

Morning Sermon Outline / October 23, 2022

“God’s Mission to Save the World”

John 3:16-21

**<sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.**

**<sup>18</sup> “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. <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”**

John 3:16–21 (NKJV)

*1. God’s mission to save the world, implies that the world needs saving -*

**<sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. John 3:16-17 (NKJV)**

1. *The passage does not read, ‘for God so loved the world that He sent His son, to pat it on the back, tell it, “Well done”, to cheer it on concerning its current happy ways!*

2. *“Perish” in John 3:16, is what would surely happen to us, if God does not send Jesus – ἀπόληται – apolaytai is the Greek word for perish; it means to be lost to be DESTROYED!*

3. *The world we live in is on the road, the path, in the way toward destruction –*

**<sup>13</sup> “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. <sup>14</sup> Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. Matthew 7:13–14 (NKJV)**

*The WAY to life, is narrow, the WAY to life is Jesus –*

**<sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. John 14:6 (NKJV)**

A. *There are NOT many ways to God! All “religions” are not the same.*

B. *Jesus is the only WAY! His name is the ONLY NAME –*

**<sup>12</sup> Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12 (NKJV)**

4. *God did not send Jesus to condemn, but without faith in Him, we are condemned already -*

**<sup>17</sup> For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. <sup>18</sup> “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.**

A. *This is the current state of our world “CONDEMNED ALREADY” –*

*This is why there is pain and destruction in this world! It is sinful and it is CONDEMNED!*

B. *We are living in a world destined to be destroyed –*

<sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. <sup>11</sup> Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of *persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, <sup>12</sup> looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? <sup>13</sup> Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 2 Peter 3:10-13 (NKJV)

- *During the hurricane some of our HOUSES were destroyed, but as true believers none of our homes were touched –*

<sup>20</sup> For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, Philippians 3:20 (NKJV)

- *This is why Jesus tells us –*

<sup>19</sup> **“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup> but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. Matthew 6:19–20 (NKJV)**

- *Faith in Jesus means faith that there is a better place, somewhere which is not perishing, a kingdom that will never be destroyed –*

<sup>2</sup> **In My Father’s house are many mansions; if *it* were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. John 14:2 (NKJV)**

5. *God’s kingdom will never be destroyed –*

<sup>34</sup> **And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation. Daniel 4:34 (NKJV)**

6. *God sent Jesus to save us from this perishing, condemned place, bringing us into His Kingdom –*

<sup>13</sup> **He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, Colossians 1:13 (NKJV)**

<sup>6</sup> **For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

<sup>7</sup> **Of the increase of His government and peace *There will be* no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. Isaiah 9:6–7 (NKJV)**

*II. John 3:16 is not a proof text for unlimited atonement –*

<sup>16</sup> **For God so loved the world ...**

## **The Five Points of Calvinism are:**

*Total Depravity*

*Unconditional Election*

*Limited Atonement*

*Irresistible Grace*

*Perseverance of the Saints*

- Calvin did not write these!
  - I do not believe these are even an adequate summary of Calvinism!
  - I do agree with these 5 points, when rightly understood!
  - Limited atonement is the most hated, and misunderstood of the five, many who would call themselves 4 – point Calvinists, they don't understand!
1. Calvin never said God does not love the world, or that God does not give every man a chance –

"No man is excluded from calling upon God. The gate of salvation is set open for all men. Nor can any other thing keep us from entering in, except our own unbelief."

John Calvin,  
Commentary on Acts 2:21

2. What the word "atonement" means –

*It is taken from the Old English word at-one-ment. Theologically it means that believers are made one with God and Christ through Christ's death on the cross.*

*Note, that I said "believers" are made one with God through Christ death on the cross. This idea is back by John 3:16 –*

**<sup>16</sup> 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. John 3:16 (NKJV)**

For Unlimited Atonement to be true, John 3:16 would have to read something like this –

**<sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes or does NOT Believe, everyone whether they believe in Him or not, should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16 (NKJV)**

3. *This is universalism. No true Bible believing Christian believes everyone is made ONE with Christ.*

4. *Being made ONE with Christ means the church is Christ's bride –*

... **“Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife.” <sup>10</sup> And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, Revelation 21:9–10 (NKJV)**

5. *Being made ONE with Christ means the church is Christ's body –*

**<sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. 1 Corinthians 12:27 (NKJV)**

*Some deny universalism, that everyone is saved, but still claim unlimited atonement, ultimately saying that Christ's death made every individual in the world ONE with Himself, whether they believe or not, so Christ not only has a bride in heaven, but another unbelieving wife in hell! His body is not only eternally in heaven but also in hell.*

**III. Jesus is the Light of the World, but men loved darkness –**

**<sup>18</sup> “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. <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.” John 3:16–21 (NKJV)**

1. *Note some are condemned already - :18 All unbelievers ...*

2. *Jesus is the Light –*

**<sup>12</sup> Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” John 8:12 (NKJV)**

A. *True faith includes following – John 8:12*

B. *There is condemnation because men loved darkness, they don't follow Jesus, they do not come to church, they do not fellowship with God's people, they are not atoned for – John 3:19-20*

C. *Good God-glorifying deeds are done in God in His power by faith, in the light – John 3:21*

**<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:8–10 (NKJV)**

3. *Application - salvation is from this perishing world, Christ saves people out of it, not for it –*

**<sup>15</sup> Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.**

**<sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. <sup>17</sup> And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. 1 John 2:15–17 (NKJV)**

4. *Application – only Jesus saves – John 14:6, follow Him – John 8:12*

5.