

Just Jesus

Speaker: Dr. Bill Patterson



Today's Scripture • • •

John 3:16-21 NIV

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. ¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

This season I encourage you to play this You Tube selection of the Halleluiah Chorus:

[ROYAL CHORAL SOCIETY: Hallelujah Chorus in Isolation #Messiah2020 #RovalAlbertHome](#)



Soul Food

GOING TO THE NEXT LEVEL

You are encouraged to read verses before and after the selected passages.

Sunday: John 3:16-21 ...whoever believes

Monday: 1 John 4:7-12 we might live through Him

Tuesday: John 10:25-30 When we follow Jesus, he gives us eternal life

Wed: 1 Thessalonians 5:9-24 Live for Him

Thursday: Psalm 139:23-24 lead me in the way everlasting

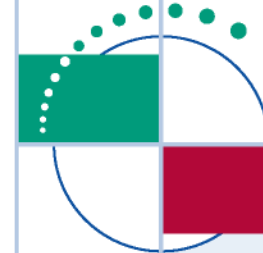
Friday: John 3:36 Rejecting Jesus means God's wrath remains on you

Saturday: Ephesians 2:8-10 Saved by God's grace to do good work

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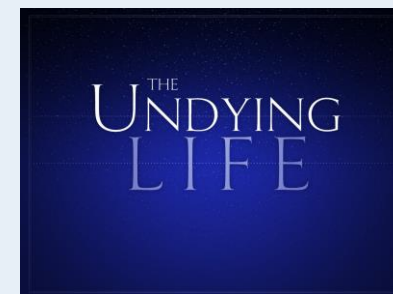
613 18th Ave, Holdrege, NE 68949

<https://theporchlife.org>



December 20, 2020

Sermon Notes



John 3:16

Big Idea: God has given lavishly and generously to us.





Putting the Bible into Practice

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

James 1:22 (NIV)

God reaches out to each of us with a simple yet life altering message. The issue is not what we can do but what he has done. The cross of Jesus slices through history. It will have an impact on every life. If you are a follower of Jesus, how does the cross impact your life?

What barriers prevent Christ followers from telling others about the reality of Heaven and Hell?

Are Christ followers truly being loving towards their unsaved friends if they withhold information on eternity (Heaven and Hell)? Why?

John Stott makes the following statement: *The Cross is the blazing fire at which the flame of our love is kindled, but we have to get near enough for its sparks to fall on us.*

What prevents you from drawing near to the Cross?

Discuss this statement made by Dr. John Piper:

Believing is an ongoing condition of the heart and mind not a one-time act. The tense of the verbs all through John's gospel makes this plain. "...that whoever believes (not believed) on him might not perish." The present tense in Greek is an ongoing, continuous action. John 20:31 tells us why this whole Gospel was written and makes the continuousness of believing plain. It says, "These have been written that you may believe (aorist tense: come to believe, or some manuscripts have present tense) that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing (present tense: ongoing believing) you may have life in His name." Believing is a vital link with the rescuing love of God when that believing is the ongoing, condition of the heart. It is very dangerous and unwise to orient on a past decision when pondering if you are a Christian. The issue is: are you believing in Jesus Christ the Son of God? ***Is this the ongoing condition of your heart?***

With whom can you share Jesus in the next 10 days?

Praying God's Word ~

John 3:16

- Thank God for His love and holiness.
- Thank God for the gift of Jesus.
- Thank God for the hope the world has in Jesus.
- Thank God for the opportunity to believe Him.
- Thank God we do not need to perish eternally.

Pray

The Greatest

Our Daily Bread

Someone sent me an excellent outline of John 3:16, a verse that is often referred to as "God's miniature Bible." Here it is:

God—the greatest lover
so loved —the greatest degree
the world —the greatest company
that He gave —the greatest act
His only begotten Son —the greatest gift
that whoever believes —the greatest simplicity
in Him —the greatest person
should not perish —the greatest promise
but—the greatest difference
have—the greatest certainty
everlasting life —the greatest possession

I heard about a young girl whose mother was reading to her the third chapter of John. Pausing after verse 16, the mother exclaimed, "Don't you think that verse is amazing, dear?" The child thought and then said, "No." The mother thought the youngster must have misunderstood, so she repeated the question. But again the girl shook her head, saying, "No. It would be amazing if it were anyone else, Mother. But it's really just like God!" Indeed, the child with her simple faith had understood that the great gift of salvation could naturally be expected from a great God.

With reverent adoration, let us recognize that God, His love, and His eternal gift are naturally "the greatest."

*God loved the world of sinners, lost
And ruined by the fall;
Salvation, full, at highest cost,
He offers free to all. —Stockton*

**Salvation is a gift to be received,
not a goal to be achieved.**