SEE YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE
SERIES CONCLUSION · MESSAGE NOTES

Jesus on Earth: Why?

John 3:16–17 (NIV)

CAPITOL CITY CHURCH · NOVEMBER 8, 2026 · PASTOR RICK MELICK

THE MESSAGE AT A GLANCE

1. Jesus came to rescue us from sin and its eternal consequences. *John 3:16–18*
2. Jesus came so we could be with him forever. *John 3:16; 14:3*
3. Jesus invites us to join him in his mission of changing the world. *John 17:18*

IN THESE NOTES

1 · Walk the timeline (brief review of every stop)

2 · Eight weeks, one verse

3 · The message

4 · Behind the passage

5 · Bringing it home: questions for this week and families

THE POINT

God sent Jesus to rescue us from the consequences of sin, make it possible for us to be with him forever, and invite us to join him in his mission while we're still here.

WALK THE TIMELINE

The Road Map

Every story is headed somewhere, and so is yours. Scripture divides all of time into two ages: *the present age* and *the age to come*. Here's every stop we covered, and how each one connects to John 3:16.

YOU ARE HERE · TODAY

The Ticket

Week 1 · Punching My Ticket · Romans 3:23–24; 6:23

Good people don't go to heaven; forgiven people do. The ticket is a gift, received by grace through faith.

> JOHN 3:16 *"…that whoever believes in him." This is the stop where the decision is made.*

PRESENT AGE

Paradise

Week 2 · Prepare for Landing · Luke 23:43; 2 Cor 5:1–10

Believers who die go instantly to be with Jesus; the body stays behind. At the judgment seat of Christ, believers are rewarded for how they lived.

> JOHN 3:16 *"…shall not perish." For those who believe, death is a doorway, not the end.*

PRESENT AGE

Hades

Week 4 · Eternity Reveals What Life Conceals · Luke 16:19–31

The anti-paradise: personal, painful, permanent and preliminary. Respond while there's still time.

> JOHN 3:16 *"Perish" is what Jesus came to rescue us from (John 3:18).*

THE HINGE

The Tribulation

Week 3 · Meeting in the Middle · Matthew 24

Seven years that end the present age. Don't be deceived, don't panic, don't quit. Christians differ on whether believers are gathered before or after it.

> JOHN 3:17 *Even then, God is still rescuing: the gospel goes to the whole world (Matthew 24:14).*

AGE TO COME

The Second Coming

Week 5 · One Way or the Other · Matthew 25:31–46

Jesus comes in glory as King and Judge and separates the sheep from the goats.

> JOHN 3:17 *He came the first time to save. He comes again "to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him" (Hebrews 9:28).*

AGE TO COME

The Millennial Kingdom

Week 6 · Highway to Heaven · Revelation 20:1–10

A thousand-year reign of Christ. Satan is bound; believers serve and reign with Jesus; a final rebellion is crushed.

> JOHN 3:16 *The world God loved is the world Jesus will rule.*

AGE TO COME

The Great White Throne

Week 6 · Revelation 20:11–15

Final judgment. All whose names are not in the Lamb's Book of Life go to the lake of fire.

> JOHN 3:18 *The verdict is decided now ("condemned already") and revealed then.*

FOREVER

The New Heaven and New Earth

Week 7 · Leaving the Light On · Revelation 21–22; John 14:1–6

God dwells with his people. No more death, mourning, crying or pain. The best part isn't the place; it's the presence of Jesus.

> JOHN 3:16 *"Eternal life" is life with him (Revelation 21:3; John 17:3).*

FOREVER

Who We'll Be

Week 8 · Now That I'm Here · 1 Corinthians 15; Revelation 22:3–5

Still me, better than ever, made like Jesus. We'll worship him, serve him and reign with him. Our labor is not in vain.

> JOHN 3:17 *That's why he sends us now (John 17:18; 1 Corinthians 15:58).*

THROUGH ALL OF IT, ONE THING NEVER CHANGES

The deciding factor is what you decide about Jesus. John 3:16 is why the road exists.

EIGHT WEEKS, ONE VERSE

John 3:16 connects the series

For eight weeks we asked one question: **What will matter most to us five minutes after we die?** This morning's passage is the answer in two verses. Each phrase of John 3:16–17 picks up a week of the series.

WK	MESSAGE	THE PHRASE IN JOHN 3:16–17
1	**Punching My Ticket** Romans 3:20–24	"he gave his one and only Son"
2	**Prepare for Landing** 2 Corinthians 5:1–10	"shall not perish"
3	**Meeting in the Middle** Matthew 24	"to save the world through him"
4	**Eternity Reveals What Life Conceals** Luke 16:19–31	"perish"
5	**One Way or the Other** Matthew 25:31–46	"whoever believes in him"
6	**Highway to Heaven: 1000 Mile Marker** Revelation 20	"not to condemn the world"
7	**Leaving the Light On** Revelation 21–22; John 14	"eternal life"
8	**Now That I'm Here** 1 Corinthians 15	"God so loved the world"

THE FOAM BOARD THAT HELD IT ALL TOGETHER: "SINCE IT IS TRUE…"

Since it is true that God so loved the world, I don't have to wonder whether I'm loved.

Since it is true that whoever believes will not perish, I don't have to fear the other side.

Since it is true that he sent his Son to save the world, I get to help someone else find that same hope.



From the stage. The foam boards (Paradise, Hell and Hades, the Tribulation, and "Since it is true…") stood across the stage all series, and every Sunday began by walking them again.

THE MESSAGE

Jesus on Earth: Why?

A Familiar Passage with a Bigger Meaning

READ FIRST — John 3:16–17 (NIV)

16 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. [17] For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

A Question Worth Considering

> *After spending eight weeks talking about eternity, does this passage, one you may have heard your entire life, hit you any differently now?*

We've spent eight weeks exploring what happens when this life ends, what eternity looks like, and what God has promised those who belong to him. These two verses explain why Jesus came in the first place.

THE POINT

God sent Jesus to rescue us from the consequences of sin, make it possible for us to be with him forever, and invite us to join him in his mission while we're still here.

1 Jesus Came to Rescue Us from Sin and Its Eternal Consequences.

JOHN 3:16–18 · ROMANS 3:23–24 · ROMANS 6:23

"...shall not perish but have eternal life."

- Sin is not simply a collection of bad decisions. It separates us from God.
- Sin carries consequences beyond this life, including judgment and hell.
- Jesus came to rescue us from condemnation we could not escape on our own.
- His death and resurrection make forgiveness and reconciliation with God possible.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT According to John 3:18, the world already stands under judgment. Jesus came to provide rescue, not to introduce condemnation.

REMEMBER

Jesus came to rescue us from an eternity without him.

2 Jesus Came So We Could Be with Him Forever.

JOHN 3:16 · JOHN 14:3 · JOHN 17:3 · REVELATION 21:3–5

"...but have eternal life."

- Eternal life is more than simply existing forever.
- The greatest promise of heaven is not the place, but the presence of Jesus.
- Jesus promised that he would return and take his followers to be with him.
- Our future includes resurrection, restoration, and a world where death and suffering are gone.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT John 17:3 describes eternal life as knowing God and Jesus Christ. This life begins through faith in Jesus and continues forever.

REMEMBER

Jesus didn't just come to save us from something. He came so we could be with Someone, forever.

3 Jesus Invites Us to Join Him in His Mission of Changing the World.

JOHN 17:18 · MATTHEW 28:18–20 · 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17–20

"As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world." John 17:18 (NIV)

- Jesus did not leave us here simply to wait for heaven.
- We have an opportunity to participate in what God is doing in the world.
- His mission includes helping people discover the hope of eternal life through Jesus.
- We participate by loving people, serving others, sharing the gospel, and making disciples.

SUPPORTING INSIGHT In 2 Corinthians 5:18–20, Paul calls believers Christ's ambassadors. We represent Jesus as we share his message of reconciliation.

REMEMBER

Jesus came to change our eternity, and invites us to join him in changing the world today.

FOR STUDY AND TEACHING

Behind the Passage

Who was listening: Nicodemus

Jesus spoke these words to Nicodemus, a respected Pharisee who came at night with questions (John 3:1–2). We meet him twice more: speaking up for Jesus (John 7:50–51) and openly helping bury him (John 19:39). He moved from night to daylight, from *if* to *since*.

Before verse 16: look and live

In John 3:14–15 Jesus points back to Numbers 21:8–9. Bitten Israelites looked at the bronze snake Moses lifted up and lived. "So the Son of Man must be lifted up." The cure for what's killing us is looking to Jesus on the cross.

After verse 17: already

"Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already" (John 3:18). Jesus didn't bring condemnation; he came into a world already under it, to rescue. John says it again in 12:47: "I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world."

Eternal life starts now

"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life" (John 3:36). Present tense. Eternal life isn't only a future address; it's a relationship that starts the day we believe (John 17:3) and never ends.

Key words

"so loved"

houtōs

Can mean "so much," but often means "in this way." God loved the world *like this*: he gave. Love you can see.

"the world"

kosmos

In John, usually the whole human world in rebellion against God. He loves the very world that rejected him (John 1:10–11).

"one and only"

monogenēs

Unique, one of a kind. No one else could be given.

"perish"

apollymi

To be lost or destroyed. Luke uses the same word for the lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost son (Luke 15). Jesus came for the lost.

"eternal life"

zōē aiōnios

Built on *aiōn*, "age": the life of the age to come. This connects to the Road Map: the present age and *the age to come*. For those who believe, that life starts now.

"condemn"

krinō

To judge or pass sentence. Jesus' first coming was a rescue mission (John 3:17). His second coming brings final judgment (Matthew 25:31–46).

Three anchors from the series

The question

"What will matter most to us five minutes after we die?" John 3:16 answers it: whether we believed in the Son.

The decision

"The deciding factor is what you decide about Jesus." Every stop on the Road Map turns on John 3:18.

The foam board

"Since it is true…" The series moved us from *if* (if heaven is real) to *since* (since it's true, here's how I live).

CLOSE THE SERIES

Bringing It All Together

POINT 1
Rescued from sin and judgment

POINT 2
With Jesus forever

POINT 3
Accept your mission: find your purpose

Two Questions to Take with You This Week

1. After everything we've learned about eternity, what does John 3:16–17 mean to you now?
2. Who in your life needs to know why Jesus came, and how might God use you to help them discover it?

FINAL THOUGHT

Jesus came so we could be with him forever. Until then, he invites us to join him in helping others discover that same hope.

Questions to Think About This Week

1. Which week of the series changed how you think about eternity the most? Why?
2. Read John 3:16–18 slowly. Which phrase means more to you now than it did eight weeks ago?
3. Jesus calls us his ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20). What could that look like for you Monday through Friday?
4. Who is one person you'll pray for by name this week?

For families

Your kids can take the same journey at home. Two free books are waiting in the Kids' Corner at **capitolcitystore.com**:

The Kids' Edition (ages 8–11) retells the whole series for kids, one chapter per message, with Baxter as tour guide, Checkpoint questions and memory verse challenges. Read it online or download it.

The Comic Book (ages 6–11) takes the same tour of heaven in eight short, colorful issues. Great for reading together.

On the way home, ask: **"Why did Jesus come to earth?"**

Kid version of John 3:16: God loves the whole world so much that he sent Jesus, so everyone who trusts him gets to live with him forever.

Keep the message going

The entire series is free at **capitolcitystore.com**: the book (read it online or download it), the Study Book, the Kids' Edition, the comic book, the kids' games and all eight messages on video.