

## Gospel of John 1-12 God So Loved

John 3:16 may be the best known scripture from the New Testament. It is the Gospel in a verse! It is full of eternal 'love' and eternal 'life.' It speaks of birth, death and new life.

**Introduction:** The backdrop to this passage is the exchange between Nicodemus and Jesus which concludes with verses 14-15. Verses 16 and following are John the Disciple's inspired comments about Jesus. The theme of this passage is the 'love' God expressed in sending His Son to the earth.

### A. Love Lifted Up *John 3:14-21*

**1. Prophecy of sacrifice:** Moses fashioned a bronze snake, fixed it on a pole, and lifted it up for any snakebite victim to look at—and live (Numbers 21:4-9).

**NOTE:** The details of this event from Numbers 21 refer primarily to the Israelites. However, Jesus uses the imagery to teach a lesson about faith in the provision of God for salvation.

**2. Lifted up:** As the serpent was lifted up and those that looked at it in faith—were healed, so those who believe in the substitutionary death of Christ on the cross will be healed-saved.

### B. Love Come Down *John 3:16*

**1. God's love:** God's love is His prime motive for all that He does. Unless He sent His Son to the earth—He could not be 'lifted up.'

**2. Unique Son:** This verse reaches back to Gen 22 where Abraham is willing to sacrifice his 'unique' son Isaac—a 'type' of

Jesus the Messiah. Jesus the 2nd person of the Trinity was fully God, fully Man and yet the 'only begotten Son.'

**3. Believing in Him:** In other words—putting faith in the finished work of the cross.

**4. Everlasting life:** If you know Christ as savior you have already entered 'everlasting' life. As such our life should reflect 'investing into' everlasting things. Such as 'investing' love into what we do and who we are related to.

### C. Love That Lights the World *John 3:17-21*

**1. Compassion not condemnation:** Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into the this world..." *John 9:39*. However, the Son of Man came into an already 'condemned' world. He did not come to bring condemnation but salvation—true compassion.

**2. Condition of the world:** The world is in darkness (condemnation) and people 'love' the darkness and even hate the light since it exposes the hearts of the people.

**3. Living in the light and love of God:** Here's how light and love work in our lives!

\* Have you ever experienced a time where your inclination to HATE was overcome by His Spirit prompting you to LOVE instead?

\* A time where His Light and Love overcame your reactive anger? Instead of anger—you reacted in love?

\* A time when you cared more about someone else's pain than your own?

***This is the meaning of verse 21—doing the truth is being the light***

## John 3:14-21 (NKJV)

**14** And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

**15** that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life

**16** For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

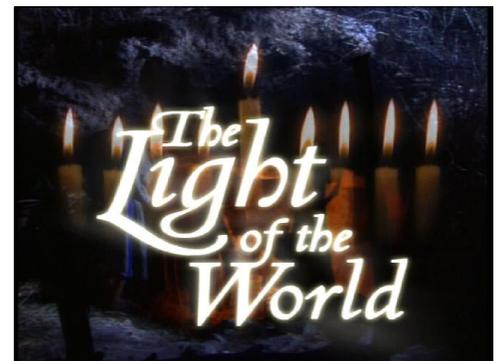
**17** For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

**18** "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

**19** And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

**20** For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

**21** But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."



Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4 And God saw the light, that it was good...

*Gen 1:3-4*