

Date: 2nd September
Speaker: Sandy Laing
Reading: John 3:16-21
Subject: John 3:16

John 3:16 is often spoken about in the Gospel but it does not lessen its message.

“For God...”

Often today, people do not know Who God or even if He exists. Some people still make idols in the place of God. They have forgotten the Creator and worship the creature instead. He was present before creation. He spoke and brought creation into being: man was the last of His works.

“..so loved the world..”

The word “so” has a depth that cannot be measured. The greatest natural love is that of a mother for her child, but the sum of the love of every mother for every child cannot match the love that God has for this world. We need to focus our love on people we know. God loves the whole world without distinction. His love is not just words, but actions.

“..He gave His only begotten Son..”

It was a sacrificial gift. We needed to be cleansed from our sins. Dirt can be removed by soap and water but sin can only be removed by the blood of Christ (1 John 1:7).

Parents can show love to their children by comforting them when they are hurt. God showed His love by giving His only begotten Son. He wants to give everlasting life and freedom from sin. This is only possible through His Son.

How did He give His Son? Was it sending Him to be born at Christmas? Or when He showed obedience as a child of 12?

John the Baptist tells the reason, “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world”, indicating that the Lord Jesus would offer a sacrifice to take away sin.

“..whosoever..” means everlasting life is on offer with no conditions, no distinction based on any natural criterion. The only requirement is to believe in Him, to place faith or trust in the Son.

Mankind divides into two classes of people: the saved and the perishing. Some will ask, how can God love and still condemn? God never condemns, it is our sins that condemn us. Men rebel against God. He wants the world to be saved; the Son has made it possible for the world to be saved.

“..believeth in Him..”

How can a man be saved? Sin must be judged. God had to devise a way in which He could forgive and “wipe the slate clean”. He planned a “once for all” sacrifice. The Lord Jesus was taken and put on a cross for all to see. Some mocked and scorned but He died so that we could have our sins removed. There is no danger of being let down. Verse 18 makes it clear again that faith is the basis of salvation and condemnation. For the believer, there is the assurance of everlasting life. For the unbeliever, there is judgment because they have not believed.

In Luke 16:19-31, the Lord makes clear that our destiny for eternity is based on whether we accept or reject the revelation of the Word of God. There were two men the parable. When the rich man found himself “in hell, .. in torments” and too late to change his destiny, he pleaded for his five brothers. The answer was given that they had “Moses and the prophets”. If they would not listen to the Word of God, then they would not accept any other pleading.

Eternity is certain, but we much choose where we will spend it. We can believe in our hearts (Rom 10:9) and claim the certain promise of sins forgiven and a home heaven, or we can refuse and face hell, with its weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth. It is choice we must make now. There is no guarantee of another opportunity and certainly no opportunity after this life has ended (Luke 16:26).