

Ignoring Jesus' Significance

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John 3:36

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Hello, Redeemer family. Good to see all of you. Thanks for being here. And if you are watching, hey, thanks for joining us. My name's John, if you're a guest, I get to be one of the pastors here. And if you were a part of it, we had a great workshop this week on the Theology of Marxism. Didn't we? For those of you were there James Lindsay and Michael O'Fallon did a masterful job of explaining three things. First, what in the world is going on in our world right now? Number two, how did we get here? And number three, what's coming in the future if millions of people don't say, stand against this and say, no, we're not going to let this happen? So if you weren't able to make it, the group that we hosted, Sovereign Nations, uh they will have the videos up on YouTube very soon.

If you're like I don't YouTube. I don't know about that. If you are a part of our church email, we will have links to that in that email. So if you're going what is church email, what's that? Take out your program, tear off that connect card and put me on the church email, and then you'll get everything that we we give out. Warning, warning, it will stretch your mind, right? If you were there, you know that it'll stretch your mind, but what'll happen is that you will look out at the world, you'll watch the news, you'll read your newsfeed and go, I understand what's going on here now and that's invaluable. So there were people here from all over Arizona and California, but there were people here from Idaho, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Alabama, Tennessee, and New York city. There was even one guy who flew all the way here for the workshop from Israel.

So this was a significant important event that took place on our campus. It was amazing. And it was amazing because James Lindsay not being a Christian, I didn't expect this, but 20% of the room was not Christians. And so to have them interacting with the people of our church was truly remarkable. The the feedback that they were giving about how nice and kind and how great their experience was, I was not repaired for that, but that was awesome. That was absolutely awesome. It's also something else happened this week for the conference that I wanted to let you know about. So as many of you know, I did a series back in November of 20' called Stand: Christianity versus Social Justice, where I tried to show that the movement is not an in-house debate for Christians like baptism or end times views. It's actually another religion. It's a cult. It's a competing world view. It's actually an attack on and substitute for the message of Jesus.

While I turned that series into a book, a publisher picked it up, created a cover, created a website and it is now available for pre-order. And so it's pretty cool. There it is. Pretty pretty cool thing. I've never done anything like that before so thanks for clapping for that. That was nice. And so on the website, it's 25% off. Okay. They did it for the conference and I was like could I tell the church about it too? They're like, oh, sure. Okay. So there it is. So that book will be coming out in the the first week of August, but they're doing pre-orders for it now. So if you're interested, check out that website. All right enough of that, let's look at what we're here for. Open your Bibles to John chapter three. John chapter three. That's the last time I'm going to say that, 'open your Bibles to John chapter three,' because this is the end of our long look at what may be one of, if not the greatest chapters in the Bible. John three is on page 984 in the Bibles that we give away.

And so if you're able and you're there, please stand for the reading of God's Word. Notice we sit for when I preach, when I speak, but we stand for the Word of God, because this is the Word of God himself. John three drop down to verse 35, John 3:35. These are the words of the living God. The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hands. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life. Whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. That is God's words. You may be seated. And as you are seated, let's pray together. Okay?

Father, this text has some pretty heavy things to say. They're significant, they're reality defining, they're also uncomfortable. And so I pray for your help, I pray for your grace, I pray for your presence to help us please not just understand these things, but to understand our world in light of these things. I pray the same thing for Hope Covenant church, Pastor Doug is done preaching now, but I pray that the effect of his preaching today will have been that because you spoke through him in the preaching, the people were saved, truly converted, and that people are growing in their commitment to Jesus because of the time they spent at Hope this weekend. Father, bless that church, use that church powerfully in our community. And God, please do the same with us here as we seek to apply your word in our lives. Please, father, I pray these things for the glory of your name. Amen.

So about two weeks ago, I don't know if you were aware of it, but we passed through a comets tale. Did you know that? Allegedly. Astronomers said to expect to see shooting stars at 10:00 PM or 1:00 AM. And that should have been my first clue right there. I'm always up for stuff like this, always have been, love the night sky constellations, all of that. So I was with a couple of guys on staff here at about 10:00 PM. We were looking up at the night sky for about 30 minutes and we saw nothing, nothing. Next to nothing, little flashes here and there maybe, mostly a fraction of a split second out of the corner of your eye you know and you wonder like, did I just see something? I think I did. Yeah. Yeah. I saw something. But on the inside it's like, did I really? I don't know, easy to explain it away. I really didn't see it, maybe I did. I don't know. I don't know what I saw. Well, the guys went home, but I stayed up. If something was going to happen, I was not going to miss it. So 1:00 AM rolled around. I go out to my backyard, I didn't want to feel the pain of knowing there was this incredible thing that happened and I missed it. So there I was 1:00 AM looking up at my night sky for about five minutes, maybe three minutes. And you know what I saw? Absolutely nothing. And I wonder if my looking up at the night sky is the way people look at Jesus. I mean, Christians say, he's wonderful. They say he's significant so people look at him and maybe they see little flashes of his greatness and his glory here and there, but he he never comes into focus for them. Maybe they're drawn to something he said or something he did, but they pass him off, as it's really not a big deal. It's not hard for many to ask did I really see something significant in Jesus? Only to dismiss it and distract themselves and explain him way with nah, nah, can't can't be. John does not want anybody to respond to Jesus in that way. He knows what many people don't know or better. He knows what many people refuse to know that no one is higher, no one is greater, no one is better. No one is superior to Jesus. Revelation 19:6, Jesus is the king of kings and Lord of Lords. In other words, the highest, the greatest, the elite of all the elite on this planet will all bow down to him one day. Revelation 21:6, Jesus is the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end, meaning all things got their start in creation through him. And it means that all things will end with him in the recreation, in the new heavens and the new earth when everything in this entire reality is destroyed and it is recreated without sin, without the possibility of sin, the new age, that that will dawn one day. All things including you and me, we find our beginning, our middle, our end, our meaning, our purpose, our destiny,

connected to Jesus. And if that's true, which it is, then the logical deduction, the last thing you would want to do, the logical thing to completely avoid would be to ignore Jesus, to ignore his significance. To say like I'm saying, nah, nothing important there, not a big deal. Yeah. All that stuff about the stars, not a big deal, there was nothing. No, our response to Jesus is the most important response that you and I can have to anything ever.

And John concludes, really climaxes one of the most important chapters in the Bible on a note of warning, namely, are you sure you're responding to him appropriately? Are you responding to him correctly? In the way, in the only way that's right, that's accurate, that matches what he really is? Are you sure you're responding to him in that way? In other words, building off of verse 31, if Jesus is the eternal God who came here and became a human being, if he is the elevated king of heaven and earth, if he is the expression, the Logos, the word, the mouthpiece of God is the authority on everything that he said, if he is the exclusive Son of God, if he is the exalted King over everyone and everything. And in the words of 3:16, if he is the most precious of gifts that God gives to sinners that he loves. If he was punished in our place, if he paid sins penalty with his blood, if he perished that sinners may be forgiven. If he pacified God's justice, if he placated God's wrath, if all of that is true and it is, then there is only one right response to him and you see it at the beginning of verse 36, whoever believes in the Son has eternal life. John starts with the correct response, the only right response, he starts with point #1) ***The Commitment. The Commitment.*** I use the word commitment to summarize the word believe in verse 36, because to believe in the biblical sense is not merely an intellectual thing. It is intellectual, yes, don't get me wrong, but it's more than intellectual, it's both intellectual and it is intentional. In other words, it's more than an opinion or a preference or I've come to this conclusion.

No, belief in the Bible is a conviction. It is a commitment and verse 36 makes that clear. You know how it makes that clear? In typical Hebrew parallel style, John does something here in this text that we don't expect. He contrasts believing in Jesus, notice with, not obeying him, verse 36 again. Whoever believes in the Son as eternal life, whoever does not what? Obey the Son shall not see life. See in John's mind the opposite of believing is not just not believing, it's also not obeying. That's because they believe in something and the Bible includes your response to the idea that you accept is true. Now, what is it that this belief is obeying exactly? It's not obeying God's laws, that would be work salvation. Earning my salvation by my good deeds. No. What true belief obeys is the message of the gospel. That good news of Jesus life, death, and resurrection.

So it goes like this. The good news is that is that Jesus sinless life was lived in place of sinners, that he lived the life that you and I would never even want to live in perfect obedience to God. The good news is that Jesus death was in the place of sinners as the substitute taking the penalty that sin deserves. And the good news is that Jesus resurrection is the guarantee that your sins can be forgiven, that your sin debt can be paid in full, but the punishment you deserve can be avoided.

So that's the proclamation. That's the message. Now what? Now what is that in light of all of that, there is a command, a directive God makes a demanded verse 36. That demand from God is to believe in his Son, to trust in him, to believe in him as your Savior, to give your life to him, to surrender to him, to commit to him as your Lord in verse 36 says you do that and you will have eternal life. Look up one more time at verse 14. As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the son of man be lifted up. That's lifted up on the cross to die, lifted up to receive

punishment. God's punishment. God's wrath for human sin. Verse 15, that he's lifted up. Here's the purpose, whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only son that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. These statements are fact, they're reality. They are true truth.

And Jesus put it this way, John 6:47, truly-truly I say to you that the front loading of those words truly-truly, mean this is real, this is fact, this is this is reality, you can take it to the bank, truly-truly, I, the Lord of heaven and our say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. Notice our text verse 37, twice the word 'whoever': is repeated. Why? Because it doesn't matter who you are and it doesn't matter what you've done, this offer is made to everyone. First, Timothy 1:16, Paul is describing his own life before Christ and he said, I received mercy for this reason that in me, as the foremost, the chief, the apex of sinners, the worst of the worst, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. So the call to salvation to rescue from your sins, the call of the response is to believe. Whenever a person does that, they are obeying. They're responding to the gospel message. And the only way that is appropriate, which is trusting obedience, it is obedient trust.

This is an obedient faith. This is a faith, a trust that obeys. You see, it's not purely intellectual, right? It's not just changing your mind about Jesus but but 'no change to your life. No, it is a faith that in Jesus that obeys and continues to obey because genuine saving faith continues in a commitment to Jesus and continues in obedience to his word. This is why this series is called Real Christians, because this is what real Christians do, they believe in him. They trust in him. And that trust, that commitment continues. Yes, it happens at a point in time, it happens at a moment in time, but from there it becomes a continual believing. Verse 36 it says, whoever believes, notice that "S" on the end of the word believes means it is continual. It is ongoing. Whoever is believing is what the Greek says, which means that it's not momentary.

Like I did that back in the day, I think I was eight years old. I was in my living room. I was at my church you know and I came forward. I prayed the prayer and I'm good now I'm good now, I'm done. I'm moving on from that and I'm fine now. No, this is a belief, a commitment that continues. And it lasts until you die or Christ returns. And in that moment, you will see Jesus face-to-face. In that moment, your commitment becomes sight, and in that moment your trust gets its reward. And notice verse 36 again, the result of this commitment to Jesus, this believing in him results and that a person notice has eternal life. Eternal life is life fit for the age to come. Life fit for heaven. Life that will continue after you are resurrected, a life that can never die. God's life in other words, in your soul, at your core, that's what eternal life is. But I want you to focus on the word has. This word means to actually experience something.

But the word has is a word that again speaks to continuation so that the believer in Jesus is having eternal life. What that means friends is that eternal life is not a future reward, eternal life is a present reality, a current experience for those who believe. It's not something you may have one day, it's something that you can have this day. See, the common idea is that it's pride to say I have eternal life. Like like say that to yourself, you might feel some ugh, I have eternal life with certainty. But ask your religious friends, ask your religious family members, do you have eternal life? And then listen to their responses. I hope so. I'm trying, I'm working on it. I'm doing my best, crossing my fingers. We'll see when I get there, I hope the man upstairs is having a good day when my time comes.

All right, what does that betray? It betrays this text, because this text says of the most incredible privileges that Jesus does for those who give their lives to him is that there are no works to be accomplished. There are no conditions to be met, no price to be paid, no enduring years of probation, hoping that God will finally accept you. When someone believes in Jesus, when he or she commits their life to him, eternal life becomes both their eternal and their present possession. It's not something they're waiting for and hope to have one day. It's something they can experience today, both now and forever. I was visiting a precious member of our church after the Saturday services last week, Jack Croye, he's dying of cancer. And I tried to picture this for him by saying the eternal life that you've been experiencing Jack is like the smell of Thanksgiving dinner. You get a taste of it, you get excited, but you're not fully enjoying it. I said, Jack, though, I'm sad to watch you departing, I'm also jealous because soon you are going to be feasting on eternal life.

You see, the only true response to all that Jesus is and all that he did. The only right way to respond to this one who is superior overall, and the most significant being in the universe, is to believe in him and to believe in him is to trust in him and to trust in him is to give your life to him, it is to commit your life to him. So have you done that? Have you committed your life to him? It's not like Jesus is the loser trophy that everybody gets just for playing. He is the superior one. He is higher than all. He is God's greatest and most precious gift. If you haven't committed your life to him, what are you waiting for? Give your life to him. If you haven't, today is a good day to do that. Don't ignore him. Again, commitment is not an intellectual thing.

Try that with your spouse. Intellectually, I'm married to you, but in my life I barely ever think about you and I kind of just do whatever I want. Listen, if that wouldn't work with your spouse, why in the world would that work with Jesus? Commit your life to him, believe in him and you will have eternal life. Now the rest of our time together is going to be spent considering what happens when people refuse to commit, when they ignore Jesus' significance. Look back at verse 36, whoever believes in the son has eternal life. Whoever does not obey the son shall not see life. So start the explanation of this tragic inappropriate response to Jesus. Let's start with point #2) ***The offense. The offense.*** The snub, the slight, the insult, the insult in light of all that Jesus is in light of his superior superiority and his significance.

The offense is not to believe, not to obey, not to commit, not not to believe and trust, but to ignore, to reject. Couple of things about this phrase, first again, it's contrasted with the word believe, meaning it's an active refusal to trust. It's an active refusal to give one's life to Christ. It is a rebuff, it's a pushback on the idea that that I need to comply with this call to to follow Jesus at all. I don't need to. Second, the Greek words there does not obey are also describing a present continuous ongoing action. So more than just the action being continuous, it seems to encompass the attitude that leads to the action. In other words, it's an attitude that leads to a refusal, an attitude that leads to a denial, an attitude of rebellion and attitude of defiance. The rejection of the idea and the need to surrender, to commit, to trust in Jesus, to rest in him and live.

It's a hearing of the command, Acts 16:31, believe in the Lord, Jesus Christ and you will be safe. It is a hearing of that and going no, no, no, no, no. And to get further inside into this phrase, do not obey or does not obey. Romans 2:8 gets to the core by putting this same phrase in verse 36 next to the words self-seeking. In other words, underneath all their excuses is pride. What this person lives for. This person who does not commit himself to Jesus, what they live for is themselves. In other words, they think they will maximize their life by minimizing Jesus. Life for them is not about Jesus increasing it's about him decreasing so that their wants their desires, their

goals increase. Acts 19:9 puts this same phrase does not obey next to the word, stubborn and Greek. The word stubborn means to become hard so that what happens at their core is that every refusal, every denial, every pushback against commitment to Jesus creates another layer of concrete over their soul.

Romans 10:21 puts this same phrase does not obey next to the word contrary, because that's what they are at their very core. They oppose, they push back, they're the opposite. They push against him. They push against the ramifications of them committing to him rather than opposing that opposition and embracing Jesus. They embrace the opposition and oppose Jesus. But Hebrews 5:9, Jesus "the source of eternal salvation for those who obey him." This is not a call to obey God's rules to earn salvation, this is a call to obey the message of the gospel, which is the obligation to believe in Christ. Listen to 1 Peter 4:17. It says it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God, and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey? Same phrase, who do not obey the gospel of God? When I obey the gospel, yes, judgment will be worse for those who disobey the expectation to demand the decree from God to believe in his Son.

Think about it, if God loves nothing more than his Son, then to refuse to respond to Jesus, to ignore him is the worst act that we can commit. Now I know we would put other acts within the category of worst acts that we could commit, but God puts this because it's telling God what you love the most means little to me. What is most precious to you means nothing to me. What you gave up to death to save me from my sins is not good enough for me to give my life to him. Sorry, I'm good. For God that is not a neutral thing. For God that is an absolutely horrifically terrible thing. Why? Because it's like saying to your friend, I like you, but your wife means nothing to me. It's like saying to your boss, I love my job, but your business means nothing to me. It's like saying to your closest family member, I love you dearly, you're great, but your kids I could do without them, they they mean nothing to me. See, those are about the worst things you could say to a person, right? Those words are not neutral. Those words cut off the possibility of a relationship. It's like, no, no, no, no, if if you don't love them, how can you say you love me? You can't love me when I love with all my heart the ones that you don't care about, no to show your love for me, you show your love for me, by what? By loving them.

By the way, this is an offense most people are committing against God. That most people are committing God, you're great. Yeah. Follow God. I believe in God. Great. God's like ahh, you don't love my son. You don't follow my son. You don't commit your life to my son. You don't have me. No, because in light of all that Jesus is and all that he did in light of all that God thinks about his son, verse 35, the father loves the son. In light of all that God sacrificed when he gave his son up to death on the cross in light of all of that to ignore Jesus, to refuse to give your life to him is the gravest of offenses against the only God that there is. Now from the offense let's look next to point #3) ***The Miss. The Miss.*** So look at verse 36, whoever believes in the son has eternal life. Whoever does not obey the son shall not see life. To ignore the son, to refuse, to believe, to reject the call, to commit your life to Christ is to miss eternal life. And instead to be under God's justice and part of God's justice is that they "shall not see life." Again, this life is available to whoever. Again, this is a life God gave his son up to death for. It is the life God gives to those who commit their lives to his son. Those who refuse him will miss out on this life. That word "see" there in verse 36, it means to not experience something, to not participate in something, not only will they not enjoy it, they won't even have any contact with it. It is to miss eternal life entirely. And again, it is to miss it by refusing to obey the call to believe in Jesus.

When God, it's it's saying to God, what matters to you doesn't matter much to me. What you love, I can't be bothered with right now. Life in the age to come, eternal life, life that fits in heaven. Life that will last for eternity. This text says will not ever be experienced. It will never be enjoyed by those who ignore, those who refuse to commit their lives to Jesus. To not see life in the words of Ephesians 4:17 is to be alienated estranged from this life that comes from God, which is eternal life. No, they will experience the terrifying opposite of this life. The words of revelation 21:8, it is to forever be located "in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death to not see life is to experience the second death." The second death is a death, an eternal death, where one is eternally dying, but never dies.

It is an eternal conscious torment separated from God's grace forever. To "not see life" in the words of John 5:24, to still be under God's judgment is to remain an eternal death is where John goes next in verse 36. One more time, whoever believes in the son has eternal life. Whoever does not obey the son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. This is the conclusion, not just to the chapter, but these are the final words to those who persist in ignoring all that God did, all that Jesus is, all that Jesus did, that they ignore him. They will come to point #4) **The End. The End.** The end being "the wrath of God." This is the final state. The final experience, the final never-ending result of ignoring Jesus.

It is wrath. God's wrath is not an uncontrolled fly off the handle supercharged rage monster kind of fury. God's wrath is his settled controlled measured constant response to sin by a holy just and perfect God. It is God's good opposition to all rebellion. It is his willingness to act decisively against all things that are wicked and evil. At its core God's wrath is the expression. It is the result of God being a good God, God being a moral God. God's wrath is justice's goodness expressed in his hatred for evil. This is what salvation refers to, right? Salvation means to be rescued, delivered, taken from a place of danger and put into a place of safety.

Well, what is the place of safety that we're being delivered into and rescued from this place of danger? And place of danger is the wrath of God. See, if if God is a God without wrath and salvation means nothing, not being saved from anything. If it's not a real threat, if it's not a real possibility, but Romans 1:18 says God's wrath is is against all ungodliness and all unrighteousness. So not just like the worst, that's what we'd say, it's like wrath is for the worst stuff and God goes, no wrath is for all of it. Why? Because all sin is against him and he is no small trifling thing, to sin against him as an eternal infinite offense. Romans 2:5 is God's wrath will be experienced by those who harden their hearts to the truth. Romans 2:8 says quote, for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.

There will be, it is a promise, it is a guarantee. Why? Because God is good. Wrath is guaranteed because God is good. Romans 4:15, God's wrath is the result of breaking God's laws just like a government's wrath should be the result of breaking its laws. Ephesians 2:3, all humanity is characterized as under God's wrath for their rebellion against him. So that I Thessalonians 1:10 says God's wrath against humanity is to come, it's on its way, it can't be stopped. It's inevitable. Notice verse 36. Again, this wrath is coming wrath remains. You see that word remains? On those who do not believe in Jesus. This word means to continue to abide, to stay, to rest on a person. In the words of John 3:18, they are condemned already because they do not believe in Jesus. The punishment in other words is not something future, it's not something they're waiting to happen to them and right now they're in this little place of neutrality safe. No, this punishment, this condemnation is something that is a reality that is on them. According to this text right now.

Whether we know it or not, whether they know it or not, it is the most true thing about them, God's wrath is like their shadow. It's with them always they're oblivious to this reality when it is the most real thing about them. Why? Because no thought is truly given at all to Jesus, who he is, what he did. There's no consideration at all of this call to believe in him. There's no credibility to the idea that one sins actually need to be forgiven, no credence given to the cross and the resurrection, it means if that's true, the person's sin remains on them and if and if their sin remains on them, then God's wrath for those sins remain on them.

And here's the thing, if God did not execute his wrath on human sin and evil, that would make our courts, which do execute wrath on human sin and evil more holy than God is. No, this God takes justice seriously and it is only his mercy that he does not execute his judgment with each passing second on their lives. Using the imagery of Psalm 64:7 it pictures God holding a bow and an arrow. And God's bow is bent by omnipotent arms. His arms never need to take a break. His arrow is aimed with infinite precision right at their hearts. His aim is never off even by a millimeter, no matter what they're doing, no matter where they're going, his arrow is locked onto the target with the skill of omniscience. His arms are straining, ready at any second to let the arrow of his justice fly. And because he is just because he is good because he hates wickedness. He wants to let the arrow fly and plunge into their hearts, giving them the eternal justice that they deserve for their rebellion against him.

And it is only his grace every second that holds him back. That's morbid, that's fire and brimstone. No, it's an explanation of this text. Look at the text, continuous tense, every second, continuous constant reality, the wrath of God, continuous text remains, is remaining on them. It is there ready to fall on them at any moment and then they're lost forever. That is truer than anything else about them. They do not live in some neutral space right now. No, God's wrath has marked them, stalking them. And it is ready at any moment to pounce on them and attack. In the words of Colossians 3:6, and light of human rebellion, the wrath of God is "coming." It's on its way. It cannot be stopped, except for those who come to Jesus. Those who stop ignoring him. Those who believe in him, who commit their lives to him, who trust in him to save them from their sins, who surrender to him as their Lord. Then then they will be rescued from God's wrath for their sins, then, and only then will they be rescued.

Now for those of you who have come to Christ to believe in him, who you have committed your life to him, you have eternal life right now, this time for you and really this entire chapter in the book of John chapter three has been me helping to equip you to share these truths, to proclaim these truths to the non-Christians that you interact with and love most. See in many of the messages in this chapter, I've tried to organize the material and the text in a way where you can take the points and use the points to share the gospel with those you love.

So let's give it a try right now. Okay? I'm going to pretend I'm talking to somebody right now. I'm sharing the gospel with them. Okay? So I will say to them, there are some bad news I need to tell you about. God is your creator. He is real. He is not a figment of anybody's imagination. He is real. He created all things and that includes you. And because he created all things, he owns all things, which means that he has the right over what he created to say this is what I want from you and this is what I don't want from you. And those expressions of his desires are called rules or laws and those laws are in his word and those laws are holy because he is holy. There's no sin in these laws. There's nothing in these laws, actually that are meant to harm us. He gave them to us for our good, for our joy, but we said, forget it with your rules, forget it with your laws, I'm going to do what I want to do. We've done that not one-time, numerous times. And that's not a

good thing for us because this God is not only our creator and holy, but he is also just, he is good. Which means that he not only must punish our sins, but it is right and good and true for him to punish our sins. Right now, friend, you do not live in a place of safety, you live in a place where God's justice could fall on you at any moment, but there is good news, God is not just your creator, he's not just holy, he's not just, just, he is also loving and he loves sinners. He loves those who are rebels against him. And in his love, he sent his son, his most precious gift, he sends to the world to sinners in order to rescue them from his justice. What did Jesus do? He lived a life of perfection. The life that we would never live. He dies on the cross, paying the penalty for our sins. And then he rose from the dead to prove that God accepted that payment. That's the good news.

There it is. Sins can be forgiven because God is a God of love who punishes his Son instead of sinners. So now what? Now what? This will remain ineffective for you until you "C," and commit your life to Jesus. You believe in him, you trust in him and give your life to him. And if you do, you will have eternal life. But if you don't, that is a very grave "O," offense. It's an offense to God who gave what's most precious to him to save you from your sins, to save you from his wrath for your sins, but you say, no, thanks. If you persist in this, then "M," you will miss eternal life. And "E," your end will be your own eternal experience of the wrath of God for your sins. Do you see what we did there? We took the message of the gospel and we attached it to verse 36 and gave a biblical paradigm for what to do with someone who knows the truth, who knows about Jesus, that hasn't come to him yet. So let's be people who hear the good news and who hear it and are encouraged by it.

We're grateful for everything that Jesus did to rescue us from God's wrath for our own sins, but let's be people who, because we are grateful, we take these precious truths to the people that need it. May God use you. May God use me to set people free from the wrath that is remaining on them when they believe in the Lord, Jesus Christ and are saved. Let's pray.

Jesus, these are incredibly poignant, heavy truths. Truths we don't want to think about, truths that make us uncomfortable, truths that are, well, they're truths, which means that they're truth, which means that they describe reality the way that it actually is. And so the issue now, which is really what John is getting at is do our lives align with these truths? So for some it does and these reminders and the things that we've heard, they've not only filled our hearts with gratitude and love for the savior, love for you, but it's also equipped us to take these truths with these illustrations and explanations and all of that, to take these truths to the people that we know and love that we interact with most. And it's not just that there are some who need to be done with the opposition to you. Who need to see everything that would keep them from you in light of what it actually is not a blessing, but suicide. Please, father, open their eyes to the greatness of your son. Jesus, would you help them to see just how wonderful you are in your life, your death, and your resurrection? That would be proof. That would be evidence of your grace towards them. Please do this for all of us. I pray in your beautiful name Jesus. Amen.