

John 3 ESV

13 No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

John 3 ESV

18 “Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. 19 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. 20 For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. 21 “But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

The Point

God loved so God gave.

If you believe, then you receive eternal life.



is the grand motive of
the plan of salvation.

Dieter F. Uchtdorf

God's Plan of Salvation

- God initiated salvation—not man.

8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8 ESV)

- God didn't wait for us to reach for Him; He reached down to us through Jesus.

God's Plan of Salvation

- God loves the world deeply & personally.

I See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. (1 John 3:1 ESV)

- His love is not limited; it is lavish, overflowing & unstoppable.

God's Plan of Salvation

- The gospel is about rescue, not reward.
- We don't earn salvation; we are saved by God's grace through Jesus' sacrifice.
- Jesus descended from heaven to bring life.

(Philippians 2:5–8 ESV)

God's Plan of Salvation

5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

(Philippians 2:5–8 ESV)

God's Plan of Salvation

- No other religion teaches that God came down - only Christianity.
- Jesus didn't come to condemn but to save.
- His mission is redemption, not condemnation.

Faith Alone In Christ Alone



Faith Alone in Christ Alone

- Jesus compared salvation to looking at the serpent on the pole.
- Just as the Israelites looked at the bronze serpent & were healed, we are healed by looking in faith to Jesus.
- We all suffer from the poison of sin.

*23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
(Romans 3:23 ESV)*

Faith Alone in Christ Alone

- No one is immune; we all need healing from within.
- Jesus became sin for us to make us righteous.

*21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin,
so that in him we might become the righteousness of
God. (2 Corinthians 5:21 ESV)*

- He took our curse upon Himself so we could be made right with God.

Faith Alone in Christ Alone

- Faith is the only way to receive eternal life.

9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved (Romans 10:9–10 ESV)

- Belief - not good deeds - opens the door to salvation.

Faith Alone in Christ Alone

- Eternal life means knowing Jesus personally.

3 And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

(John 17:3 ESV)

- It's not just living forever - it's living in relationship with God now & forever.

Salvation
requires PERSONAL
acceptance.

Salvation Requires Personal Acceptance

- There is no neutral position about Jesus.
- To not believe is to already stand condemned.
- Light has come - but many love darkness.
- People often reject Jesus because they don't want their sin exposed.
- Salvation is for "whoever believes."
- It is inclusive - anyone can receive Jesus regardless of past failures.

Salvation Requires Personal Acceptance

- God's love demands a response.

20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

(Revelation 3:20 ESV)

- Jesus knocks; it's up to each of us to open the door.
- You must be born again.

(John 3:3–7)

Salvation Requires Personal Acceptance

3 Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” 4 Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?” 5 Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ” (John 3:3–7 ESV)

Practical Application

- Accept that God loves you personally & deeply.
- Stop trying to earn salvation - receive it as a gift.
- Trust that Jesus paid it all on the cross for your sins.
- Believe that your past does not define you - Jesus does.
- Rest in the assurance that eternal life begins now in Jesus.
- Share your testimony with someone else this week.
- Spend time thanking God daily for His grace.

Discussion Questions

- How does understanding that God loved first change the way you view salvation?
- What does it mean to be “born again” & how have you experienced that?
- Why do you think many people struggle to believe that salvation is a gift?
- What role does belief play in receiving eternal life according to John 3:16?
- How can we be a light to others in our senior community?