

A Scriptural study exposing how “universalism” misapplies John 3:16

By Kenneth W. Lent [www.solarsabbath.org](http://www.solarsabbath.org) June 8, 2010

John chapter three verse 16:

*“For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”*

We have all heard this verse endlessly repeated as used by the universalist theologians in the attempt to convert everybody on the planet to their brand of "Christianity" when Christ Himself said that He only came for Israel!

*“But He (Jesus) answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”* (Matthew 15:24)

The above discriminatory words of Jesus are also consistent with the Old Testament Scriptures on this same subject:

*“You (Israel) only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.”* (Amos 3:2)

*“He sheweth His word unto Jacob, His statutes and His judgments unto Israel.*

*He hath not dealt so with any nation: and as for His judgments, they have not known them. Praise ye Yahweh.”* (Psalm 147:19,20)

What do we make of this? Is this a so called Bible contradiction? Do the Scriptures actually teach *“God so loved the world”*, then turn right around in the Epistle of John and command us:

***“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”*** (1 John 2:15)

Don't we find it a bit hypocritical that God supposedly "loves the world" but does NOT want **us** to love the world????? If not hypocritical, then how about just downright confusing?

Is the conviction of sin by the Holy Spirit meant for everybody in the world as the preachers say? or is God's Word truthful when Jesus Christ tells us that THE WORLD CANNOT RECEIVE the Holy Spirit???

*"And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; **whom the world cannot receive**, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you". (John 14:16 & 17)*

The apparent contradictory position that "God (supposedly) loves everybody in the whole world" yet at the same time "hates the House of Esau" (Romans 9:13), and compounded with the fact that "Christ was sent only to Israel" (Mat.15:24) is made easily understood by realizing one important Scriptural fact never heard from the pulpits of modernism. Namely, the modern churches have either not known or withheld from the people the truth that the Bible speaks of "**two worlds**" or two systems of operation in regard to salvation.

In light of John 3:16, upon further examination, let's see precisely what the Bible reveals about the dual "worlds" with which we must contend as Christians. The Scriptures tell us that there is a "world of the ungodly" in permanent rebellion against God, AND there is a "world of the godly" which is in accord with The Almighty, and comprises His family which He has saved from the wages of sin. These two "worlds" must be differentiated within the parameter of any Scripture verse being quoted and pulled out of context. Those who are of the "world of the ungodly" are mentioned often in the Bible as noted in Psalm 73:

*Verse 8 **They are corrupt, and speak wickedly** concerning oppression: they speak loftily.*

*9 They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth.*

*10 Therefore his people return hither: and waters of a full cup are wrung out to them.*

*11 And they say, How doth God know? and is there knowledge in the most High?*

12 Behold, **these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world;** they increase in riches (unlawfully)."

16 When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me;

17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.

18 Surely thou (God) didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction.

19 **How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment!** they are utterly consumed with terrors."

And also in we see from II Peter 2:5 & 6 that God caused the great Flood in Noah's time:

"And (God) **spared not the old world,** but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood **upon the world of the ungodly;** And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;" (II Pet.2:5,6)

Contrary to the world of the **ungodly,** in which people are NOT chosen for salvation but for eventual destruction, we find the **"godly world"** established by the King of Kings, Jesus the Messiah of Israel. This world is comprised of redeemed sinners according to the choosing of The Almighty. This is an opposite world or rather an opposite governing body in contrast to that held by the world of the ungodly. Jesus says that He chooses His own, they don't choose Him. (John 15:16,19; Eph.1:3,4,5)

Furthermore we must understand that the Bible teaches that a conversion of the ungodly world into the godly world is **not** an option in Yahweh's plans. Rather triumph and victory OVER the heathen ungodly world is what the Bible declares.

Psalms 96:10 "Say among the heathen that Yahweh reigneth: **the world (i.e. Yahweh's World) also shall be established** that it shall not be moved: He shall judge the people righteously."

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness

*He doth judge and make war. ----- And out of His mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it **He should smite the nations**: and He shall rule them with a rod of iron: and He treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God." (Rev.19:11 & 15)*

This is a **reigning Kingdom** in the Earth which installs a "world of the Godly" **OVER** that of the "world of the ungodly". Thus, herein we see God's Scripture truth revealed: It is **this** specific "world" (the world of the Godly) that "God so loved" and to which He sent His Son in John 3:16.

*Psalms 93:1 "Yahweh reigneth, He is clothed with majesty; Yahweh is clothed with strength, wherewith He hath girded Himself: **the world also is stablished**, that it cannot be moved"*

God's particular "**stablished world**" is in reference to divine government of the House of Israel that will be established and not moved as it will be placed in the Earth as a solid Kingdom ruled by Christ. It is the "world of the Godly".

*"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. **Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end**, upon the throne of David, and upon His Kingdom, to order it, and **to establish it with judgment and with justice** from henceforth even for ever. (i.e. "not moved") *The zeal of Yahweh of hosts will perform this. Yahweh sent a word into Jacob, and it hath lighted upon Israel.*" (Isaiah 9:6,7,8)*

Yes brothers and sisters, if you are of Israel your Heavenly Father beckons you to come out of the "world" that He, Yahweh God, **HATES**; and you must get into the "world" which God **LOVES** and sent His only begotten Son to die for. It is the world of divine goodness where you are meant to receive blessings, wisdom, safety, love, and closeness with your Heavenly Father. It is a world of your happiness that God has made for you.

The only thing that temporarily keeps some Israelites out of their rightful divine world is carnal disobedience to the laws of our Father.

Namely, unconfessed and unrepentant SIN! Furthermore, one can't "mentally guess" at what sin is. To find out what sin is, the Word of God must be read and understood, for "*sin is transgression of the law*" (I Jn.3:4).

The written Word is your guidebook on how to get out of the ungodly world and get to where you belong, --- into the Godly world of the government (family, neighborhood, national kinsmen) of Jesus Christ our King. The Scriptures also compare the world that God hates to that of the world He loves as being different "temples" or different governing houses:

*"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?*

*And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?*

*And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

*Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith Yahweh, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,*

*And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith Yahweh Almighty."* (II Corinthians 6:14-18)

This is the same directive as that concerning the "two worlds", namely, get out of the world that God hates and get into the world that He loves. If we don't do this, the Bible says that we can not know The Creator as a Father. Many may go to church on Sundays and try to fool themselves that they are in God's world (Kingdom, Temple), but the Bible teaches that unless one is of the House of Israel **and also** repentant of their sins (that is, cheerfully and willfully desiring to obey God's laws), they are not in the divine Kingdom (that is, the Godly World.)

Furthermore, it is easy to get into the proper World that God has made for you --- just recognize and profess the gift of eternal life given to you freely by Jesus, turn away from the world of the ungodly, and ask Father to guide you into an ever-growing walk on the road of His Kingdom. This does not mean that you must avoid people. It

means that when somebody (whether friends, family, neighbors, visitors) crosses your property line that you make it clear that they are entering into a zone where the convictions and laws of your Father/King are IN FORCE to the best of your ability; and that when you yourself leave your property those laws and conviction of the Holy Spirit go with you in your heart as you travel among the "other world".

Those who say they are "Christian" but have no desire to keep God's laws have deceived themselves. Yes, it is a true Scriptural statement that eternal salvation can not be "earned" by trying to keep the law, as we all fall short. Eternal salvation is a free gift from God through the Cross of Jesus. (Rom. 6:23) However, Jesus tells us that if one is truly called into His New Covenant, that the proof of this is seen in a heart that makes a good faith attempt to be obedient to God's commandments. When we fall short and stumble we have forgiveness by the blood of Christ. But sin no longer rules and dominates a Christian's life.

John 14:15 *"If ye love me, keep my commandments."*

John 15:10 *"If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love."*

1 John 2:3 *"And hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments"*

1 John 3:22 *"And whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight."*

1 John 5:2 *"By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep His commandments."*

1 John 5:3 *"For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous."*

Romans 3:31 *"Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law."*

While we're at it, let's mention a quick note on I Jn.2:2 *"And He (Jesus) is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."* Do not be misled. The Scriptures are consistent and do not contradict themselves, even though this verse has been used by "universal salvation"

teachers. This verse does not mean that Christ died for all the inhabitants of the world. Again, there is a world of the Godly (those destined to be called; Eph.1:4,5) and a world of the ungodly, never to be called (Mk.4:11,12) First century sacred Greek language experts on this verse agree that John is referring here to the whole world of chosen believers in other areas, in addition to the local believers to whom he was writing. We know that this is Scripturally evident because there is clearly a certain "world" that Christ DID NOT include in His propitiation and for whom He did NOT pray. Please see John 17:9-11 Jesus' prayer to the Father: -- "*I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.*

*And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them.*

*And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are."*

We also notice that the Greek idiom "whole world" is repeatedly used in a localized and limited context such as noted where Rome issued an edict that "*all the world*" be taxed (Luke 2:1) which tax, however, was limited to the Roman Empire and **did not** apply to all the other empires of the entire planet at that time.

Let's regroup our thoughts for a moment and slow down ---- We have seen that God's Word says that eternal salvation is a free gift from Jesus to all of Israel. God knows the specific reasons why salvation is limited in scope and not "universal" (i.e. for the entire planet population). The proof that one has become aware of this salvation, is that he/she loves to keep God's law. The keeping of God's laws shows divine love is active within, and exemplifies love for *God's world*. This "world" is the world which God loves so much that He sent His only begotten Son to die for. (Jn 3:16)

It is this discriminatory divine reality which removes all supposed contradiction of the Scriptures on this matter. This Scriptural clarification, where God's cross referenced Word itself explains John 3:16, is the truth of Yahweh beyond and above the carnal emotional faulty reasoning of universal theology, a function of the sinful mind which opposes God's ways and His world. With no apology, we now

see that the modern church clergy have been incorrect all along -- John 3:16 is not for "everybody". It is for the "world of the Godly" (Yahweh's household which was in need of redemption and has been thus redeemed), and it is not for the world of the ungodly. It wasn't for the "whole world" in Noah's day and it isn't in the day of the New Covenant in Christ – our latter days.

*"And (God) **spared not the old world**, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood **upon the world of the ungodly**;" (I Peter 2:5)*

*"But as the days of Noe (Noah) were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." (Matthew 24:37)*

Regardless of the mission efforts of the world order churches to supposedly "save" the heathen lands of the communal world, Scriptures teach us that the true world of the Godly will never "convert" the world of the ungodly no matter how many millions of bank credit dollars are collected from the church pews for that effort.

On the contrary, the world of the ungodly will be conquered by the saints of The Most High, not converted. In view of John 3:16 the two distinctive "worlds" of the Scriptures must be understood. Jesus was sent to only one of those worlds – **the world of the Godly** – His called out Kingdom saints. The different "worlds" are noted below:

*"For whatsoever is born of God **overcometh the world**: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." (1 John 5:4)*

*"And **the world passeth away**, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." (1 John 2:17)*

*" - - - Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in **the world to come life everlasting**." (Luke 18:30)*

*"For it was not to angels that God subjected the **world to come, of which we are speaking**." (Heb. 2:5. Paul separates "worlds" here )*

In John 3:16 we must be aware of "**which world**" **it is speaking**, as it clearly refers only to those of Christ's world, His chosen saints.