

THE LOVE OF GOD JOHN 3:16

I. INTRODUCTION-

- a. Today we are going to look at what is probably the most famous verse in the Bible.
- b. In High School I was required to dissect worms and frogs...I never figured out what looking at the guts of worms and frogs had to do with my education... frankly, it was gross.
- c. Today we are going to dissect John 3:16....we are going to examine this verse very carefully...because I think that is the best way to have a full understanding of this wonderful verse.

II. FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD-

- a. The God referred to in John 3:16...is not the false god of Islam or Hinduism...or any of the false religions of this world.
- b. The God of John 3:16...is the God of the Bible...the triune God who is all-knowing and all-powerful...the God who is the creator, ruler, controller, and sovereign of the universe.
- c. The word “so” is an adverb...which expresses intensity or greatness ...we use the word “so” in this way when we say...I was “so” glad...I am “so” hungry...that cake was “so” good.
- d. The word “loved” in John 3:16 is the Greek word “agape”...this word is used in the New Testament for God’s love for humanity...and it is used for the kind of love that God’s people are to have for one another and for the lost.
- e. Agape love is a self-less, self-giving, sacrificial love...it is a love that is more concerned with giving than receiving...it is a love that is not dependent on the worthiness or the response of the one being loved.
- f. *Romans 5:8 “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” 1 John 4:10 “Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”*
- g. The “world” in John 3:16 is not the material world...but it is a general word that speaks of the world of humanity...it speaks of all people of all time.
- h. *“The world God loves is the world of evil, sinful, and fallen humanity. The world God has chosen to love is utterly and completely lost and in continual rebellion*

against Him. There was and is nothing in mankind to attract God's love. Far from being worthy of God's love, mankind collectively and individually is worthy only of His judgment and rejection. Yet, God has sovereignly determined that He will love a lost world." (John MacAthur)

- i. Let's review the first part of John 3:16. *"The God of the Bible...the God of the universe...so loved a lost and sinful world that was totally unworthy of His love ...with such a great degree and intensity...that He did something amazing, wonderful and incomprehensible."*

III. THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON-

- a. The word "gave" comes from the same root word as grace...grace is God's unmerited and undeserved favor.
- b. God's great love for a lost and rebellious world...motivated Him to give the world a gift of His grace...that gift was His only begotten Son.
- c. God gave His Son...and the Son willingly gave Himself...He came into the world ...to take on our humanity... to live a perfect life...to die a sacrificial death for lost mankind on the cross...and to rise again...to make salvation for mankind possible.
- d. The phrase "His only begotten Son" expresses three things:
 - i. The special, unique, one of a kind relationship between Jesus the Son... and God the Father...God has many children by faith...but there is only one Son like Jesus.
 - ii. This phrase also expresses the equality of Jesus and the Father...the phrase "only begotten Son" does not mean that Jesus is not equal to the Father...it means exactly the opposite...Jesus is of the same nature, essence and has the same attributes as the Father.
 - iii. This phrase also expresses the willingness of Jesus the Son...in submission to the plan of salvation ... to be given by Father.
- e. *Gal 1:3-5 "Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, 4Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father: 5To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."*
- f. *"The God of the Bible...the God of the universe...so loved a lost and sinful world that was totally unworthy of His love...that amazingly and incomprehensibly He gave His only begotten Son...Who willingly gave Himself as a sacrifice to die on the cross for our sins."*

IV. THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE-

- a. The death of Jesus on the cross and His resurrection...has made a way for lost mankind...to be forgiven of sin and reconciled to God.
- b. But, while Jesus died for the world...the salvation He offers is limited only to those who believe in Him...the salvation Jesus provided is not automatic...to be saved one must believe in Him.
- c. "Whosoever" means that anyone can be saved if they believe in Jesus...everyone has a choice to believe...no one is forced to believe and no one is forced not to believe..."whosoever will" may believe.
- d. The word "believe" means more than just a mental acceptance or acknowledgment of the facts about Jesus...it means both accepting the truth about Jesus...and surrendering your life to His control.
- e. *2 Tim 1:12 "For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."*
- f. The word "perish" refers to God's final and eternal judgment for sin...it means to be lost forever in hell...grammatically the phrase is "shall not continue to perish."
- g. "Everlasting life" is the same thing as eternal life...it refers to a life lived in union with God.
- h. The moment a person believes in Jesus they are saved from the penalty of sin...and are joined in a living relationship and fellowship with God...that can and never will be broken.

V. CONCLUSION-

- a. Now that we have dissected John 3:16, let's put the pieces back together...*"For the God of the Bible, the one and only true God of the universe, so loved a lost world of humanity that was and is constantly in rebellion against Him, that as an act of pure grace, out of His great love, He gave His only Son, who willingly came into this world to die as a sacrifice for our sins. Now anyone who will believe in Jesus and surrender their life to Him will be saved from hell and joined with God in an eternal union and fellowship."*
- b. Have you believed in Jesus? If you have not, you are perishing. Believe in Him and be saved.