

Sermon Title: Look and Live

Sermon Text: John 3:14-21

Sermon Purpose: To call all men and women to look to Jesus Christ for salvation.

Sermon Proposition: There are 3 aspects of God's love and gift saving all who believe.

I. The illustration of salvation. Vv.14-15

A. The object of salvation. V.14

Numbers 21:4-9

John 12:31-32 "Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. **32** "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all *peoples* to Myself."

Hebrews 2:14-15 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, **15** and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

This is a veiled prediction of Jesus' death on the cross. The point of the illustration is in the "lifted up." Just as Moses lifted up the snake on the pole so that all who looked upon it might live physically, those who look to Christ, will live spiritually and eternally.

B. The response of salvation. V.15

God's Sovereignty vs. Man's Responsibility

1. The audience. V.15a

2. The source v.15b

3. The result v.15c

Numbers 20:6-7 So Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly to the door of the tabernacle of meeting, and they fell on their faces. And the glory of the LORD appeared to them. **7** Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

Galatians 3:13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed *is* everyone who hangs on a tree"),

1 Peter 2:24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness-- by whose stripes you were healed.

Eternal life refers not only to eternal quantity but divine quality of life. It means lit. "life of the age to come" and refers therefore to resurrection and heavenly existence in perfect holiness. This life for believers in the Lord Jesus is experienced before heaven is reached. The "eternal life" in essence nothing less than participation in the eternal life, life of God.

II. The ingredients of salvation. Vv.16-17

A. The provider of salvation. V.16a God so loved.

The idea that God loves the whole world would have been a new idea to a Jewish audience. The Jews believed God loved the Jews and hated the non-Jews. God so loved every human being, not only those who love Him.

Romans 10:12-13 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. **13** For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

- B. The provisions of salvation. V.16b God gave
 God demonstrated His love in the most perfect way possible. He gave a most valuable gift, His only begotten Son to the world! His love is a perfect love, that loves to the ultimate degree. He allowed Jesus to leave His presence and dwell among men, so that He might save them.
Romans 5:6 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.
Romans 8:32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?
2 Corinthians 9:15 Thanks *be* to God for His indescribable gift!
Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.
- C. The purpose of salvation. V.16c to save
 God took the initiative to save men from the penalty and power of sin. This is a threefold salvation:
1. To save men from perishing.
John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.
 2. To save men unto eternal life.
John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
John 10:10 "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.
 3. To save men by faith.
John 2:24 But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all *men*,
2 Corinthians 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,
Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.
- D. The promise of salvation. V.16d to all who believe
- E. The plan of salvation. V.17 is the mediator
 This refers to the means of salvation. Salvation is through Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ alone.
1 Timothy 1:15 This *is* a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.
1 Timothy 2:5 For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the* Man Christ Jesus,
John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
Acts 4:12 "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

III. The indicators of salvation. Vv.18-21

A. The 1st indicator is condemnation. V.18

The believer is no longer under condemnation, but the unbeliever is still under condemnation. **Proverbs 4:19** The way of the wicked *is* like darkness; They do not know what makes them stumble.

1 John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

B. The 2nd indicator is judgment. V.19

John 8:12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

John 9:5 "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

John 12:35-36 Then Jesus said to them, "A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. **36** "While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light." These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them.

John 12:46-48 "I have come *as* a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness. **47** "And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. **48** "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him-- the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.

1 John 1:5-7 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. **6** If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. **7** But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

C. The 3rd indicator is rejection. V.20

D. The 4th indicator is belief. V.21