

*Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

**Sermon Notes for February 7-8, 2004**

**"For God So Loved the World"**

**Part 2**

**John 3:16**

What were the reflections of the Apostle John in John 3:16-21 that were generated by Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus in John 3:1-15?

In response to John 3:1-15, the Apostle John first of all reflected on the love of God for the world (John 3:16).

In response to John 3:1-15, the Apostle John secondly reflected on God's mission to the world (John 3:16-21).

In reflecting on the rescue mission that God's love for the world produced, He first of all described the mission (John 3:16).

John described the rescue mission in terms of its cost. He gave His only begotten Son.

John also described the rescue mission in terms of its benefits.

In describing the benefits of God's rescue mission, John began by telling us that those who believe in Christ are the ones who will be benefited.

In describing the benefits of God's rescue mission, John not only told us who will be benefited, but how they will be benefited.

In order to appreciate the unfathomable riches being extended by God's rescue mission to those who believe, we must first of all appreciate what we have been delivered from.

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The phrase, "should not perish" clearly refers to being delivered from God's final judgment (Revelation 20:13-15).

Those whose deeds do not demonstrate that they in fact have believed in Jesus and have embraced Him as their Lord and Savior will be thrown into the lake of fire and will perish.

"Perish" does not refer to annihilation but rather to the eternal torment that results from being thrown into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:7-10).

I believe the fire of hell is metaphorical.

I believe it is metaphorical because other terms describing the torment of hell appears to be metaphorical (Mark 9:44,46,48).

I believe the fire of hell is metaphorical because other occupants of hell would not be affected by what we know as fire.

The lake of fire is a place of eternal suffering that will far exceed anything that we have ever experienced or could imagine.

"For God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him will not perish..."