

## **For God so Loved the World**

### **John 3:16-18**

Sunday October 6, 2024

#### **<sup>14</sup> And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness,**

- And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” <sup>9</sup> So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live. Num. 21.8-9
  - Israel sinned against the Lord – speaking against Him and grumbling about their provision
    - As punishment fiery serpents sent among them, many died
    - Israel repented
    - At God’s command bronze serpent made and set on pole
    - Those who looked at it would live

#### **so must the Son of Man be lifted up,**

- “so must” – this has to happen, this is God’s decree
  - ...as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, Rm.3.10-11, 23
- “be lifted up”...
  - And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup> He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die. Jn.12.32-33
    - Note the phrase: “draw all people to myself.”
  - And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Lk.23.33

#### **<sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.**

- This is the explanation for the “must”
- And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. 1 Jn.5.11-12

#### **<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world,**

- Love is a characteristic of God
- The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin... Ex.34.6-7a
- Notice: God so loves the world, not just Israel!

#### **that he gave his only Son,**

- For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Cor.5.21

- Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Is.53.11

***that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.***

- Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. Jn.5.24
- But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved... Eph.2.4-5

***<sup>17</sup>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.***

- God is not waiting to ZAP us...
  - Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord GOD, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live? Ezek.18.23
  - The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Ps.103.8
- On the contrary...
  - ...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Rm.5.8

***<sup>18</sup>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.***

God's righteousness will be acted upon:

...but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation.” Ex.34.7b

And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. He.9.27-28

**Do we wish to face eternity/judgment on our merits or through the merits of Jesus Christ?**