

# John 3vs16-36

NO ENTRY...  
Except through Jesus.

© St Helen's Church

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version, published by Harper Collins Publishers. © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers.

Used by Permission. All rights reserved.

# NO ENTRY...Except through Jesus

John 3 vs 16-36

## ***SOS – Rescue required***

We start with some of the most famous verses in the entire Bible:

JOHN 3 vs 16-17: *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”*

### v 16: ***For God so loved the world***

The phrase “***the world***” in John’s Gospel always refers to this world order in hostile rebellion against God. In other words – people like you and me – who refuse to have God as ruler over us!

Who does God send his Son to rescue?

➤ v 16 ***whoever believes in him***

WHY? – because “***God so loved the world***”

➤ So what do vs 16+17 say to you about God’s attitude towards you?!

JOHN 3 vs 18-19: *“Whoever 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. <sup>19</sup> And 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.”*

## ***To avoid Judgment ....***

- What does this say will be the consequence for those who reject God’s Son, Jesus?
  - It’s extremely clear ...vs 18: “***condemned***”
  - ...a legal term, meaning ‘*guilty verdict*’... ‘*sent down*’...

## ***The Clarity of Light!***

vs 20-21: *“For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But 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.”*

- So - if I reject Jesus what does this tell me about myself?!
  - If I reject Jesus... then I am saying I prefer the dark!
  - And the lesson? – We can't 'have' God without his Son!

These are huge claims that Jesus is making... and they raise big questions...

- Who does he think he is?!
- Can we trust him..?!

## ***The real deal***

Jesus has made some huge claims about himself:

- He is God
- He has come to bring God's rescue to the world...
- And bring a perfect new creation

And about us:

- We need rescuing...
- And we're faced with a NO ENTRY sign into his kingdom

John the Baptist now comes back centre stage to underline what Jesus has been saying about himself... and about us...

*vs 22-36: After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he remained there with them and was baptizing. <sup>23</sup> John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized <sup>24</sup> (for John had not yet been put in prison).*

*<sup>25</sup> Now a discussion arose between some of John's disciples and a Jew over purification. <sup>26</sup> And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, he is baptizing, and all are going to him." <sup>27</sup> John answered, "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. <sup>28</sup> You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.' <sup>29</sup> The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. <sup>30</sup> He must increase, but I must decrease."*

*31 He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all. 32 He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony. 33 Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true. 34 For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. 35 The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. 36 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.”*

John the Baptist – this seriously important, yet mystery figure in the wilderness, who has created such a stir within the Jewish population and authorities, clearly has his own group of followers/disciples.

Understandably, they want to know who this “new man on the scene” is?!

Hence... a debate – let’s unpack this passage:

*v 26: And they came to John and said to him, “Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, he is baptizing, and all are going to him.”*

In other words... Who is this guy?!

Answer: He is the ‘**Bridegroom**’ – an expression often used in the Old Testament for the Messiah.

*v 29: “The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete.”*

**“the friend of the bridegroom”** – is clearly John the Baptist ... **this joy of mine is now complete.**”

...rejoicing in the voice of his Messiah - **the bridegroom**

John the Baptist’s view of Jesus... and of himself:

*vs 31-33: “He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all. 32 He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony. 33 Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true.”*

- v 30 **“He must increase, but I must decrease.”**
- John makes clear - v 31: Jesus is: **“above all”** – i.e. Jesus is SUPREME!
- Jesus uniquely and exclusively bears witness to what he knows of God... After all – only Jesus has seen and heard God!

- As we receive Jesus and his WORD – so he will demonstrate to us, and we will know, that this is GOD speaking!

v 33: **“Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true.”**

v 34: *“For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure.”*

- You can and will know the WORD is true! After all it’s a living WORD – that comes by God’s Spirit.

Jesus speaks God’s word perfectly ... How?

- Because God the Father pours out his Spirit on God the Son without measure. This means that when we listen to Jesus we are listening to God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

How much of himself – of his Spirit - does God give?

- **“without measure”**

...that is - overflowing/endless...

Such an outpouring can only come from the one who IS God!

v 35: *“The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand.”*

v 35: **all things** are in the hands of the Son – why?

- Because ***the Father loves the Son***

- We are back to John 1 vs 1-2:

***In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God.***

- This means that when it comes to the words of Jesus, the stakes are really high:

v 36: *“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.”*

## ***To Sum up....***

This passage underlines who Jesus is... why Jesus has the right to speak the way he does... and why we should listen up..!

- So - believe in Jesus = ***eternal life***
- So - rejecting Jesus = rejecting what?
  - Nothing less than ***eternal life!***
  - Rejecting Jesus = ***the WRATH of God***

And we will KNOW - v33: ***“Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true.”***

So - we can discover personally ***that God is true*** as we receive the words of Jesus and act on them:

- ✓ Because Jesus speaks only the WORDS of God...
- ✓ And has been given EVERYTHING by God...
- ✓ And to reject Jesus = rejecting God and his Truth

SO HOW HIGH ARE THE STAKES IF WE REJECT JESUS?

- ❖ A choice between ***ETERNAL LIFE*** or the (ETERNAL) ***WRATH OF GOD***

## ***Recap...***

John chapter 1: **Jesus - the King - God on Earth**

John chapter 2: **The Kingdom has arrived:**

- God's glory – seen through the wedding feast/banquet
- God's judgement – seen through the throwing of the money changers out of the temple

John chapter 3 : **How do you get into the Kingdom?**

- Everyone needs to be ***“born again”*** – even the ***“teacher of the Jews”*** - Nicodemus
- This happens only by God's work... in God's time
- It brings eternal life and freedom from the wrath of God
- It comes – humanly speaking – by faith

## *What comes next?*

In John chapter 4 – the question is ...**Who gets into the Kingdom?**

...And the answer is a real shock!

## *John 3 vs 16-36*

<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup> Whoever 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. <sup>19</sup> And 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. <sup>20</sup> For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But 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.”

<sup>22</sup> After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he remained there with them and was baptizing. <sup>23</sup> John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized <sup>24</sup> (for John had not yet been put in prison).

<sup>25</sup> Now a discussion arose between some of John's disciples and a Jew over purification. <sup>26</sup> And they came to John and said to him, “Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, he is baptizing, and all are going to him.” <sup>27</sup> John answered, “A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. <sup>28</sup> You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, ‘I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.’ <sup>29</sup> The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. <sup>30</sup> He must increase, but I must decrease.”

<sup>31</sup> He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all. <sup>32</sup> He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony. <sup>33</sup> Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true. <sup>34</sup> For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. <sup>35</sup> The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. <sup>36</sup> 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.