

“God’s Loving Kindness to Me”

Based on John 3:14-15 (NIV) March 19, 2017

Rev. Roger Madden, preaching

John 3:14a - "Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness,

† **Jesus is describing who he is and about his mission on earth.**

† **Jesus refers to an incident in the life of Moses that appears in Numbers 21:4-9.**

Numbers 21:4-9 (See bulletin)

† **The healing power did not lay in the metal image of the snake.**

† **The bronze snake on the pole was only a symbol for the people to turn their thoughts and hearts to God.**

John 3:14b - ... so the Son of Man must be lifted up,

† **In a like manner, Jesus is lifted up on a pole, the cross, and when I focus my thoughts and hearts on him in my life, I see the loving power of God.**

John 3:14b-15 - ... so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

† **Everyone, and anyone, who believes in Jesus will know that God loves them and cares for them.**

† **A loving God was a new idea for the Jews of John's day.**

† **The people in John's time looked on God as a judge waiting to sentence them. (Old Testament = God of Law)**

† **John is saying that God is like the loving parent waiting up at night for his child to come home. (New Testament = God of Love).**

John 3:15 - that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

† **“Eternal life” is a way of describing life as I live in the presence of God.**

† **To be given eternal life is me realizing and accepting God's loving kindness through Jesus Christ into my current life.**

Applying Today's Message to My Life:

† How did I view God when I was 10 years old?

† How do I view God now?

† Do I look to God for help in my times of need or look to God at all times?

† How have I experienced the loving kindness of God through Jesus Christ?

† How have I shared God's loving kindness with others?

† How can I be more focused on God's will over my will in situations I will face in this week?