

The Gospel of John

# The Gospel of John

Lesson #26  
The Journey  
Jim Hoffman

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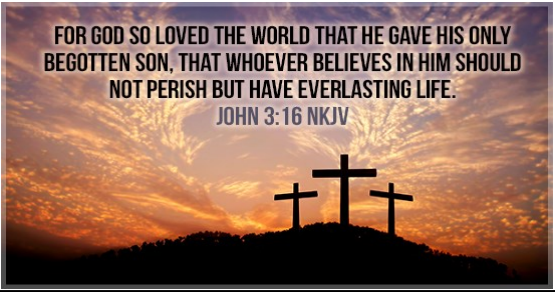
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The Gospel of John

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.  
JOHN 3:16 NKJV



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The Gospel of John

- God shows his love for mankind in general through **common grace** – things like friends, family, food, a warm spring day, and on, and on. (no one is entitled to these)
- **Saving grace** is extended only to the one who believes – those who believe are saved, those who do not believe are lost. (no one is entitled to saving grace either)

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### The Gospel of John

**Whoever believes** – that is the means of our acquiring salvation. Whoever believes and no other way - not by works, not by inheritance, not by any other way, but **anyone who believes will be saved. Saved by his grace, and only by his grace**, for in that one-sided equation God receives all the glory and man receives none of it.

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### Should not perish, but have everlasting life!



“Two destinations are juxtaposed, just two, but there are two.”  
Unknown

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#### Perish

- One of the meanings of the original word, “ap-ol’-loo-mee” is to destroy.
- But there are other meanings as well, like “render useless”, and “give over to eternal misery”.
- A great example of the complexities of translating Greek to English.

#### Eternal Life

- Eternal means just what you think – “without end, never to cease, everlasting.
- Life – “life real and genuine, a life active and vigorous, and the state of one who is possessed of vitality”.
- Jesus came that we might have abundant life!

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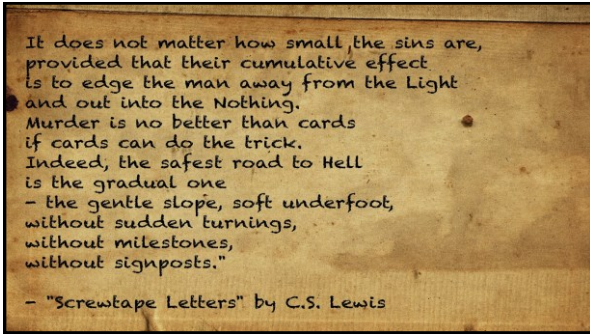
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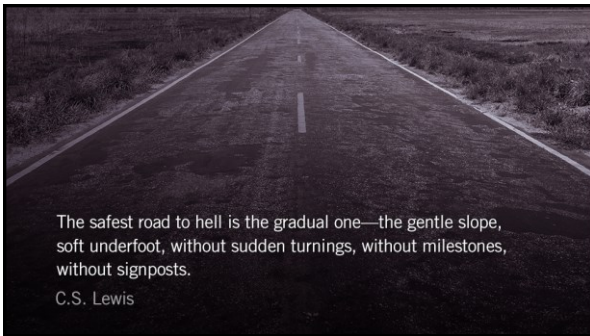
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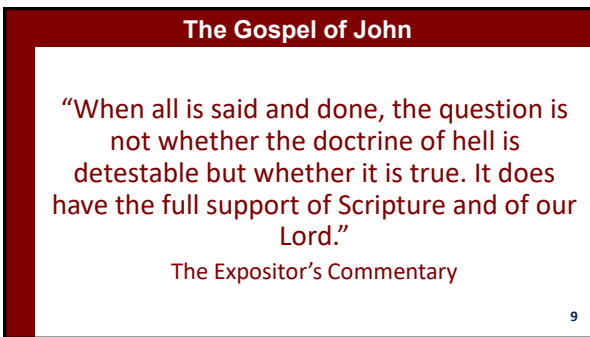
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**The Gospel of John**

- As a general rule, unsaved people, and even many Christians do not want to hear about Hell.
- It is eternal death without dying, pain without mitigation, and burning without ever burning up.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Thes 1:7 The Lord Jesus will be revealed from Heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, 8 dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 **These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power.** NASB

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**The Gospel of John**

- Rev 14:9 And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be **tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.**"

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**The Gospel of John**

- So, which is it? Is Jesus present with those in the outer darkness or not?
- Apparently, both are true – Jesus is omnipresent so it is a given that he could not be anything but present in hell.
- In terms of any kind of care, comfort, or any kind of compassion his presence will bring none of those – that window is closed.

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### The Gospel of John

- Hell is seldom talked about in our churches because it is a sobering, and even scary topic.
- 61% of Americans believe in Hell, but only 1% believe there is any chance that they will go there.
- Many believe in an eternal Heaven, but not in an eternal Hell – both are taught in the Bible.

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### The Gospel of John

- For the most part, despite the fact that every lost person we encounter is but one heart beat from eternity, people just do not focus on eternal things.
- When we ask, “are you saved?”, some may legitimately retort, “saved from what?”.
- In fact, that is THE QUESTION we should hope to have asked of us as the answer to it leads right to Jesus.

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### The Gospel of John



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### The Gospel of John

• Romans 5:6 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by his blood, **we shall be saved from the wrath of God** through him.

• Do you see it? “we shall be **saved from the wrath of God** through him”.

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### The Gospel of John

• Glimpses of God’s wrath can be seen with Nadab and Abihu, Uzza, and Ananias and Sapphira.

• It seems that God allowed his wrath to break out and be in full view several times in history and we should ask “why?”.

• **Displaying his wrath is all part of his Divine revelation of Himself to mankind** – he is loving, he is merciful, he is kind, and so on including he is full of wrath towards sin.

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### The Gospel of John

• When we answer the question “saved from what?” we need to be specific – **saved from the wrath of God!**

• Okay, so let’s get more specific on the wrath of God and what it would mean to “not be saved from it”.

• To “not be saved from God’s wrath” leads us right to doctrine of Hell.

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### The Gospel of John

- In our day, even in the Christian world, there are many who have turned away from the doctrine of Hell and in any belief in it.
- **This sort of begs this question then, “if there is no Hell and no punishment for sin, then why was Jesus punished so viciously to save his followers from something that does not exist?”**
- And yet, the bible is clear – Hell does exist, and it will be populated with people who are justly deserving of all of its fury.

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### The Gospel of John

- It is hard to accept any teaching on Hell until we understand the sinfulness of our own sin.
- There is a sense in which we need to be sickened by our own sinfulness in order to fully grasp the reason for Hell.
- When we see our sin as God does, we will begin to understand why he is so angry with the sinner and his sin.

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### The Gospel of John

- Daniel spoke of Hell like this – “Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.” Daniel 12:2
- Disgrace and contempt – the Hebrew for contempt is a word that conveys the idea of being repulsive.
- The New Testament describes Hell as a place of unimaginable torment.

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### The Gospel of John

- In Jesus’ teachings he used the city dump as a metaphor for Hell. The word for the dump was “Gehenna”.
- It (Gehenna) aptly describes a place of waste, a place of desolation, and a place where the refuse of life was taken never to be reclaimed.
- When one is sent to Hell it is to be sentenced to an eternity of fire, stench, and every other form of unpleasantness.

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### The Gospel of John

- Matt 8:12 “but the sons (Jews) of the kingdom will be cast out into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” NASB
- The lost will be cast into outer darkness – 1<sup>st</sup> John 1:5 This is the message we have heard from him and announce to you, ***that God is Light, and in him there is no darkness at all.***
- To be in outer darkness is to be away from God in any beneficial sense, away from the light, and from any hope of ever improving one’s lot.

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### The Gospel of John

- Matt 13:49 So it will be at the end of the age; the angels will come forth and take out the wicked from among the righteous, 50 and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
- Weeping because of the pain and suffering that will never end, and gnashing of their teeth, perhaps in anger.
- Here Jesus adds fire and the horrible penetrating pain of what it would be like to be burned.

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**The Gospel of John**

- Luke 16:24 And he cried out and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.’
- Hell is dark, Hell is a place of torment by continual burning, and a place of separation from God.
- The rich man begged for relief and is still begging for relief to this day – but none is coming. ☹

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**The Gospel of John**

- Luke 16:25 But Abraham said, ‘**Child, remember** that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony.
- **It is also a place of memory and regret** – the rich man in Hell was conscious and had memories of his life.
- There is no doubt that he also remembered his sin, and his squandered opportunities to turn from it.

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**The Gospel of John**

- Saved from the wrath of God and ....
  - Torment
  - Loneliness
  - Darkness
  - Hopelessness
  - Eternal Regret
  - Endless Anger
  - The Knowledge of Failure for Eternity

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