

Finish our series 'Incomparable Worth' – End with the most famous passage in Scripture

- **Why is it so famous?** Gospel in a nutshell = Love – Sacrifice – Calling – Promise

This is a beautiful section of Scripture that focuses on Salvation – Light – Darkness

Greatest fears is getting trapped in darkness – What I believe Hell is...eternal darkness

- **Caving Missouri flashlight went out...crawled on my belly out – When I saw the light**

That is the thrust of this passage...love has come into the world and brought light with it

¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Whoever 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. ¹⁹And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

Context conversation Nicodemus...Pharisee – Night – Born Again – Womb | Born Again Jesus is going to teach him about love...Godly love...now that love is different than ours

- **Sentimentalized Love of God – Of Course God loves me...nice...cute...trying...I'm lovable**
Self-sacrificing, unconditional, and unwavering commitment, supremely demonstrated in the sending and sacrifice of Jesus Christ to redeem humanity from sin and offer eternal life.

Big Idea - We have love, and the world needs to receive it

We don't have love is temporary...we don't have a love that is conditioned...Perfect Love

2025...humankind at height of technological/scientific achievement - Bottoming out morally

Man says in his heart, 'There is no God' - Remove God...spiral into chaos

Advancements in industry, science, medicine, and exploration | All our ingenuity & cunning

'Look how far we've come' | 'Look what we can do' | No closer solving greatest dilemma

Need for salvation from sin and death – Drowning in a seas pool of it...we need God's love

1. **The purpose of God's love reunites your relationship (v16-17)**

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- ¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son,” | ‘So’ = In this way

- In this way...God love the world...he would send His Son into the world to die

“Everything's got a price” – True when comes to stuff – Bear – Ring – My Son...No price

Greatest Love Story Ever...Because of what it cost | Considered what it cost God love you?

Salvation is free, but isn't cheap - Cost the Son of God's life & Father willingly gave his Son

- **that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.**
 - Two things here...first it adds a condition to the ‘Whole world’ – **Universalist error**
 - Second...it reunites your relationship with God through belief in the Christ

Replantation – Severed finger | Time when humanity connected – Severed – Replantation

Are you connected to the body of Christ or are you a dying rotting finger?

¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Jesus doesn't come to condemn it...it's already condemned

- **The real question is 'Why in the world would God love us?'**

World Wars – Genocide in Russia, China, Germany, Africa | Infanticide worldwide
Racist – Violent – Malicious – Hitler, Stalin, Pol-Pot...Kim Jong-Un – Corruptions homes

Jesus didn't come to condemn the world...we're doing fine on our own

God loves us because it's in His character to love His creation...so He sent a solution
Comfort – God doesn't 'fall in love or out of love' like some temperamental Jr. High Student

- Not – ‘You mean everything to me. I cannot live without you.’
- Yes – ‘Morally you're abhorrent...ethical halitosis...abominable personality...still love **God's love is: Unfathomable (Depths) – Unbreakable (You) – Unbelievable (Cost)**

You cannot comprehend God's love till you comprehend your depravity

2. **The power of God's love reclaims your innocence (v18)**

¹⁸Whoever 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.

Reclaimed innocence is a massive part of God's Love...goes all the way back to original sin

- **Doctrine Jerked around by liberal theologians** – Inherited sin from Adam and Eve

But now because of the sacrifice of Christ you have a reclaimed innocence...amazing

Know what I love about baptism? The testimony...trainwreck to new life

- **What you did before accepting Christ is gone...your innocence has been reclaimed**
- **Whoever believes in Him is not condemned** – Mountain of evidence against you
- Difficult teaching...whoever does not believe is condemned already...not believed

- **Andrew Schultz and Wes Huff...their big hang up in the interview is this problem**

What if you are a moral person your whole life vs serial killer who accepts Christ at the end

- **This is the importance of Christ...the power of Christ...the message of Christ**
Everything in human existence, as it pertains to eternity, come down to Jesus
- Difficult doctrine of God's love...it has never depended on your effort...but God's

3. **The providence of God's love reorients your desire (v19-21)**

¹⁹And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

Light and darkness are used to metaphorically speak of good and evil

The Light is Jesus Christ = He is the embodiment of truth, holiness, and God's presence

- He has come into the world – Not hidden – Clear and undeniable
- People loved the darkness – Not ignorance...an active pursuit of evil

²⁰For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.

- **Ever met someone who says, 'If I went to church I'd burst into flames' – No...but yes!**

- The light of Christ exposes the evil in our lives...it shines a torch on our sins

This reorients our lives...we no longer want to be in the darkens...we want the light!

2010 Chilean mine collapse where 33 miners = 69 days – 2300 feet – Capsule...just stay?

²¹But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

This is what the whole world is missing...the light of the love of God is good...hurts

- If you have been in the darkens for a long time...the light hurts, but its good

When I first came to know Jesus...walking around apologizing to people – Gym

- **Why would I go through all that? Because I had experienced God's love...changed me**

It is uncomfortable to bring things into the light but it is best

Christianity in practice is a religion of transparency – your longing is to reorient your desires

- Then...and only then...can you see the work that is carried out by God

Big Idea - We have love, and the world needs to receive it – Cave of darkness

¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.