**Two Astonishing Features of God’s Plan of Salvation for the World (John 3:16-21)**

1. The Astonishing Offer of God’s Salvation from Judgment Through His Son (vv.16-18)
   1. *It’s the Result of God’s Unexplainable Love (v.16)*
      1. *The Object of God’s Love – The World*
      2. *The Gift of God’s Love – The Son*
      3. *The Purpose of God’s Love –* *Eternal Life for Believers*
   2. It’s the Result of God’s Astounding Purpose of Salvation (vv.17-18)
      1. The Mission of the Son’s First Advent – Salvation from Judgment (v.17; cf. 5:27; 3:14 with Isa. 52:13 & 53:4-6, 11; 1 Jn. 2:2; 4:10)
      2. The Division of the World by the Son’s Coming (v.18)
         1. The Promise to Believers – Salvation by Faith Alone (see 5:24; 6:40; 11:25; 20:31)
         2. The Pronouncement to Unbelievers – Already Condemned
            1. Owing to their original condition
            2. Owing to their heightened guilt from rejecting God’s Son

*“Already in need of a Savior before God’s Son comes on his saving mission, this person compounds his or her guilt by not believing in the name of that Son.” (Carson)*

1. The Astonishing Rejection of God’s Son Results in Greater Judgment (vv.19-21)
   1. Christ’s Saving Mission Inevitably Brings Judgment Along with It (“this is the judgment…”) (v.19)
      1. The Judgment of Exposing Man’s Condition

*“[Mankind] preferred to live without such knowledge of God, without such brilliant purity.” (Carson)*

* + 1. The Judgment of Escalating Man’s Guilt
    2. The Judgment of Eliminating Man’s Excuse
  1. Christ’s Saving Mission Inescapably Elicits Two Responses from The World (Vv.20-21)
     1. The Response of Unbelief (V.20)
        1. The heart-condition of those who reject Jesus
        2. The purpose of those who reject Jesus
     2. The Response of Faith (V.21)
        1. The heart-condition of those who come to Jesus
        2. The purpose of those who come to Jesus

*“Unbelief is our fault, and belief is God’s gift. Which means that if we do not come to Christ but instead perish, we magnify God’s justice. And if we do come to Christ and gain eternal life, we magnify God’s grace. In fact, Jesus says, that is why we come: “that it may be clearly seen that our works have been carried out in God.” Believers love when God’s free grace is clearly seen!” (John Piper)*