

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

ESV

For God loved the world in this way:
He gave his one and only Son, so that
everyone who believes in him will not
perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

CSB

1. The huge inclusivity of the gospel:
whoever believes in him will not
perish but have eternal life.

“God unrolls the welcome mat of heaven to all humanity. ‘Whoever’ invites the world to God.”

Max Lucado

“The scandal of Christianity is not that these men went to heaven; it is that God loved them so much that he was willing to die to get them there. Had it been a human decision, many would have thrown these men, guilty of such atrocities, into the flames of hell.”

Chad Bird

2. The radical exclusivity of the gospel: whoever *believes in him* will not perish but have eternal life.

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

John 3:17

CSB

The one who believes in the Son has eternal life, but the one who rejects the Son will not see life; instead, the wrath of God remains on him.

John 3:36

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They will pay the penalty of eternal
destruction from the Lord's presence
and from his glorious strength

2 Thessalonians 1:9

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A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance.

John 10:10

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“The best way to know you are alive is to know that you were once dead, and the way to know you are dead is that you don’t know you are dead.”

Tim Keller

“Truly I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not come under judgment but has passed from death to life.

John 5:24

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This is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and the one you have sent—Jesus Christ.

John 17:3

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Call to Communion

Let us confess our sins to our holy God:

Gracious God,
our sins are too heavy to carry,
too real to hide,
and too deep to undo.
Forgive what our lips tremble to name,
what our hearts can no longer bear,
and what has become for us a consuming fire of
judgment.

Set us free from a past that we cannot change;
open to us a future in which we can be changed;
and grant us grace to grow more and more in
your likeness and image,
through Jesus Christ,
the light of the world. Amen

... Everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

John 3:16b-17

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Celebration of Communion