

# The Gospel of John: For God So Loved

*John 3:13-21*

## The Son of Man (v. 13-15)

- Jesus reveals to Nicodemus that He has the authority to speak of heavenly truth because He is the Son of Man (Dan 7:13-14)
  - Whose ultimate mission is to be king of the whole world
- He uses the imagery from the Israelites' experience in the wilderness to describe His mission (Num 21:4-9)
  - Like the bronze snake, Jesus must be lifted up
    - And all who look on Him will be healed of their rebellious hearts & be given eternal life
    - “Lifted up” = His crucifixion
  - The bronze snake foreshadowed the work of Jesus

## The Love of God (v. 16-18)

- The driving force behind Jesus' mission is the love of God
- He loves the whole world *so* much that He sent His Son to suffer and die for us
  - Our rebellious hearts have earned us death
  - The love of God at work in Jesus' sacrifice gives us eternal life
    - We access this eternal life through belief/faith in Him
- Jesus did not come to condemn the world, He came to save it
  - But if we reject Jesus, we reject the salvation He offers
  - Then, we are left in our condemned state

## Light Has Come (v. 19-21)

- Jesus comes as light to shine in the darkness of our sinful world (1:5)
- But we often prefer darkness because we think it hides our sins
  - This is self-delusion because we cannot hide our sins from God (Heb 4:13; Lk 12:3)
- But when we accept Jesus, He reveals our sins to cleanse us of them
  - The closer we walk with Him, the dirtier we realize we are, and the more He cleanses us
  - This ongoing process is called sanctification (1 John 1:7)
- As He works in us through His Holy Spirit, we don't have to hide anymore because:
  - We are loved
  - We are accepted
  - What good we do, we do through His strength, not ours

## So What?

- Have we experienced the love of God given through Jesus?
- Or are we still trying to hide our sins rather than letting Jesus deal with them?

**Meditation Verse:** John 3:16-17  
**Next Week's Scripture:** John 3:22-36