

*Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

**Sermon Notes for March 6-7, 2004**

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

**John 3:17-21**

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 rescue mission to the world (John 3:16-21).

John, in reflecting on God's rescue mission, first of all described it in terms of its cost.

John, in reflecting on God's rescue mission, also describes the rescue mission in terms of its benefits.

The first benefit of God's rescue mission for all those who believe is being delivered from God's final judgment.

The second benefit of God's rescue mission for all those who believe is that they will be granted the gift of eternal life.

Eternal life comprises all the wonderful things that come to us as a result of our spiritual union with the life of Christ.

John, in reflecting on God's rescue mission, describes it in terms of the world's response (John 3:17-21).

Some people unfortunately, even tragically, will be participants in the final judgment, but this cannot be blamed on God's rescue mission (John 3:17).

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God's rescue mission gives everyone the opportunity through faith in Christ to be set free from divine judgment.

Those who have believed in Jesus are not presently judged because they are now enjoying peace with God and the confident expectation of a better future.

Those who have not believed in Jesus are judged already because they are not presently enjoying peace with God and have no hope of a better future.

God's rescue mission not only provided the opportunity for people to be set free from judgment, but it also provided the opportunity for people to reject the rescuer (John 3:19-20).

The "light" John is referring to is the Lord Jesus Christ (John 1:4).

Darkness describes all the evil and wicked things that Christ, as the light of men, would want to expose.

If people truly desire to be set free from their sins, they will invariably respond to the gospel when they hear it.

Because we know that people, apart from Christ, do not do what is right by nature, the one described as practicing the truth must be viewed as a Christian.

In contrast to the person who loves darkness rather than the light, the Christian will continue to seek out the light, not in order to exalt himself, but rather the Lord and His good work.