

Central Text:

John 3:11-21 (ESV)

11 Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. 12 If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? 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. 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.

"Jesus Christ came not to condemn you but to save you, knowing your name, knowing all about you, knowing your weight right now, knowing your age, knowing what you do, knowing where you live, knowing what you ate for supper and what you will eat for breakfast, where you will sleep tonight, how much your clothing cost, who your parents were. He knows you individually as though there were not another person in the entire world. He died for you as certainly as if you had been the only lost one. He knows the worst about you and is the One who loves you the most.

If you are out of the fold and away from God, put your name in the words of John 3:16 and say, "Lord, it is I. I'm the cause and reason why Thou didst on earth come to die." That kind of positive, personal faith and a personal Redeemer is what saves you. If you will just rush in there, you do not have to know all the theology and all the right words. You can say, "I am the one He came to die for." Write it down in your heart and say, "Jesus, this is me—Thee and me," as though there were no others. Have that kind of personalized belief in a personal Lord and Savior." -A.W. Tozer

Study & Discussion Questions:

(Use these in your personal study time, or to spur discussion in your family or small group)

In His conversation with Nicodemus, Jesus asserts again that He is both fully human and fully divine. What implications does Jesus' dual nature have for our salvation, versus a savior who is only human? Or only divine?

What parallels do you see between the bronze serpent Moses made and Jesus, the lifted-up Savior? What contrasts?

Many people believe that salvation is somehow "drawn" or influenced by our actions. If Jesus' assertion that God saved us solely out of love for us (John 3:16) is true, what difference does that make? What does it imply about human performance and attempts to be "good enough" for God to love us?

How does your own salvation experience affect you in your desire to share the Good News about Jesus with others?