

Easter Sunday
God's Love...and Those Who Believe
John 3:1-18

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”

John 3:16

Main Point: God's offer of love still stands today!

A bit of context and definition...

Jesus is meeting with a Jewish leader named Nicodemus at night. Twice before John 3:16 Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born again.

“God so loved that He gave...” This is intense love!

“His only Son...” This is an incredible gift!

Eternal life- the new life God gives, not just here on earth, but for eternity. This is in contrast with the futility and hopelessness of life without Jesus.

Perish- the opposite of salvation; the opposite of life. To perish does not mean to cease to exist; it means to experience utter failure, futility, and loss of all that makes existence worthwhile.

All you have to do to perish is...nothing!

Point: Salvation is a gift received only by believing God for it.

“...because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

Romans 10:9

Belief implies personal trust in Jesus Christ. It means you believe Jesus is now your Lord and your Savior.

Point: Belief consists of accepting something- not doing something.

“But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold, and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.”

Mark 4:20

The offer of God’s redeeming love has only two options: believe or perish.

“Jesus said to her, *‘I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.’*”

John 11:25

Sermon by Pastor Dave Williams March 27th, 2016

Next week: 1 John 3:11-24 The Conquering Power of Love