



**Sermon: "The Son of Man Lifted Up...Like a Snake?"**

**Scripture: John 3:11-16**

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## Introduction:

**v. 11:** Nicodemus' and the Jewish leaders' failure was not a failure of intellect but a failure to **believe** Jesus' witness.

*Scripture: John 1:10-12*

**v. 12:** What are these earthly and heavenly things?

**Earthly:** That which **takes place** here on earth like the NEW BIRTH.

**Heavenly:** Those things which **were occurring** in heaven like GOD'S PLAN FOR REDEMPTION. (NOTE: God's plan had not yet been brought to fulfillment)

**v. 13:** Jesus made it clear that he spoke with **absolute authority** in matters of both earth and heaven for he dwelt in both spheres.

**vv. 14-15:** Jesus explained God's heavenly plan in relation to a story familiar to Nicodemus, a teacher of the Law, yet with unfamiliar realities:

**Familiar Story:** The bronze serpent foreshadows the salvation which God provided through the "**Son of Man.**" (Numbers 21)

### Unfamiliar Realities:

- The "Son of Man" lifted up as the bronze serpent rather than as a **king**.
- The access to salvation for **"whoever"** would believe rather than a single race.

**v. 16:** John's summary is famous because it is not only a succinct summary, but because of the astounding truths contained within.

## Astounding Truth #1: God's Love for Mankind Demonstrated in His Son

- The love of God is not a response to the **loveliness** of mankind, but a result of the sublime truth that "God is **love**" (1 John 4:16).

## Astounding Truth #2: God's Willing (and necessary) Sacrifice of His Son

- In compassionate love, the kindness of God appeared in the person of Jesus and provided the only path to sin **debt relief**.

*Scripture: Titus 3:3-7*

## Astounding Truth #3: Available Access for Mankind Through His Son

*Scripture: Romans 5:1-2; Ephesians 3:11-12; John 14:6*

There is no **other** way to eternal life,  
but through God's Son there is a **freely** offered way!

#### **Astounding Truth #4: Escape from God's Condemnation Through His Son**

- "perish" refers to divine condemnation, complete and everlasting.

**Because of God's holiness sin must be condemned.**  
**Because of God's loving kindness He has provided redemption.**

#### **Astounding Truth #5: Certainty of Eternal Life Through His Son**

Eternal life is different in both **duration** (it is never ending) and **quality** (John 17:3) than this present life.

#### **Conclusion:**

We must respond to such astounding truths. In one way or another, we each WILL respond.

1. Rejection and unbelief.
2. Reception and belief.
1. Rejoicing and worship.

#### **Questions to Consider:**

1. Nicodemus came with questions of Christ's identity in verse 2. What does Jesus reveal about his identity in John 3:11-15?
2. What are some of the ways in which the bronze serpent story foreshadows the salvation provided through Christ?
3. What is the appropriate response of every sinner to the love of God described in John 3:16? ...every believer?
4. How ought the love of God, access by faith, elimination of condemnation and the gift of eternal life change how you think about and live life? What ought it affect apathy, legalism (striving to gain favor or standing with God) or license (living however I feel like)?
5. How is the quality of eternal life different than life in this present age? (John 17:3; Revelation 21:3-4)

3.