

# John 3:16

## THE MOST IMPORTANT VERSE IN THE BIBLE

**God:** Salvation starts with God. He seeks man.

**Love:** Rom. 5:8 "God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

**World:** A sinful world under the control of Satan. This means everyone in the world.

**Gave:** Love is expressed by giving.

**His only begotten Son:** God gave His best! His Son (unique: one of a kind). To come down from Heaven and bear the sins of the world on the Cross. 2 Cor. 5:21; Rom 8:3

"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."

**Perish:** Separation from God. God's judgement to unbelievers. Hell. This is not universal salvation. Unbelievers will perish.

**Whoever believes:** Certainty & Assurance. Everyone, good and bad. It doesn't matter how bad you've been. Anyone can trust Him this moment and invite Him into your heart and pass from death to life (born again)

**Eternal Life:** Not something in the future. Used 16X in John. Begins at the moment of faith.

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# THE MOST IMPORTANT VERSE IN THE BIBLE

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- For God the greatest **being**
- so the greatest **degree**
- loved the greatest **affection**
- the world the greatest **object of love**
- That He gave the greatest **act**
- His only the greatest **treasure**
- Son the greatest **gift**
- That whosoever the greatest **company**
- believes the greatest **trust**
- in Him the greatest **object of faith**
- should not perish the greatest **deliverance**
- but have the greatest **assurance**
- everlasting the greatest **promise**
- life the greatest **blessing**

**\*CRITICAL\***

**John 3:16**

**\*VERY IMPORTANT\***

## **WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BELIEVE?**

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### **We need to trust:**

- 1. Who Jesus is** – We must believe Jesus Christ is **GOD** (or there is no salvation)
- 2. What He has done** – DIED for our SINS on the CROSS & ROSE FROM THE DEAD
- 3. That He is our Saviour** - that He can forgive us our sins and give us eternal life
- 4. That He is our Lord** – we need to **trust** and **obey** His Word, serve and glorify Him

# Salvation Message Meaning

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- **“Trust in Jesus and you will be saved”** Acts 16:31
- We were born sinners deserving eternal death (Rom 3:23; 6:23), nothing we do on our own can satisfy God (“like filthy rags” Is. 64:6). Therefore everything Christ did for us was undeserved – this is **Grace**.
- Jesus Christ, who was without sin, died “as an offering for sin” acceptable to God, and paid the penalty of sin by **redeeming** those who believe. He was raised on 3<sup>rd</sup> day and conquered death.
- Our sins are imputed to Him, and His righteousness is imputed to us (Rom 3:24) so we may be judged Righteous to God (justified). In other words our sins are forgiven (Past, Present & Future) by His shed blood on the Cross (Heb. 9:22) which is the basis for the New Covenant. Christ “atoned” or substituted His life for ours and satisfied God as the last sacrifice required, “It is Finished”.
- We in turn are born again spiritually, freed from the power of Sin and we receive **eternal life** in Heaven. This is a free gift of God.
- All you need to do is admit you are sinner (with a repentant heart) and **“put your Trust (Faith) in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved”**<sub>4</sub> - What a salvation!!

# WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BELIEVE?

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- **Believe = Trust = Faith**

- To have confidence in the truth or the reliability of something, although without absolute proof that one is right in doing so. **To put your TRUST or to put your FAITH in.** Belief in the Bible means more than just intellectual agreement to something; it is fully Trusting in the source of the information.
- The object of your faith is not “faith itself” (or some mystical impersonal force or self-will).
- **The object of your faith must be Jesus Christ. It’s not a question of the amount of your faith, but the trustworthiness of the person you have faith in (Jesus & the Word).**
- It’s like a **marriage relationship**, when you get married you trust that your spouse will keep the vows, be honest, faithful, take care of you, etc.
- To trust in Jesus means to believe everything He said and accept His Word as true since the Bible is the very character, Spirit and promises of God. (John 8:31-32).

## Mark 1: 15

# “repent and believe” A Call to Salvation

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- **Repentance** – for the unsaved person means a heartfelt, sorrowful recognition that you are a lost, helpless sinner who needs God’s forgiveness. (a change in mind resulting in a change in lifestyle)
- **Believe = Trust = Faith (total confidence in and dependence on Jesus)**
  - that Jesus Christ is God and your saviour, and with faith, accept Him into your **heart** as your Lord with a desire to follow Him.
  - It’s more than intellectual, even **the demons “believed”** and trembled, **it must be from the heart and there must be a change in your life.**
- **Salvation** - When we do our part by Repenting & Believing, God does His part by providing us salvation, which is the **forgiveness of sins and eternal life.**
  - **No effort required – Just Trust (with a repentant heart)**
  - **But it does require Commitment** - like a marriage to a spouse where on the wedding day you trust your spouse to love and care for your needs for the rest of your life.
  - Repentance & Faith go together, because it’s impossible to put your faith in Christ as your Lord & Saviour, without first changing your mind about who He is and what he has done.

## Mark 1: 15

# REPENTANCE

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- **Repentance** literally means **TO CHANGE ONE'S MIND** about your **ATTITUDE** towards God, self, sin and Christ.
- Therefore Jesus tells every sinner in Luke 13:3 “**Except you change your ATTITUDE, you will perish.**”
- Repentance is the sinner's recognition that they are lost, helpless and in need of forgiveness and grace (undeserved merit), in light of God's holiness.
- Humble yourself - thinking you are righteous by your own goodness or by comparing yourself to others is the opposite of repentance.
- It must be produced by the Holy Spirit and often effected by preaching of the Word.
- **Rom 3:23; 6:23; Prov 28:13; Luke 13:3, 24:46-48; 2 Cor. 7:10; Mark 2:17**

# The Salvation of God = Eternal Life

**DEATH**

Sin/Child of Satan/  
Dead Spiritually/Adam  
Nature/Blind/Condemned/  
God's Wrath/Judged to Hell

- Disobedience to God's law
- Penalty of sin is death, therefore we need to be judged righteous to avoid the wrath of God

**LIFE**

Salvation  
by Grace through Faith in the  
Shed Blood of Jesus  
Christ/Justified or Declared  
Righteous by God/Heaven

- Born Again/Adoption as Child of God/Forgiven of all Past & Future Sin/No Condemnation, Eternal Life/Holy Spirit Indwells

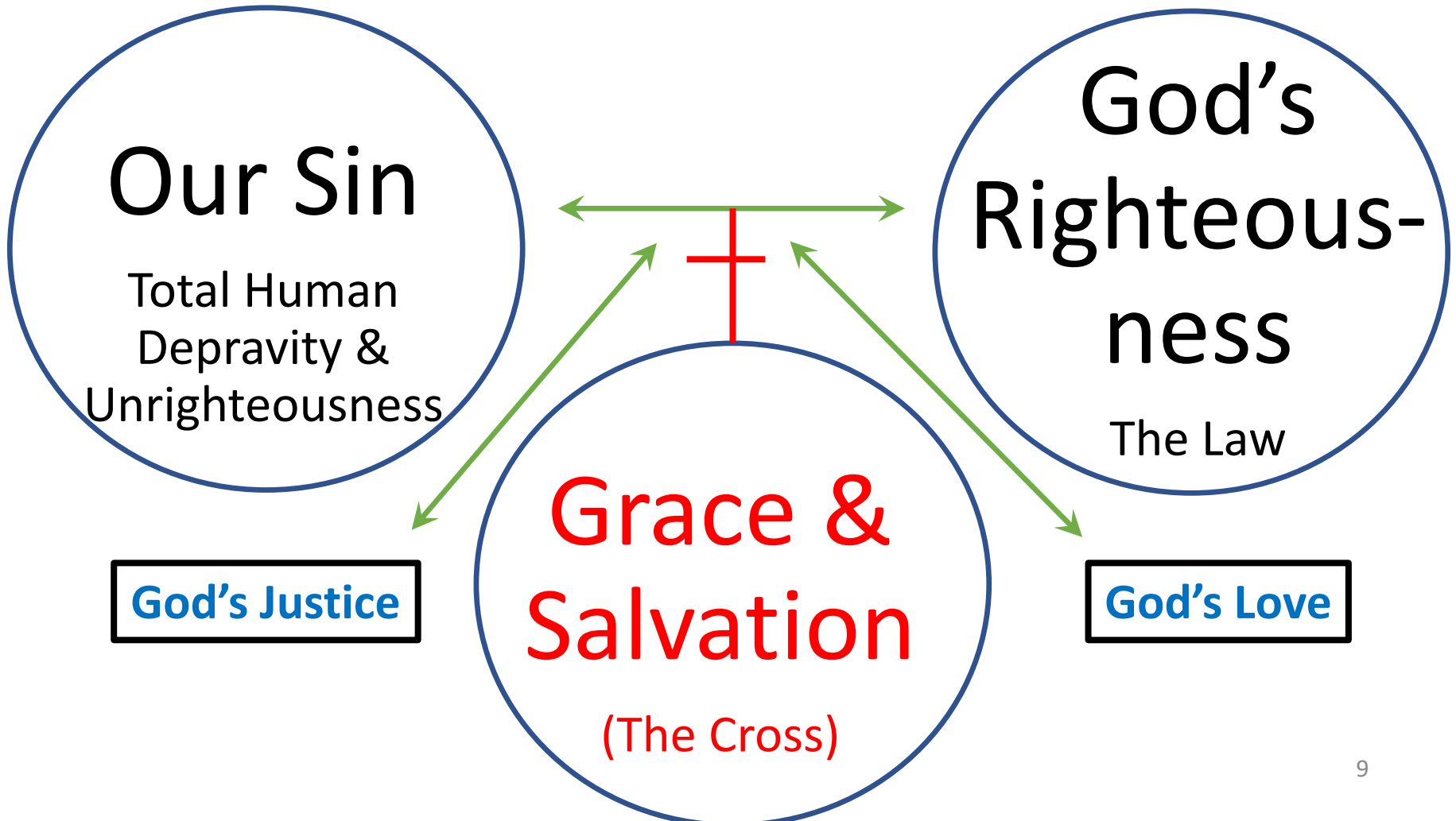
Grace & Salvation

**The Cross**



# Grace of God is Revealed through the Cross

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# Salvation of God

- To be saved from **sin** and it's punishment, which is death & eternity in **hell**, and to receive **forgiveness** and **eternal life** with Jesus in **Heaven**.
- Salvation is by Grace through Faith in Jesus Christ, is a free gift and is without works (morality, religion and good works do not save)
- Includes all the redemptive acts of:
  - Justification
  - Redemption
  - Grace
  - Propitiation
  - Atonement
  - Substitutionary
  - Imputation
  - Forgiveness
  - Sanctification
  - Glorification

## 3 Tenses

- Past – Christians are saved from the guilt and penalty of sin
- Present – Christians are saved from the power & dominion of sin
- Future – Christians are saved from the presence of sin at the Lord's Return

# Summary of John Chapter 3

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1. You need to be Born Again (to avoid God's wrath which is the punishment of sin, resulting in eternal Hell.)
2. Being Born Again is work of divine sovereignty of God
3. But anyone who Believes can be born again
4. Why – so God gets all the glory and we cannot boast and because He loved the world so much.
5. Purpose of Jesus' coming was not judgement, but to provide the salvation of all who believe.
6. V.18 – We are condemned and judged “ALREADY” – when you were born you were already guilty, and no future verdict will be made on your life, so nothing you can do can earn a right- standing with God.
7. **You will be judged to Hell not for anything you did, but what you didn't do, BELIEVE in Jesus Christ. The only unforgiveable sin is unbelief.**
8. People refuse to believe because they love their sin, and Christ exposes their sin. (v.19-20) Therefore people need the Light of Jesus' truth to confront their sin and convict them to **Repent** and **Believe**.