

Transcript* - Such A Great Salvation! – John Enabnit – 10/5/2025

Good morning, church.

Jesus paid it all. Amen.

See, here's the thing. The Christian faith is a singing faith. Hindus moan, Muslims chant. But believers in Christ, we sing. And the reason we sing is because God has put a song in our hearts, on our lips and our songs. Our hearts are meant to give praise to our father in heaven. Amen. Buy your hearts and heads with me, would you?

So, father, with that song in our hearts, that Jesus, your son and our Savior has paid it all, we give you praise and glory this day. Father, would you take our hearts and our thoughts captive in this moment, our minds, our spirits, that we might be obedient to you and to Your Holy Spirit? I pray this in Jesus name and all God's children said.

So my name is John. And for those of you that may not know me, and I want to welcome you, those of you that are in the house, we have online worshipers. So God bless all of you today. At the end of the message, we're going to have an invitation song. I'm giving you a heads up because if something is said or if you just feel God speaking you during the course of the next 30 minutes, you'll have a chance to respond to that.

Okay. So, there was a fella that was out of work. He was looking for a job, and he heard that the local zoo was hiring, so he went to apply. But he discovered, to his dismay, that the only job opening that the zoo had was for someone to play the part of a gorilla. They didn't have a gorilla in the zoo.

Was going to have a lot of kids coming over the next few days. The zoo couldn't afford a gorilla, so they were hiring, so the guy didn't want to take the job, but he needed the money, so he took it so early. The next morning he shows up. He slips into the gorilla outfit, and then climbs into the to the gorilla enclosure.

And then the school kids start arriving, and the only thing he has to do is just swing from one branch to the other. And when the kids would throw bananas or peanuts at him, he was supposed to eat them like any gorilla normally would. Well, after a few hours of this, the guy was exhausted and frankly, the bananas they were making him really queasy in his stomach.

So as he was swinging from one branch to another, he suddenly slipped and fell into the lion's den next door, and he immediately yelled, help! Help! And a lion came rushing over, roaring over, and leaned in close and said, if you don't shut up, we'll both lose our jobs.

We love to pretend, don't we? You know, later this month, Halloween, of course, the 31st of October. And in your neighborhood where y'all lived, the kids come through. Do they do trick or treating in your neighborhood? No, I'm getting a lot of nos. You're going to think I'm. I'm embellishing. I'm not exaggerating one bit when I tell you that in my neighborhood, where we have lived for over 35 years, on October 31st, we will have on our street somewhere between 1500 and 2000 kids.

We are a Mecca for Halloween, so if you want to donate candy to me, I'll gladly take it. Okay. And you know, kids love to pretend. My five year old grandson, Silas, one day he's an astronaut. The next day he's Batman, or then Spiderman. The kids love to pretend, you know, dragons, princesses, all kinds of things. I see that some of you are ready for Halloween because you're wearing your masks already, so way to go.

You're scaring the kids. You might want to take that off.

But seriously? Seriously, you know, we do wear masks. Figuratively, don't we? We come to church and. And someone says, well, how are you doing? Well, I'm doing great, but you're not doing great. I mean, we say we're fine. We say we're okay, we're safe, we're good. When sometimes in our heart of hearts we have an ache, a sickness in our heart.

And I'm talking about a spiritual sickness because we all know down deep inside that we're sinners and that we're guilty before God. And sometimes the very fact of our wrongdoing just induces guilt in us. This sick feeling, and there's nothing we can do about it. There's nothing that we can do about it. God created us in his image for perfect harmony and fellowship with him.

He made us to have harmony with him, but we don't. Because of this sin issue in all of our lives that has driven a wedge between us and God. And it's not just a wedge, it's a chasm. It's a huge chasm between us, a sinful people in him, a holy God. And we can't save ourselves. We can't get out of our own way.

We can clean up the mess, the spiritual mess that we've made. So God stepped in and he gave us something amazing. He gave us his Son to be our Savior. Amen. Church. And so what I want to do today,

what I want to do in this message, to talk about what God has done for us that we could not do for ourselves.

And to do that, I want to drive you today to the most familiar verse in the Bible, the one that practically everyone knows or at least knows about. John 316, I guess, is the most famous verse in the planet in the world. I mean, you see John 316 plastered everywhere, coffee mugs, football games. I'm sure that somebody has a personalized Arizona license plate on their vehicle that says John 316.

You know, the problem with being so familiar is we sometimes know the words, but we miss the wonder. It would be like living near the edge of the Grand Canyon, but never going to the edge. Well, today I want to walk you to the edge. Some of us knew John 316. We heard it before we could even tie shoes.

Some of us still can't tie our shoes, but we can quote John 316, but this single verse, 26 words long, one sentence, answers the deepest questions that that plague us and that we ponder who is God? What is he like? What has he done? How does he feel about me? What must I do? And maybe the biggest question of all what happens to me when I die?

John 316. Let's read this verse together. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. If you don't know anything about the Bible, start here. And if you know everything in the Bible, return here. We all need this reminder, because the heart of the human problem is the heart of the human.

Because we cannot not sin. And so God has stepped in with a remedy. And we're going to go phrase by phrase through this verse. And I want to do this. This is not a simplistic message. It's a simple message I want to I want to present the gospel to you today in a way that a third grader could understand, but that all of us, no matter how long you've been a believer, we can take this message and apply it to our own lives, certainly, but also we can help share the gospel with somebody else.

Because of these four things I want to talk about. First of all, God loves. That's the first thing God loves. It's how it begins us. For God so loved the world. And the first word is four, which means that you really have to look at the context of this verse, because John 316 isn't just floating out there in the air somewhere.

This is actually a part of a late night conversation that Jesus has with a man named Nicodemus. Now, Nicodemus was a Pharisee. He was a religious leader in his day, and he was a member of a group of

rules ruling elders. 70 elders called the Sanhedrin. So Nicodemus was like the cream of the crop. I mean, he was the best of the best.

And he comes to Jesus at night. Why would he come at night in the darkness? Well, maybe to protect his anonymity. He didn't want anybody else to know he was there. He certainly didn't want the other Pharisees to know that he was seeking spiritual counsel. Him a religious leader, an esteemed religious leader with a religious resume from his elbow to his little finger.

He didn't want anybody else to see that he was going to this radical rabbi named Jesus of Nazareth. We're not really sure of exactly why he came at night, but I can tell you that this is the very first episode of Nick at night. That much I know. Okay? But the time of day, the time of day mirrors Nicodemus, his spiritual condition.

He's moving from the darkness. He's in the darkness, but he's stepping toward the light. And Jesus says something that astonishes him. He says, you must be born again. Well, Nicodemus knows the Bible frontwards and backwards, and he's never heard of being born again. And he's he's astounded. He scratches his head. I don't know what you're talking about. So Jesus reminds him of Israel's history at that time, that the children of Israel were wandering in the wilderness under the leadership of Moses, and in the end, the people provoked God because they were rebellious, because they were obstinate and stubborn and disbelieving in God.

So God sent poisonous snakes among them. And many Israelites, it says in numbers, were dying. And then as the as the venom was coursing through their veins to kill them, Moses was commanded by God to make a bronze snake and to lift it up on high on a pole. And anyone who looked at that snake would be saved.

They would not die from them. From the bite of the viper. And now verse 14 says, just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. So God has offered this solution for their sinfulness, to believe in the Son of Man.

That's a title that Jesus gave for himself, for God. John 3:16 says, it begins with God. Really, church. All of life begins and ends with God. That's precisely where the Bible starts. Genesis one one says, in the beginning, who created the heavens and the earth? God did exactly. Everything begins with God and ends with God. And the sooner you and I latch on to the fact that life is not about us, the world does not revolve around us.

That your life and my life is about glorifying God. The better off we will all be. For God so loved the world. It says here, sometimes we'll say to our loved one, I love you so much. Have you ever said that to someone? I love you so much? Like the the guy in the gal? We're having a conversation and she asked him, do you really love me?

And he said, baby, I love you so much. I would climb the highest mountain for you. I would swim the deepest ocean for you and I'll be over Thursday to see you if it's not raining. Okay?

He who laughs. Last thing slowest. Just remember that. So when it says God so loved, it does not just talk about the intensity, but it means the demonstration of it in this way. God loved like this. He gave us his son. I'll get to that in a minute. But it says, For God so loved the world, not the planet, but the people on the planet.

And he loves humanity. He loves people. He loves us in all of our fallenness, all of our humanity, all of our rebellion. Because guess what? The world is not a lovable puppy. We are prodigals. We are prone to wander. We are predisposed to walk away from God. So when John 3:16 says that God loves the world, it means that God loves people who don't love him back.

People who reject him, people who ignore him, people who don't give a rip about him or his commandments. God loves people who would rather stay home and watch football on TV than come to church and hear whatever the preacher has to say. God loves these people. He loves them. He loves irreligious people. He loves non-Christians. He loves the world.

All 8.8 billion of us. He loves every one of us. And he doesn't just love us, he so loves us. This is an irrational, outrageous love. God loves the Pharisees in their day. He loved the Pharisees even though they were rebellious toward him in our day. He loves prodigals. He loves Republicans, he loves Democrats. And believe it or not, God actually loves the people on your homeowners association board.

He actually loves them. Heaven help us.

Now, does that raise a question in your mind? It should, because if you've ever read the Bible, you would know. There are many verses that talk about God's anger toward sinners, God's anger toward sin. The

word for anger is wrath. Now don't misunderstand. God's wrath is not like my wrath. If someone cuts me off on the freeway, I get instantly angry.

You probably do too. But God's wrath is a holy anger, a righteous anger, because he understands and knows full well what sin does to us. How it darkens our souls. So the Bible talks about the wrath of God. You've heard of it, I'm sure. And from cover to cover, the Bible describes this final judgment, where every one of us will stand before God and give an accounting of our lives.

And if you failed to give a good accounting, you will experience the eternal wrath of God. So how can God have wrath against sinners and love for sinners at the same time? How does that work that simultaneously God is angry toward those who rebel against him and yet he loves him at the same time? Well, my answer to that would be every parent who's ever raised a teenager knows exactly what that's like.

Amen. If you've ever been romantically in love with someone, you know what it is to feel anger toward that person and love toward that person at the same time. And that's how God feels. John 3:16 says, God loves all people, even those who make him angry as they disobey him. God so loved the world. He loves his enemies.

He loves people who are the avowed enemies of God. He loves evil people. He loves those who hate him, and he loves you. He loves you no matter who you are or what you've done. God so loves the world he loves. And why? Because he is love. See, I have love. You probably have love, but he is love.

That is who he is. God so loves. Number two, God lavishes, he loves, and he lavishes. See, the next part of John 3:16 helps us to see the extent of God's love. It says that he gave his one and only son. So this isn't just loving and words alone. The most important demonstration of God's love for sinners is giving us Jesus.

Giving Jesus to the world was this act of outrageous, unthinkable love. How outrageous is God's love for us? Well, I'm going to do a mental. I would do a mental test with you right now. I want you to. I want you to bring to mind the person in the world that you love the most. Who in the world do you love the most?

It could be your spouse. It could be your child. It could be a parent, a sibling. But you feel deeply about this person. In fact, if you're sitting next to them, squeeze their hand right now so they know they're

loved. Okay, no making out in church, by the way, just so you know. Okay. Do you have that person in mind?

Everybody nod your head if you got that person in mind. I want to know that you're with me today, okay? Now, I want you to think about the person in the world that you detest the most.

This is a person that, that maybe has hurt you in the past, but you cannot stand this person. In fact, if you had an eminent enemy list, they would be at the very top of the list. This could be a neighbor. It could be a coworker, could be someone who's hurt you in some way in the past.

It might even be someone you've never met. It could be a politician. All right. But the thought of even being close to this person makes your stomach queasy. It would be like chewing sand to be with this person. Now, suppose, suppose that this person that you detest so much. If you if you have an enemy, this is that person.

They're in the hospital and they're desperately in need of a kidney transplant, or they're going to die, would you be willing to help that person? Would you be willing to donate \$10,000 for the sake of their health? In fact, would you be willing to donate one of your kidneys so they could live your enemy? This person who provokes you, in fact, would would you would you ask the person that you love the most in the world to donate one of their kidneys to the person that you detest the most in the world, even if it meant your loved one might suffer or perhaps even die?

Would you be willing to do that? Pictured your loved one on the gurney. The hospital gurney there in the hallway. There's the operating room right there, and you're saying goodbyes to your loved one as they're preparing to give their kidney to that person that you detest, and you're saying goodbye and you don't know if you'll ever see them again.

On the face of the earth and their will through the door. And several hours later, the doors open and out comes the person that you detest. And they're going to be okay. They're alive because your loved one gave themselves and gave that kidney for them. Would you be willing to do that? Now imagine that the person that you detest the most has been consigned to a place of eternal torment, and you have the power to do something about that.

Would you be willing to send your loved one to a group of sadistic soldiers who would beat your loved one and spit on them and mock them, and whip their legs and their back and their chest so that they

were a bloody mess, hardly recognizable as a human being, and then nailed to a cross through their feet and their hands to die.

Would you do that?

That's exactly what God has done. When we say God loves the world, he didn't just love us, he lavished his love on us. This, my friend, is the great evidence of his love for sinners, for you and for me, that he would give His Son for us. Romans chapter five verse six says, when we were utterly helpless, Christ, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners.

Now verse eight says, But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. This is what God has done for us. Church. He has loved us, and he's lavished us with that love. And now our part we lean. That's number three. It says that whoever believes in him, that whoever believes in him.

Notice what it doesn't say. It doesn't say whoever lives a good moral life, whoever donates to charitable causes will have eternal life. Doesn't say whoever reads their Bible and prays every day and goes to church regularly. No, it says whoever believes in him, nor does it say whoever, whoever has lived a good life so that they win. God's approval doesn't say that.

It says Believe in Jesus Christ because no one can be good enough. In fact, the Bible says just the opposite. And if anyone thinks that they're going to get to heaven on their good merits, I have news for them. They will be rejected by God because you must believe in Jesus Christ. Amen. And it says whoever in this verse that means you, anybody that wants to be saved can be saved.

God doesn't choose some for salvation and not others. That's not biblical. Who ever means that anybody that wants to be saved can come to Christ? Because God has given us an incredible gift called free will. And frankly, you don't have to believe a word I'm saying today. You can disbelieve me, you can disbelieve the Bible. You can disbelieve in God.

It doesn't make any difference. You can do that if you want, but you will suffer the consequences of your choice. He has given us free will, so it says here that you must believe, that you must lean into God. Put your trust in him so I'm going to ask you a very important question. Do you believe with all of your heart that Jesus Christ is the one and only beloved Son of God?

Do you believe that Jesus paid the price on the cross for your sins by dying in your place? You believe that he rose gloriously on the third day church. Do you believe all that? If you can believe that, you can be saved, put your faith and trust in Jesus. If you've never done it. The Bible says, today is the day of your salvation.

Today is the day to make that choice. Now I, I want to give you an image of what it means to actually believe in Jesus, as opposed to to believing about Jesus. Because frankly, Jesus had has millions of fans around the world, people who believe in this, this idea of Jesus, but they don't actually believe in Jesus. This is a true story.

You're going to think I'm embellishing, and I am a preacher, but I never embellish. Can I get an amen on that? There's no embellishment in this story, though. True story.

But 175 years ago, there was a a tightrope walker by the name of Charles Blondin. Charles Blondin was the premier tightrope walker in the entire world. He was French, and everywhere he went, he wowed audiences with his skill on the tightrope. He was the best of the best. And finally, Charles Blondin came to the United States. And when he got here, he he became infatuated with this idea of stretching a tightrope across Niagara Falls.

He was going to walk from one side of Niagara Falls all the way to the other side. Has anybody here ever seen Niagara Falls? A few of you have. Okay, that's 1100 feet, by the way, which is nearly three. Just picture three football fields in length back to back to back. So they were going to stretch that tightrope.

But three football fields in length 1100 feet and 160ft above the falls. So that's 16 stories above. And he was a showman. Blondin was a real showman. So he promoted the heck out of this. And the day of this great event, a hundred thousand people showed up to watch Charles Blondin. Can you imagine the drama of that as this huge crowd of people watched him as he went inch by inch, step by step, over the thundering Niagara Falls to fall would have been his death.

He didn't have a safety harness. He didn't have a net. Every step he took, they just watched as he went step by step. And the people, all hundred thousand of them, were on the edge of their seats as they watched this. So he made it all the way across. And then he came back as he came back. But this time he blindfolded himself and came back blindfolded.

Now, this next part I know stretches the stretch is your belief. But I'm going to tell you the way it happened the third time he went over. I love this third time he went over. He had a little stove, and he cooked an omelet in the middle of that tightrope. 160ft above Niagara Falls. And the fall would have been his death.

And he lowered he after he cooked the omelet, he didn't eat it. He lowered it on a rope to people that were on a boat way down at the bottom of the falls. Then he was going to go one last time, and the last time Blondin was going to take a wheelbarrow across Niagara Falls. And the crowd went crazy.

But before he pushed the wheelbarrow across, he turned to the crowd and asked him, do you believe that I can do this? And they said, yes, we believe. And the crowd went crazy. They were so excited to see this. And he said, okay, who wants to get in with me? And it got real quiet, real fast. Do you believe or do you just admire?

All 100,000 people were silent. Not one person volunteered to go across the falls in that wheelbarrow with him, except for one person. A man that had known Charles Blondin and worked with him for years. It was his manager. His manager had seen him do this, so he said, I'll get in the wheelbarrow. And Blondin said to him before they went on that incredible trip, he said, I don't want you to try to over balance the wheelbarrow.

I want you to let me do all the balancing. We're both goners. I mean, to fall would be death, he said. I want you to be one with me. Be one with me. And so the manager got in and the crowd again was, well, they were just so nervous, so anxious, anxiety ridden. And they watched that man push that wheelbarrow with his friend in it all the way across.

They got it to the other side. And of course the crowd went crazy. Why wouldn't they? But they didn't get in the wheelbarrow. Everybody applauded Charles Blondin for his ability, but only one person got in the wheelbarrow with him, and they went on a ride that neither of them would ever forget. Jesus never came up to people and said, admire me.

He said, follow me. Believe in me. Whoever believes in him, get in the wheelbarrow church. It's the biggest decision of your life and no one can make that decision for you. And if you've never done it before, I urge you today to believe and trust in Jesus Christ. This this is something that's very personal between you and God.

The person sitting next to you can't make the decision for you. Your spouse can't make the decision for you. Your parents can't make that decision. It's you and you alone. Two weeks ago today, 100 million people watched the memorial service for Charlie Kirk. You know this story. 100 million people watched this incredible service, this moving service, paying tribute to Charlie Kirk's life and his faith.

There were there were, 200,000 people that gathered in a football stadium on the other side of the valley for this. And 100 million people heard the gospel that day there. In my mind, there were two really peak moments in that service. The first was when Charlie Kirk's widow, Erica, when she publicly from the platform, forgave the man who murdered her husband.

There was hardly a dry eye anywhere. Anyone who watched that had to be moved by that. In the second was when a man named Marco Rubio, the secretary of state, not a pastor, a layman, presented the gospel in such a powerful way that I wanted you to see it right now. So let's watch the screen. And I would say that taking the liberty, but I'm confident he would agree.

One of the things he wants us to take away from this, from all of this, is the following. His deep belief that we were all created, every single one of us, before the beginning of time by the hands of the God of the universe, an all powerful God who loved us and created us for the purpose of living with him in eternity.

But then sin entered the world and separated us from our creator. And so God took on the form of a man and came down and lived among us. And he suffered like men, and he died like a man. But on the third day he rose unlike any mortal man. And then. And to prove any doubters wrong, he ate with his disciples so they could see.

And they touched his wounds. He didn't rise as a ghost or as a spirit, but as flesh. And then he rose to the heavens. But he promised he would return, and he will. And when he returns, because he took on that death, because he carried that cross, we were freed from the sin that separated us from him. And when he returns, there will be a new heaven and a new earth, and we will all be together, and we are going to have a great reunion there again with Charlie and all the people we love.

If you can believe that what you've just heard, what you've been hearing the last 30 minutes, if you can get in the wheelbarrow, if you can believe in Jesus, you can be saved. Number four he. We live.

God loves, he lavishes, we lean into God, and we live. And this is how John 3:16 ends should not perish but have eternal life. The only negative in this verse is that word perish. And that word doesn't mean to die because we all die. But that word perish means to be eternally separated from God. And the word for that in the Bible is hell, a place of everlasting torment and anguish and gnashing of teeth and everlasting regret.

And those who choose not to believe in Jesus, that is their destiny. And I'm convinced, church, that if every person on this planet could experience hell for 60s, they would come running to Christ. They would come to him for salvation. Because you don't have to perish. No one has to perish. You can have eternal life. A man once said to me, you know, I think the only reason that I became a Christian was to avoid hell.

And I said, that's good enough. The only way to eternal life is through Jesus Christ, who has paid the penalty for you. He absorbed the punishment that you deserved on the cross for your sins. And if you can believe in him, if you can put your trust in him today, you can be saved. Oh, my friend, I tell you, you are more sinful than you can possibly imagine, but you are more loved by God than you will ever know.

And God lavished his love by giving His Son that we might believe in him, and believing that we might have eternal life. He loves us.

And he lavished that love and giving his son so that we might believe, lean into him and that we might have life eternal. That is the great promise of the ages. That's the offer that God has made to every person on this planet, every person that he loves. Bow your hearts and hands with me right now, father. We're just praying in this moment that your Holy Spirit would touch our hearts.

And, Lord, that if there are those in this room right now or online that need to respond to the gospel, they would respond that they would come running to Jesus this day for salvation. We thank you for that, father, in Jesus name.

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