

3.16

I. Slide1 Intro:

- A. As a group of college students toured the slums of a city, one of the girls, seeing a little girl playing in the dirt, asked a guide, “Why doesn’t her mother clean her up?”
 “Madam,” he replied, “that girl’s mother probably loves her, but she doesn’t hate dirt. You **hate dirt**, but you **don’t love her enough** to go down there and clean her up. **Until hate for dirt and love for that child are in the same person**, that little girl is likely to remain as she is.” [God hates sin & loves people...*Do we?*]
- B. Slide2a John 3:16 is the *most widely quoted* bible verse.
1. It was on the bottom of our *In-n-Out* cups.
 2. Slide2b *Forever 21* prints John 3:16 on the bottom of its *trademark yellow bags*
 3. Slide2c The Heisman-winning American football player *Tim Tebo* printed **John 3:16 on his eye black**, notably during the 2009 BCS championship.
 - a) Exactly 3 years later on *January 8, 2012*, was the game that would become known as *The 3:16 game*, where Tebow threw for **316 yards** in a playoff upset against the Pittsburgh Steelers. **And because of it John 3:16** received **186,000 hits** that day as viewers looked it up to see what it said. *Became top Google search* in the US.
 4. Slide2d *Rainbow man: Rollen Stewart* in the 1970’s-80’s showed up at the major sporting events with his *rainbow wig* & Jn.3:16 sign...**until he was incarcerated & is serving 3 life sentences in a CA prison** (convicted of *multiple kidnapping charges* after a 1992 incident, Hyatt LAX).
 5. Slide2e *Keith Urban* sings that he learned everything he needed to know from, **John Cougar, John Deere, John 3:16.**
- C. Slide3a *The great illustration* (Jesus lifted up/snake pole) **was** followed by *the greatest of explanations*
1. Martin Luther called John 3:16, *the gospel in miniature*.
 2. This verse is a **concise summary of the gospel**. It connects the events of **Jesus's death to God's love** for the world He created. This describes the **divine care** God has for *the entire world*, **not** just his chosen people, Israel.

3. Thus, John 3:16 is the **most widely quoted** bible verse. It is *the anthem of redemption*. It is a 25 word parade of *Hope*.
4. Slide3b Spurgeon said, *If we never had another gleam-of-love from God's face again, we could live on this one text.*

II. Slide4 3.16 (16)

- A. Slide5a **THE CAUSE OF SALVATION** (16a) *for God so loved the world*
- B. This verse rides on 2 nouns & 2 verbs: God & World. Love & Give.
- C. For God - The initiation in all salvation lies w/**God the Father**.
 1. Bad theology says, *the Father is mean, the Son is nice*.
 2. Listen to Paul in Eph.1:5,6 *having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself (Father), according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.*
 3. It was with *God the Father* that this all started. Because, *God is Love*. 1Jn.4:8
- D. So loved - **Love** is the *mainspring* of God's being. *God loves YOU!*
 1. Me??? Loved??? Maybe you feel **Love has alluded you**.
 - a) Maybe your **parents** didn't love you...**but God loves you**.
 - b) Maybe your **siblings** didn't love you...**but God loves you**.
 - c) Maybe your **spouse** didn't love you...**but God loves you**.
 - d) Maybe your **children** didn't love you...**but God loves you**.
 - e) Maybe you've been **used**. Maybe you've been **abused**.
Maybe you've been **neglected**. Maybe you've been **rejected**...**but God loves you**.
 2. **NOT...God so...manipulated the world**. Or finally **broke the world**.
Or disciplined the world. Or **punished the world**. Or **scourged the world...until people responded to Him**.
 3. **No**, it wasn't a **power-move** acting for **His** sake, **but** a **love-move** acting for **our** sake.
 - a) And **that love** will *not be satisfied till* every-last-sheep is brought into His fold.
- E. **The world** - not just a nation.

1. He didn't just love *the elite, rich, powerful* (by man's standards) **but** the **unlovables & untouchables** (eg. lepers & sinners); the one's that **detest God** (eg. Manasseh); the ones that are **too busy for God** (eg. Mt the tax collector); the ones **too rich for God** (eg. Zacchaeus); the ones **working against God** (eg. Saul).
- F. **For God so loved a sinful world** - every race, rich & poor, powerful & powerless, male & female, democracy's & dictators; abusers and defenders; those trafficked & their traffickers.
- G. **God does not love us because we are lovely or lovable.**
1. **His love does not** exist because of **our character**, **but** on account of **His**.
 2. **God does not love us** because we are **valuable**, **we are valuable** because **God loves us**. **God does not love us** because **Jesus died for us**, **but** **Jesus died for us** because **God loves us**.
- H. His love is **stronger** than **sin**. It's **deeper** than **sorrow**. And it's **mightier** than **death**.
- I. **Slide5b THE COST OF SALVATION** (16b) *that He gave His only begotten son*
- J. Charles Wesley Hymn: *Amazing love! How can it be That thou, my God, shouldst die for me?*
- K. **He gave** - The measure of love is always its *willingness* to **give**; its *capacity* for **sacrifice**.
1. **Don't get married** until you understand this. Marriage is about **giving** not **taking**. It's about **sacrificing** not **extracting**.
 2. If we would measure the *love of God*, we must measure it by *Calvary*.
 3. **He gave His only begotten Son** - **Jesus is a GIFT**.
 4. Someone wrote: *Love ever gives, forgives, outlives. And ever stands with open hands. And while it lives it gives. For while it gives it lives. And this is Love's prerogative - To give - and give - and give.*
 5. We can **never know** the **costliness** of Calvary to God, **nor** can we ever measure the love that lay behind it.
 - a) **Free**, but not **cheap**. Didn't cost **us anything**. It cost **Him everything**.
 6. All we can do is fall back on that **elastic particle so...God sooo** loved.
 7. It's not simply that **God is love**...because **what if He never gave it away?**

a) The good news is that **He didn't keep it, He gives it away.**

L. **Only begotten** = one & only. **Unique.** Only one of His kind. (Isaac/Ab, even tho Ishmael 1st)

M. **Slide5c THE CONDITION OF SALVATION** (16c) *that whoever believes in Him*

N. **Whoever believes** - Belief means far more than *intellectual assent* to the claims of Christ. It means placing one's life & trust in complete surrender to the One in whom we believe.

1. Many today are trying to come up with the **right feeling** or the **right type** of faith.

a) They fail to realize that it is not **faith** but **Christ** who saves.

2. The Devil makes them concentrate on *their poor, weak faith*, rather than on the **object** of that faith.

3. **So too, believing** is just casting one's self unreservedly into the open arms of the Lord Jesus & saying, *Lord, I believe, help my unbelief.* On You I rest my soul for all eternity.

O. **Slide5d THE CONSEQUENCE OF SALVATION** (16d) *should not perish but have everlasting life*

P. Jesus' double promise.

Q. **Not perish** - If we **believe** on Him, we'll *never never perish.*

1. **Slide5e Should not perish** - Jesus pounds **Do Not Enter** signs on every square inch of Satan's gate **until** those hell-bent on entering to do so...**over his dead body.** **Even so,** some souls insist.

R. **But have everlasting life** - When we **believe** we gain eternal life as our *present possession* (*have*). **Not** just quantity **later**, but quality **now.**

III. **Slide6a GOD'S PURPOSE (17)**

A. **Slide6b IT IS NOT TO CONDEMN SINNERS** (17a)

B. **Why do we think this was Jesus' mission** or is **our** mission?

1. Jesus didn't come into the world to **Kill the world**, but to **Cure the world.**

2. Jesus didn't come into the world to say, **you're doing it all wrong**, but to show **how to do it right.** (**believe on Him**)

C. **Slide6c IT IS TO CONVERT SINNERS** (17b)

- D. More than 100,000 people die in the U.S. every year from **preventable diseases**.
1. There are **cures** but for one reason or another *people refuse to take the vaccines or medicines* for their particular disease.
 2. More tragic are the *100's & 1000's* who die **uncured** every year, of the worse disease of all...*the spiritual disease of sin*.
 - a) We've been snake-bitten by sin & only Jesus provides the snake-bite kit.
- E. *Slide7* In Jeremiah the **incurable** became **curable**. *For thus says the Lord: Your affliction is incurable, Your wound is severe. There is no one to plead your cause, That you may be bound up; You have no healing medicines...For I will restore health to you And heal you of your wounds, says the Lord, Because they called you an outcast saying: This is Zion; for whom no one cares.* 30:12,13; 17

IV. *Slide8a* **THE CHOICE (18-21)**

- A. Here we have *a theological postscript*, explaining *why some believe & others don't*.
- B. *Slide8b* There are only 2 possible **responses** to Jesus: **belief** or **unbelief**. **And**,
- C. There are only 2 possible **destinies** to which those responses lead: **eternal life** or **eternal death**.
- D. *Slide9a* **Condemnation for those who Reject Christ** (18b-20)
- E. (19) Sinners not only **live in** darkness but **love** it, & **refuse** to come to the light where their sins will be **exposed** & can be **forgiven**.
- F. **This is the condemnation** - Here is the *process of* condemning, **not** *the sentence* of it.
- G. **Men loved darkness rather than light** - **Why do men hate the light?** *It exposes where we are & what we are*.
1. The theme song of hell is **save yourself**.
 2. **Darkness** has always been a *slow, subtle, brainwashing process* that gradually **desensitizes** us to evil.
 - a) **Like the Irishman** who *came over here*, **then his wife** joined him *a year later*.
She said, *they sure talk funny over here*, to which he responded, *you should of heard them a year ago*.

- b) Are you more interested in *how to live in the dark* rather than *how to walk in the light*?

H. **Slide9b Salvation for those who Receive Christ** (18a, 21)

- I. **Comes to the light** (21) - allowing the HS to shine His flashlight upon those dark crevices in our life.

- J. **Slide10 God...the greatest Lover. So loved...the greatest degree. The world...The greatest number. That He gave...the greatest act. His only begotten Son...the greatest gift. That whoever... the greatest invitation. Believes...the greatest simplicity. In Him...the greatest Person.**

Should not perish...the greatest deliverance. But...the greatest difference. Have...the greatest certainty. Everlasting life...the greatest possession.

1. **That whoever believes in Him... the greatest invitation.**

a) We're often more fearful of a **disease** that we *might* contract, **and not** for the **killer virus of sin** that we are *already have*.

b) **Look in your rearview mirror (of your life) for a moment...**

c) He will take away **our sin** (our offenses against a perfect/holy God), **our guilt** (the things we have **done**), **our shame** (who we **are**).

2. **See, I know where a poor man has a chance. Where a sick man can get well. Where an ignorant man can become wise. Where a bad man can be made good. Where a good man could be made better. Where a dead man could be made alive. In Jesus Christ.** S.M.Lockridge

V. Announcements:

- A. **Haiti HS Team** (fundraiser) selling *Peppermint Mocha's* \$2 today, at donut sales table.
- B. **Burmese Refugee Outreach in S.D.** (collecting donations) [see list in bulletin].
- C. **Xmas gift for Foster children in Riv Co.** only 50 left (out of 500) **Grab an age. Buy gift.** Bring unwrapped.
- D. **Xmas Eve Volunteers** needed for *Hospitality Team*...see Richy. [3,5,7pm]
- E. **Xmas Gift Cards** - bring *1 gift card*, of any amount, to Christmas Eve service.

1. **Stores:** Target, Walmart, Kohl's. **Any fast food:** McDonald's, In-n-Out, Chipotle (just not random weird one's). **We will bless *Local Org's* we work with.**