



## Revelation Review—Part 4 The Judgment of Believers

Questions, Answers, and Review from Sunday's sermon: Many questions came up during our review about how a loving God could send people to hell. Almost everyone (in our circle) believes in a real hell and that it will be full. Which means: He's sending most of those He loves to Hell. But, most struggle with the doctrine that God does not love everyone. There is a big difference between acts of love and feelings of love. No one receives injustice

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The first ½ of the book of Romans teaches that God's righteous wrath is coming, that both Jews and Gentiles fall short of the required glory of God, that you are not saved just because you were born to Jewish parents, that keeping the law will not save you, that you are only saved by faith alone in Christ Alone through Grace Alone. But, what is Grace? God's unmerited favor and unconditional Election...aka love. All that leads to Romans 9—our key text for the lesson. Read *Romans 9:10-24* (& also *Psalms 11:4-5*) Discuss.

Which most famous scripture do most think of when considering God's love? John 3:16. [recite]  
But, as with all Scripture, does context matter? How so? [Let's examine John 3:16]

Read *John 3:1-21* (broke into 3 parts)

1. Who is Jesus talking to and what do we know about him? Nicodemus—a conservative Jewish Leader...the very group Jesus had the most condemnation for. Nicodemus (like his group) was looking for a military/political Messiah. Also believed keeping the Law saved you.
2. Jesus says salvation comes through being born again. How much input, cooperation, part did you have in physical conception and birth? Then, how much do you think you have in spiritual?
3. The Jews believed that God only loved them. Salvation was theirs alone. Nicodemus was just as shocked at John 3:16, as you were at Romans 9. He would have expected Jesus to say: For God so loved Israel, that He gave His only begotten Son..."
4. "World" here certainly doesn't mean: the planet (environmentalism), or that every person will be saved (universalism).
5. Jesus is teaching the scope/inclusiveness of the Gospel/Church/Kingdom...Jews and Gentiles
6. God and His Word cannot contradict itself. How do you reconcile John 3:16 & Romans 9:13?  
Is the statement/doctrine true that whosoever believes in Christ will have eternal life? Yes. However, Romans 9 is teaching that only those God chooses will believe.
7. Would it make sense that the devil would distort the most famous passage in the Bible?

As we did with "world", let's do with the word "all" in *Romans 11:26*. Even within God's chosen people, Israel, will all be saved (every single Jew ever)? No. Actually only a small remnant

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What is our obligation in loving others? We must love all—inside and outside the church  
Is the command to love them in action or in feeling? Action.

What is Common Grace and how is it a form of love God does show to the whole world? Although God is holy and the world stands condemned, He grants patient favor and restraint...for now. Can you list any examples from Sunday's sermon? He grants both elect and non-elect life, doesn't strike them down in their sin, sends rain (needed blessings) on all, allows some to prosper. Love of family, joy, peace, health, beauty, enjoy Creation. Even Israel, God's Law, Christ, and the Church have been a blessing to the world. Point: God shows an action love for the world, but only a heartfelt love for the Elect. See also *John 14:21*

How does a doctrine of "God does not love everyone" change what we do as a Church/Christians?  
Is does not change anything