

John 3:14-18

The Text of John 3:14-18

John 3:14-15 – *“(14) And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: (15) That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.”*

A. As Moses lifted up the serpent... (**Numbers 21:4-9**).

1. Jesus is speaking of His crucifixion here (**Luke 23:33, John 8:28-29, John 12:31-33, and Acts 5:30**).
2. Jesus is not trying to get people to start looking at the cross as an idol to worship (**I Corinthians 10:14**). They did so with the serpent in the wilderness and that was wrong (**II Kings 18:1-4**).

B. The purpose of Jesus being crucified was for others to have eternal life (**Romans 5:17-21 and Revelation 1:5**).

1. One has to have faith in Christ to have eternal life (**Romans 5:1-2, Galatians 2:16, and Hebrews 10:39**).
2. While eternal life comes through faith, faith alone is not sufficient for our salvation (**Matthew 10:22, Acts 2:21, Acts 15:11, Romans 1:16, Romans 8:24, Romans 10:10, II Corinthians 7:10, I Timothy 4:16, James 2:14-26, and I Peter 3:20-21**).

John 3:16-17 – *“(16) For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (17) For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”*

A. God’s love was the motive behind Christ dying on the cross (**Romans 5:7-10, Titus 3:4, and I John 4:9-10**).

1. The Father showed us the example of how love motivates sacrifices (**Ephesians 5:1-2**).
2. Since love is a motivator for sacrifice, love should motivate us to give our lives to the Lord and obey His will (**Matthew 16:24-25, Galatians 2:20, and II John 6**).

B. While the world is evil (**Galatians 1:4 and I John 5:19**), God does not want the world to be condemned (**Luke 9:56, I Timothy 2:4, and II Peter 3:9**).

1. Jesus’ first coming was and still is about saving souls (**Luke 9:56 and John 12:46-47**).
2. The Second time Jesus comes His mission will be different (**Matthew 25:31-46 and II Thessalonians 1:7-9**).

John 3:18 – *“He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”*

- A. Faith is the foundation upon which our obedience is built (**Hebrews 11:1**).
1. To be rooted and grounded you must have Christ in your heart, through faith (**Ephesians 3:17** and **Colossians 1:23**).
 2. Without faith you cannot please God (**John 8:23-24** and **Hebrews 11:6**).
- B. You are already condemned if you believe not. Consider that faith is what moves us to do the Lord's will (**Hebrews 11:7-8**).
1. Sin is born in the hearts of those who lack faith (**Psalms 78:17-22**).
 2. Some take false comfort in thinking that believing at some point in time is enough. We have to maintain our faith in the Lord until the end (**Hebrews 3:14-4:1** and **Jude 5**).