

- Introduction of episode 1 with brief summary.

- John 3 vs 16 is the fulfillment of the Genesis plan of redemption for mankind.
- John 3 vs 16 is itself a plan and a provision – a planned provision.
- The plan is the giving of the Son for everlasting life.
- The provision is belief, not perishing, and everlasting life (complete, satisfying and forever life).
- Four people of note in John 3 vs 16. Agreement among this four releases the power in 3:16.

- Episode 2 begins

- The key point in this episode is that we were made for everlasting life. It is not only a new testament promise in John 3 vs 16, every human being that ever lived was made for everlasting life. it is a promise for all. Otherwise those before John 3 vs 16 are without hope. But God is God of the everlasting.
- The context of the human story is God's love and His plan.
 - I have loved you with an everlasting love (Jer 31 v 3)
 - Power over the eternal requires One who already exists in the eternal, not subject to the passage of time like we here on earth.

Additionally,

- Luke 20 v 37 - 38 – now the dead are raised from death, even Moses showed – God is God of the living
 - Jeremiah 10 v 10 – God is God of the living and the everlasting King
 - Ephesians 2 v 1 – Only one that is alive can make alive (God can make alive physically and spiritually)
 - Revelations 1 v 18 – Jesus explains he is the ever-living one, he died, but he is alive and holds the keys of death and hades.
- The overall context for everything in the human agenda is God's love and a plan (Jer 29:11 - I know the thought I think towards you....)
- God's love for us led to our creation – you want to see the one who love.
 - Creation with freewill is an act of faith. There was also no doubt in the breath of life (Gen 2v7). Both introduce the idea of faith – an aspect of God that we later learn is critical to pleasing God (Hebrews 11 v 6 – without faith impossible to please God)
 - So, the components of John 3 vs 16 are love and a plan – leading to faith, salvation and everlasting life. Everlasting life comes through these.....an acceptance of God's love and His plan, the faith he authors in us and the walk of salvation that we are called to.

- The breath of life brought with it life and everlasting life – a life like God lives. Faith.
- The love and the plan come first. Then the others: faith, salvation, everlasting life. But we introduced new contexts: sin that passes down and death (physically and spiritually). Now, all have sinned (no escaping). Every sin is in a sense a rejection of God's love, his plan and the faith that is a core part of who we are. Sin is a rejection of every thing that God had in place before Adam and Eve ate the fruit.
- In John 3 vs 16, everlasting life is shown as a reward (a gift from God) but there was a time it wasn't a reward or a gift (in our contemporary understanding of gifts and rewards). It was the plan for everyone. Sin made everlasting life exclusive – only for those who believed, who did not choose sin (which is anything that separates us from God). Before sin, everlasting life was the only option. Now, it's one of two options.
- In John 10 v 10, Jesus explains that he has come to take away the sins of the world so those that believe in him may have life and life more abundantly.
- This desire and intention is not purely new testament. God has been trying to reach us always. Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Joshua.....Jonah, Paul.... Everlasting life has always been the plan. A complete, satisfying and forever life.
- It would be odd if God the Father offered Old Testament believers less. Remember, God's agenda, John 3 vs 16 is not some marketing ploy, it's not a sales tactic. It is the purest form of love that has not changed and will not change for anyone. And it is an everlasting love as established by Jeremiah in the Old Testament before Jesus.
- Simplified chronology: Love -> Plan -> Creation for everlasting life -> Freewill -> Misuse of Freewill -> Sin -> Knowledge of good and evil -> Physical death -> Spiritual death -> Everlasting life still intention -> Redemption plan of the Father -> Sin passes down -> Death passes with it -> Sin abounds -> Death abounds -> Reset with Noah -> Sin still continued -> Abraham, Isaac, Jacob -> Joseph -> Egypt -> Ten Commandments -> Sin continued and death -> Laws and Prophets -> Sin and death continues -> Jesus Christ -> Sin and death continues till this day -> John 3 vs 16 -> Sin and death continues, as does everlasting life.
- If you read John 3 v 16, it comes across like it is only after the Son was given, that belief in the Son for salvation is possible. But there were frameworks back then for relating with God.
 - First, the knowledge of good and evil
 - The Ten Commandments and all the other laws and commandments.
 - Clean hands, pure hearts (Psalm 24).
 - Heart and head knowledge of God's law - one can be written in our hearts; the other is written on paper or stone tablets (Jer 31:33).
 - John 5 vs 24 – very similar to John 3 vs 16. Shows how listening and hearing God the Father and belief in Him leads to everlasting life.
 - Everlasting life (complete, satisfying and forever life) always the plan for us
- Essentially, John 3 vs 16 and the plan and promise of everlasting life has always existed.

- Some had the knowledge of good and evil, some had the law, we are tasked with belief in Jesus Christ – all of these are guides towards this everlasting life. John 12 v 44 talks about whoever believes in Jesus believes in the one that sent Him (the Father).
- Now, no other name by which any one can be saved except Jesus (Acts 4vs12).
- At a point, everlasting life became punctuated by physical death, but it never ended. In John 17 v 24, while on earth, Jesus prayed that all the people that God the Father have given to him, would be with him where he is.

- We've spoken about love, about the plan, a little about faith, about sin and about everlasting life. Let us dial back a little. Three consequences of sin are: giving of the law, physical and spiritual death and the promise and arrival of Jesus Christ our Lord.

- The plan has always been everlasting life but sin brought about death, God did not bring it. Separation from God led to it.

- The Bible does not shy away from physical or spiritual death or its hurt. It acknowledges it.

- Simon waiting for the consolation of Israel; the criminal on the other cross; Lazarus; Lazarus the beggar.
- Everlasting life is an acknowledgement of everlasting (spiritual) death. Humans are not made for separation from God and surviving. Death was not God's plan.
- Sin passes, so physical and spiritual death passes. Once sin passed down, it remained passed even during the time of Jesus and even after his death and resurrection.
- Even if a whole generation did not sin, there will still be physical death because once sin passed down it remained passed. Our righteousness does not prevent physical death or spiritual death. Even God's righteousness does not prevent physical death (it can delay it) but it does prevent spiritual death.
- Once sin is finally eliminated (and it can be – see Revelations 21:27), there will be a place where there be no death, sorrow, crying or pain (Revelation 21:4). None and nothing evil can enter that place.
- Death is a tool now (see Egypt).
- God is not right now in the business of keeping us physically alive on this Earth forever (Luke 2:26) But he keep us alive spiritually. One day though, physical death and spiritual death will stop.
- God is not wicked. His wish for us is soul prosperity, health and prosperity every other way. He knows the hurt of death but he didn't bring it about.
- Prayer can play a role here. It is itself a planned provision by God.
- Now, we aim for Physical death + Spiritual life. And Jesus as a man also went through it.

- Sin and poor understanding of God required the law.

- The law is perfect (Psalm 19v7). It sought to bring about everlasting life.
- But failure to adhere to the law brought about death.
- Deuteronomy 27:26 – cursed is every one who does not do every thing....
- The ten commandments are not a full reflection of God
- It tells us the things humans can do but should not do – it does not explicitly tell us what God would do or show us who God is. Jesus Christ does though.
- The ten commandments does not say “thou shalt not commit adultery, because God would not commit adultery.” It shows us who we are in the hope that when we see who we are, we may yearn for God.
- The ten commandments shines a light on human weakness – it indirectly bring us close to God if we happen to somehow be able to obey it and even
- There has always been repercussions for evil, for sin. In the absence of laws, the wrongs people did may not have been called sin, but there must have been repercussions. The repercussions of evil are pointless without spiritual death.
- People went to Hell before the law, during the law and now in the time of the new Testament.

- Explain Jesus Christ, contrast to others that have been sent.

- A way to the Father
 - No one could take on our sin only Jesus
 - Cast it all on him (1 Peter 5 v 7)
 - Come unto me all you (Matthew 11:48)
 - Jesus is God himself
 - Jesus dwelling with us on earth is like God the Father in the garden.
 - God the Father was in the garden when everything was alright – then, everlasting life was on track.
 - When Jesus lives in you (Galatians 2 vs 20), everything is alright AND everlasting life is on track.
 - When you believe in Him, you are essentially living in a type of garden of Eden before sin and death entered. There, everything God has for you is yours through his faith working in and for you. It is a complete, satisfying and forever life. You still work like Adam and Eve had to, sin and death still happens around you, but you would be living in everlasting life.
- Practicalities