



Gateway to Life Sermon Notes

*"And now I commend you to God
and to the word of His grace, which
is able to build you up and to give
you the inheritance among all those
who are sanctified." (Acts 20:32)*

December 9, 2018

WE HAVE SEEN HIS GLORY

The Incentive and the Extent Behind God's Saving Grace

Introduction

Text: [John 3:16](#)

2 little words "For" and "so" _____

What is the "For" there "for"?

"For" connects to v.15 and explains what would motivate a holy, transcendent, glorious God to come and suffer and die; and why God would give eternal life to those who simply believe on Him.

1. Jesus has stated with repetition that the salvation of anyone and everyone occurs "through" the New Birth of the Spirit.
2. Secondly, Jesus has affirmed that salvation occurs to those who believe – who believe His testimony. He is the Son of Man come from heaven with divine authority.
3. Thirdly, Jesus shows us that salvation occurs because of the death, burial and resurrection of this Son of Man, the Christ of God.

"For" answers the following questions:

- Why would a holy God seek out sinners and sovereignly, by his own initiative and grace, create in them a heart that loves Him and seeks to obey Him?
Why?

- Why would a holy God dispatch His glorious Son to take on the form of a servant, be born in the likeness of men and humble himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross (Philippians 2:7–8)? Why?
- And why would a holy, righteous God grant eternal life to those who simply and only place their faith in His Son? Why?

What is the “So” there “for”?

It becomes readily obvious to us that this little word “so” speaks of degree or intensity.

- *“but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8, ESV)*
- *“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—” (Ephesians 2:4–5, ESV)*
- *“In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” (1 John 4:9–10, ESV)*

Summary. When we wonder why Christ would come and die for sinners, the answer is summed up in the word “for” – for He loved. When we wonder how much he loves sinners it is summed up in the word “so”.

Application

What is important for us to focus on in this message is this reality: **God’s love does not save you.** _____

The question that all humanity must face this morning is this: *“how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation”* (Hebrews 2:3a, ESV)?

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