in salvation, the _____ of the truth of your belief will be in your works. If you are truly saved, you will come into the light...if you are not...you remain in darkness.