

Study Guide for February 10th, 2008. God So Loved . . . John 3:16-21

Introduction: Where have you seen a reference to John 3:16 or public display of it? Many interpreters see 3:16-21 as a reflection by John the apostle on the interchange between Jesus and Nicodemus (vs. 1-15). Throughout the week reflect on these words. You may even consider memorizing them by focusing on one verse per day.

I. The Gospel: What God did to save the world. (John 3:16)

- A. What is the motive for the Incarnation? (see also I John 4:8 & 18)
- B. How did God express his love for the world?
- C. What is the significance of referring to Jesus as God's **one and only Son**? (see John 1:14, 18; I John 4:9 & Rom. 8:32)
- D. According to the verse, what are the only two final states of existence?
- E. What has helped you grasp the reality of God's great love for you?

II. The Purpose: To Save and not to condemn. (John 3:17)

- A. Negatively: God did not send his Son into the world to _____ the world.
- B. Positively: God sent (his Son) to _____ the world through him
- C. Summarize what is said about the purpose of Jesus' mission in the following. . .
 - 1) Matt. 27:42:
 - 2) Mark 10:45:
 - 3) Luke 19:10:
- D. The corollary of salvation is judgment. How is God's judgment described in...
 - 1) John 5:30:
 - 2) John 8:16:
- E. In your own words, describe what this verse reveals about the character of God.

III. The Contrast: Belief versus unbelief. (John 3:18)

- A. What contrast does John set forth in this verse?
- B. Why according to this verse are people condemned?
- C. What is implied in the phrase **stands condemned already**? (Is. 53:6 & Rom. 3:23)
- D. What brought you to the point of seeing your need of the Savior?

IV. The Verdict: Do you love light or darkness? (John 3:19)

- A. How did people respond to the coming of the LIGHT into the world?
- B. Why did people respond this way? What does that reveal about mankind?
- C. How have you seen people exhibit a **love for darkness**?
- D. Read Eph. 5:8-12. Give some examples of how you turned from darkness to light.

V. The Lifestyle: Are you living in the light? (John 3:20-21)

- A. Why do people who do evil not come into the light?
- B. What do you think it means for people to live by the truth? Who gets the credit?