

## For God So Loved

TEXT: 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.” (Jn. 3:16)

THESIS: God’s love is unlimited.

### INTRODUCTION:

1. This verse has often been described as the Golden Text of the Bible and is the most famous and quoted verse of the New Testament.
  - a. It begins with a discussion of being born again (baptized) as Jesus was speaking to Nicodemus and what he needed to do to be saved.
  - b. This was important for Nicodemus to hear “For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.” (Jn. 3:17)
2. Nicodemus had originally come by night for reason unknown, but he was curious about Jesus and called Him Rabbi and teacher.
  - a. Here Christ was given an opportunity to make absolutely certain that the Jews including one of the rulers of the Jews, Nicodemus were clear that God had a plan to save mankind and that Christ was the Savior because God loved them.
  - b. Christ showed Nicodemus just how much God loved him by telling him about the plan of salvation and what God had done for him even when he had done little for God.
3. Therefore, we will note that John 3:16 can be divided into the following:
  - a. God’s love is the theme.
  - b. There is one who can save us.
  - c. The ultimate goal.

### DISCUSSION:

#### I. GOD’S LOVE IS THE THEME

- A. For God is the greatest lover to have sacrificed so much for mankind.
  1. God is the subject of the sentence and therefore this verse is focusing on what God has done.
  2. God could not possibly approve of the wicked conduct of man, but He was willing to come to the aid of man by His infinite love.
    - a. The supreme God proposed a plan that would rescue man by giving him salvation thru the death of His son.
    - b. “Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be

the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.” (1 Jn. 4:7-12)

- B. So Loved is in the greatest degree where none can compare to this love.
  - 1. It is in this manner or in this way where we see God’s character to love and not for His sake alone, but for our sakes for true love seeketh not its own. (1 Cor. 13:1-7)
  - 2. This is love given without return while we were sinners.
    - a. God’s love is that of a Father who is happy only when His prodigal child has returned to His fellowship. (Lk. 15:11-24)
    - b. Augustine once said, “God loves each one of us as if there was only one of us to love...Love is the highest characteristic of God, the one attribute in which all others harmoniously blend.”
- C. The World is the greatest company of mankind.
  - 1. The world that John refers to here is that group of persons who have no fellowship with God and it is God who reaches out to the unlovable or the sinful which makes us impure and unholy.
  - 2. Christ also made mention of this when He said, “If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.” (Jn. 15:19)
    - a. God is concerned with the world, yet our finite minds cannot grasp the limitlessness of His love.
    - b. But, we are informed of it when seeing His creation and read from His scriptures.

## II. THEIR IS ONE WHO CAN SAVE US

- A. That He Gave the greatest act or possession that anyone could possibly give.
  - 1. This is the result of God’s love.
  - 2. Because He loved, He put His love into action to give a solid proof of this love.
    - a. This was not something that God was obligated to do, but he gave to mankind an ultimate offering of blood to which there can be no greater gift.
    - b. However, it has been said by many in regards to this perfect gift that Christ failed to be the ultimate sacrifice because He could not establish a kingdom with high walls where guards protect the city.
    - c. But, Christ came to establish something far superior to an earthly kingdom and said these words, “My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.” (Jn. 18:36)

- B. His Only Begotten Son is the greatest gift to mankind because it is by His blood that we can be cleansed.
1. This gift was given around August 4 BC and was spoken of earlier when “The angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.” (Lk. 1:30-33)
  2. The gift of God’s love was here, “For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.” (Jn. 3:17)
- C. That Whosoever is where man is given the greatest opportunity which shows a specific purpose in mind for a better life than just the world.
1. This is the reason God loved and gave which is confusing to Jehovah Witnesses and others like them because He made this gift available to all men everywhere.
    - a. It does not exclude the poor, certain races, or gender.
    - b. This is to be all inclusive because if God was going to give such a precious gift, then it was going to have the greatest impact possible.
    - c. “And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent”: (Acts 17:30)
  2. He made this gift with people in mind and it was to be given to all who are humble enough to accept Christ as Lord and to submit to the scriptures which God has set in place.
- D. Believeth is the greatest simplicity in that the plan of salvation is impossibly to miss for those that are truly looking.
1. Believeth is an action verb meaning that we do something and not just a mere acceptance of the fact that Jesus died or even that the Gospel is true.
    - a. Satan and his demons are fully persuaded that these facts are true.
    - b. “And unclean spirits, when they saw him, fell down before him, and cried, saying, Thou art the Son of God.” (Mk. 3:11)
    - c. “Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.” (Jam. 2:19)
  2. Believeth is a continuation of faith meaning that one must continue to believe.
  3. It can be described as a way of life by a working faith where obedience can be seen and where one does God’s work to glorify Him.
  4. However, the unbeliever or the faith only believers bring condemnation on themselves by purposely rejecting the only life-giving light.
- E. In Him is the greatest attraction of the world.
1. If we do not believe in Jesus, then we are lost.

- a. Sincerity or good morals are not sufficient and other religions are useless.
- b. Jesus is the exclusive way to eternal life.
2. “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (Jn. 14:6)
3. He also said, “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.” (Jn. 12:32)
4. Now, to some this may seem hard or inflexible, but this way is not the way of man, but it is God’s plan and it is God’s plan for the world.

### III. THE ULTIMATE RESULT

- A. Should Not Perish which is the greatest promise, but there is one small problem here.
  1. Perish means to be separated from God and His salvation.
  2. “And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.” (2 Thess. 1:7-10)
    - a. The words “should not” show that it is possible for one to still fall and perish.
    - b. We can read in Acts 5 that Ananias and Sapphira were Christians and yet they did wrong and lost their lives over it.
  3. Perishing is the opposite of glorying in eternal life.
    - a. It is an awful place.
    - b. In Luke 16, we can read of the rich man and how he was tormented in his perishing, but Lazarus was resting peacefully in Abraham’s bosom.
- B. But is the greatest difference between good and bad.
  1. It is the separation between “should not perish” and “have everlasting life.”
  2. This is the point where perishing can be described as going the wrong direction being helpless and hopeless, but there is something better than this perishing.
- C. Have is the greatest certainty or promise that can be given.
  1. This word, “have” means to possess or own.
  2. This does not mean that we flirt or teeter with eternal life.
    - a. God does not want anyone to go back and forth having eternal life a moment and then the next losing it.
    - b. It is by having the truth (Jn. 8:32) that we need not put our souls on

- a weighing scale.
- D. Everlasting Life is the greatest possession and the ultimate reward for living in this world and being faithful to God.
1. Eternal life is abundant and unending life in fellowship with God.
    - a. “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.” (Jn. 3:36)
    - b. Life means more than existing. It addresses the quality of that existence.
  2. Life is important (especially after death) and John makes the word “Life” the key word in his book mentioning it 55 times.

#### CONCLUSION:

1. It is clear that God has made a great plan for mankind by showing His love and compassion on them while offering His Son to die on the cross so that when we are baptized and become Christians, Christ’s blood cleanses us from sin.
  - a. This is the greatest love that can ever be known and His love can be seen in everything that was made.
  - b. I once heard about a man who while riding in the country, he noticed an unusual weather vane on a farmer’s barn. Inscribed on the arrow were these words: “God is love.” He turned in at the gate and asked the farmer, “What do you mean by that? Do you think God’s love is changeable; that it veers about as that arrow turns un the winds?” “Oh, no,” replied the farmer. “I mean that whichever way the wind blows, God is still love.”
2. God is with us and watching. He is waiting for His prodigal son to come home.
  - a. Are you His prodigal son?
  - b. Have you gotten lost in the world and forgot about what God has done for you?
3. If you are you trying to balance your life between right and wrong, then perhaps you need to come forward for encouragement.
  - a. Perhaps, you need to come forward because you’re scaled has been tipped and your life is being filled with sin.
  - b. Or if you have not been baptized into Jesus Christ, you are missing out on God’s love for you, His plan for you, and His eternal reward that could be awaiting you.