

THE MEANING AND CONSEQUENCES OF JOHN 3:16

Turn in your Bibles to *John 3:16*:

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *John 3:16*

At one time John 3:16 was the most quoted verse in the Bible by people of all ages. Its great subject is the gift of salvation. Within the boundaries of John 3:16 we find four different principles of Biblical salvation taught. These are (1) the cause of salvation, (2) the cost of salvation, (3) the conditions for salvation and, (4) the results of salvation.

I. THE CAUSE OF SALVATION.

The cause of salvation is “For God so loved the world”. *1 John 4:8-10* and *Proverbs 10:12* state:

⁸ He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. ⁹ In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. ¹⁰ Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. *1 John 4:8-10*

¹² Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins. *Proverbs 10:12*

A. The Bible Says That We Are All Sinners By Birth. *Romans 3:9-12, Romans 3:22-23, Romans 5:6, Romans 5:12, Psalm 51:5, Psalm 58:3.*

⁹ What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; ¹⁰ As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: ¹¹ There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. ¹² They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. *Romans 3:9-12*

²² Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: ²³ For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; *Romans 3:22-23*

⁶ For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. *Romans 5:6*

¹² Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by

THE MEANING AND CONSEQUENCES OF JOHN 3:16

sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:
Romans 5:12

⁵ Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. *Psalm 51:5*

³ The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies. *Psalm 58:3*

B. The Bible Says That We Are All Sinners By Choice. *John 14:15* says:

¹⁵ If ye love me, keep my commandments. *John 14:15*

C. We Are All Sinners By Practice. *Ephesians 2:2* says:

² Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: *Ephesians 2:2*

II. THE COST OF SALVATION.

Salvation cost God the Father his only begotten son. *John 3:16* says, “That he gave his only begotten Son”. *Romans 8:3* and *Galatians 4:4* also state the following:

³ For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: *Romans 8:3*

⁴ But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, *Galatians 4:4*

A. The Lord Jesus Christ Left Heaven To Become The One And Only GOD-MAN. The Bible states the following in *John 1:1-3*, *John 1:14*, and *Philippians 2:6-8*:

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² The same was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. *John 1:1-3*

¹⁴ And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. *John 1:14*

THE MEANING AND CONSEQUENCES OF JOHN 3:16

⁶ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: ⁷ But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: ⁸ And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. *Philippians 2:6-8*

- B. The Life Of The Lord Jesus Christ In This World.** According to the Bible, the Lord Jesus Christ lived in poverty in this world. *2 Corinthians 8:9* says this:

⁹ For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich. *2 Corinthians 8:9*

- C. The Lord Jesus Christ Was Sinless And Obedient Unto God The Father From Birth Through The Death Of The Cross.** In *1 Timothy 3:16*, *Philippians 2:8*, *Hebrews 12:2*, *Hebrews 4:15*, and *Hebrews 9:28* the Bible has this to say about him:

¹⁶ And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory. *1 Timothy 3:16*

⁸ And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. *Philippians 2:8*

² Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. *Hebrews 12:2*

¹⁵ For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. *Hebrews 4:15*

²⁸ So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation. *Hebrews 9:28*

III. THE CONDITIONS FOR SALVATION.

The condition for salvation is: "That Whosoever Believeth in Him"

- A. To claim your righteousness is an exercise in futility.** The Bible has the following

THE MEANING AND CONSEQUENCES OF JOHN 3:16

to say about our righteousness in *Matthew 9:12-13*, *Mark 2:17*, *Luke 5:31-32*, and *Isaiah 64:6*:

¹² But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. ¹³ But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. *Matthew 9:12-13*

¹⁷ When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. *Mark 2:17*

³¹ And Jesus answering said unto them, They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. ³² I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. *Luke 5:31-32*

⁶ But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. *Isaiah 64:6*

⁵ Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; *Titus 3:5*

B. You Must Admit That You Are A Sinner. Listen to what *Luke 19:10*, *Romans 3:10*, and *Luke 18:9-14* state:

¹⁰ For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. *Luke 19:10*

¹⁰ As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: *Romans 3:10*

²³ For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; *Romans 3:23*

⁹ And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: ¹⁰ Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. ¹² I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I

THE MEANING AND CONSEQUENCES OF JOHN 3:16

possess. ¹³ And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted. *Luke 18:9-14*

- C. **You must Be Willing To Be Saved.** *Romans 10:13-14* and *Revelation 22:17* state the following :

¹³ For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.
¹⁴ How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? *Romans 10:13-14*

¹⁷ And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. *Revelation 22:17*

IV. **THE RESULTS OF SALVATION.**

There is a deliverance and a change that is wrought in salvation. That deliverance states that we: “Should not perish but have everlasting life”. With that deliverance, there will come some changes. The Bible declares this in *2 Corinthians 5:17*:

¹⁷ Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. *2 Corinthians 5:17*

There will be a change of heart, a change of hearing, a change of heritage, and a change of destiny.

- A. **There Will Be A Change of Heart For Those Who Are Saved.** The Bible states this about that *change in Ezekiel 36:26* and *Hebrews 10:16*:

²⁶ A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. *Ezekiel 36:26*

¹⁶ This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; *Hebrews 10:16*

- B. **There Will Be A Change of Hearing For Those Who Are Saved.**

THE MEANING AND CONSEQUENCES OF JOHN 3:16

1. God will send a famine of hearing to those that are lost. *Amos 8:11* and *Hebrews 5:11* state it this way:

¹¹ Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: *Amos 8:11*

¹¹ Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. *Hebrews 5:11*

2. There will be a willingness to hear in the ears of the believer. *Acts 17:11-12* puts it this way:

¹¹ These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. ¹² Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few. *Acts 17:11-12*

- C. There Will Be A Change of Heritage For Those Who Are Saved. The Bible says that we are heirs to a goodly heritage that includes an incorruptible inheritance that includes everlasting life. Our Bibles state the following in *Galatians 3:29*, *Galatians 4:7*, *1 Peter 1:3-5*, *John 3:36*, *John 5:24-29*, *John 6:47*, *John 10:28-29*, and *Psalms 16:5-6*:

²⁹ And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. *Galatians 3:29*

⁷ Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. *Galatians 4:7*

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. *1 Peter 1:3-5*

³⁶ He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that

THE MEANING AND CONSEQUENCES OF JOHN 3:16

believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him. *John 3:36*

²⁴ Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. ²⁵ Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. ²⁶ For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; ²⁷ And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. ²⁸ Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, ²⁹ And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation. *John 5:24-29*

⁴⁷ Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. *John 6:47*

²⁸ And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. *John 10:28-29*

⁵ The LORD is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot. ⁶ The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage. *Psalms 16:5-6*

- D. There Will Be A Change of Destiny For Those Who Are Saved.** Outside of salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ all those that are born of a woman are predestined to go to hell. However, all those that are born again of God the Holy Ghost are predestined to go to heaven. *John 3:3, John 3:17-18, and Revelation 20:13-15* put it this way:

³ Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. *John 3:3*

¹⁷ For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. ¹⁸ He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten

THE MEANING AND CONSEQUENCES OF JOHN 3:16

Son of God. *John 3:17-18*

¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. ¹⁴ And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. *Revelation 20:13-15*

Conclusion: All men everywhere are commanded to repent of their sin and to put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ according to Acts 17:30-31 and Acts 20:21:

³⁰ And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: ³¹ Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead. *Acts 17:30-31*

²¹ Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. *Acts 20:21*

Have you put your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and repented of your sin? Do you know for sure that if you were to die today that you would not go to hell and be cast into the lake of fire where the fire is never quenched and where you will burn for ever and ever and never be able to be burned up?? *Isaiah 33:14* asks the following two all important question for everyone:

¹⁴ The sinners in Zion are afraid; Fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings? *Isaiah 33:14*

Friend, will you dwell with the devouring fire with the everlasting burnings?!? Think about it! The Bible warns you in *Luke 12:5* that you should fear hell more than death itself!