



Sermon Guide

December 7th, 2025

Saved from the Condemnation of God

John 3:14-18, Numbers 21:4-9

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In John 3:14-18, Jesus reveals why he came: not to condemn the world, but to save it. Like Israel in the wilderness, humanity stands under the just condemnation our sin has earned. Yet God, in love, “gave his only Son” so that all who look to Christ in faith are rescued from destruction and brought into the life of his grace. Eternal life is not merely a future hope, but a present reality for all who trust the crucified and risen Savior. As we fix our eyes on Christ, who has been lifted up for us, we rediscover wonder, longing, and joy in the salvation he freely gives.

John 3:14-18 (ESV)

¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

Numbers 21:4-9 (ESV)

⁴ From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. ⁵ And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." ⁶ Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷ And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." ⁹ So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

Sermon Notes

Intro

#1 From the Ruin of Sin

#2 To the Realm of Grace

#3 By the Work Christ

Discussion Questions

1. Jesus says that apart from him we “perish” and are “condemned already.” How does Jesus’ framing of the human problem differ from how our culture typically describes what’s wrong with us?
2. What are some examples of the ways people try to deal with guilt, shame, or restlessness apart from God?
3. Why do you think Christians often *assume* the seriousness of sin rather than letting its weight deepen our gratitude and worship?
4. How does truly facing the reality of condemnation make the gospel more precious rather than more frightening?
5. Jesus says that those who believe “have eternal life”—a present reality, not only a future one. What does “eternal life” look like in everyday experience? How would you describe it to someone new to the faith?
6. In the sermon, Pastor Billy addressed the danger of seeking the “presence of God” while neglecting the Word of God. Where are you personally tempted to separate God’s presence from God’s Word?
8. Jesus compares his saving work to Moses lifting the bronze serpent to save those who looked to the serpent. What does it practically mean to “look to Christ” instead of merely “look at” him?
9. How does meditating on the costliness of our salvation reshape your understanding of God’s love?
11. Where in your life right now do you feel most aware of the ‘ruin of sin’? Where do you most need to remember the ‘realm of grace’?
12. What is one concrete way you can fix your eyes more intentionally on Christ this week?
13. Who in your life needs to hear this truth that salvation is as simple and profound as looking to Christ? How might God be calling you to point them to him?