

Sermon Outline
The Rev. Dr. S. Edd Cathey
The Amazing Love of God
February 7, 2016

Sermon Text: John 3:16-21

This wonderful and very famous section is one of John's many summaries of the basic message of his writing. His pattern is to tell the stories of Jesus and then restate his thesis in summary after each bit.

- We have read John's account of the baptizing being administered by John near Bethany at the Jordan where Jesus was identified by the prophet John as "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world".
- We have read about Jesus' calling of the first disciples to follow him
- We have read about his calling of Philip and Nathanael. Nathanael was the one whom Jesus miraculously knew about under the fig tree. Nathanael was mediating on the story of Jacob and the vision of the ladder between heaven and earth.
- We have read and studied the wedding at Cana and the first miracle/sign that Jesus performed
- We have studied his indignation and violent removal of the animal market and currency exchange from the Court of the Gentiles.
- Finally, we have been privy to his interview of Nicodemus, the Pharisee who came to Jesus at night and who was told that both He and Israel must be born again in order to see and enter the Kingdom of God, the new age and order of the Messiah.

Now John summarizes both God's loving plan and the two kinds of human response. This is parallel to John 1:9-13

1. God's loving plan

Gave Him in the incarnation.

Heb 9:22; Romans 5:8-9

- God Gave Him on the cross as the legal ground to save sinners.
- God Gave Him in the resurrection to prove their justification/forgiveness has been accomplished.

2. The Two Kinds of Human response: belief and unbelief

“...believes in him”

Turner: *The sense is that the believer **throws himself upon** the Lord in loving, self-abandoning love and trust.*

The nature of the atonement: vicarious/substitutionary and Penal (penalty paid)

All Humans, both Jew and Gentile begin in a state of condemnation.

There is no shame in obeying God!