

God's Love Gives Life to Those Who Believe

John 3:16-18 ¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

❖ Introduction

➤ The Most Famous Verse in the Bible

➤ Very often Overlooked

- Because of its being so Familiar

➤ At Has been dug into for so long by so many

- We have stopped digging...

➤ We hear this verse and our eyes just move down to the next one...

- Instead of stopping and listening and meditating on the verse
- Let stop and listen to it today...

➤ Going to be a shorter Message today

- Son we have Tori here, I want you guys to continue to be blessed by him this morning...
- Hopefully just plain and simple for us today...

➤ But.... Foundational

- Understanding and clinging to these two verses is the difference b/w death and life
- Some of you have held out on Repentance and Faith long enough...
 - You have been lost in your sins long enough...
 - It is time to stop carrying that load of sin
 - And let Jesus Bare it... Let Jesus bear every sin away from you
- **Some of you may have been in church all your life...**
 - And you walked an isle or something years ago...
 - And have been in and out or one or the other.....of the church since
 - But.... The Holy Spirit of God has never blown and brought you Rebirth...
 - Today is the day we let our defenses down....
 - **And give your sins to Jesus.....**
 - ◆ For your sin is greater having heard all these years
 - ◆ Yet remaining in sin
 - ◆ **Luke 12:48** “Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.

❖ Recap (Makes all the Difference in understanding the Context of John 3.16-17

➤ When Believing Isn't Believing

- 1) Jesus knows all things about all People
- 2) Sometimes Believing isn't Believing
- 3) Man needs Jesus to give Himself to US
- 4) Jesus knows all, yet still loves

➤ You Must Be Born Again

- 1) Nicodemus' Belief Wasn't Yet Belief
- 2) Jesus Tell Us We Must Be Born Again
- 3) The Spirit Blows When and Where He Wants
 - Do Not Resist the Blowing of The Spirit
- 4) Look to the Son of Man to Be Saved

❖ Our Fatal Future: Perishing

- To truly **comprehend** these two verses... You must see what is at stake.
- **Application: What is at stake should make a difference in our Attentiveness.**
 - **If the Doctor gave you a bunch of medicine to take every day**
 - And said.... You need to take all this medicine so you will be healthy
 - And you will live longer...
 - You may take the medicine for a little while
 - But, if you are like most... you would probably often forget and not worry about it
 - **If the Doctor came in after checking you over and said:**
 - You have a very terrible disease...
 - I have looked you over and notice 10 clear signs of the disease...
 - And He rattled them off one by one, and you knew you had these as well...
 - And He said, this disease will kill you
 - But then, He says... I have a cure.... There is this medicine you can take...
 - ◆ If you take it every day you will live
 - No one in their right mind would fail to take the medicine.....
 - **The Doctor took the time to explain the seriousness of the situation...**
 - This is where we should start today as well
- **The Possibility of Perishing...**
 - Should grip us with fear...
 - It really should....
 - Like a shot of adrenaline to the body....
 - The fear of Perishing at death should jolt you into listening
- **As I said Before...**
 - My point here is not to use the Truth about Hell to manipulate you into making a decision
 - Into making you walk down the isle
 - But, the fear of perishing.... Does indeed help us listen a little better...
 - Doesn't it?
 - I want to simply follow what Jesus does... and give you the truth...
 - We see that the prospect of perishing is right here in the Bible's best known verse...
- **To Perish: (What does Jesus say about this)**
 - Dictionary Definition -
 - **Biblical Definition is defined how Jesus has defined it....**
 - **Matthew 5:29** If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell.
 - **Matthew 10:28** And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.
 - **Matthew 23:33** You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell?
 - **Matthew 8:12** "In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."
 - **Matthew 25:30** And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'
 - **John 5:28-29** Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice 29 and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.
- **When You Hear the Word Perish in John 3:16**
 - This is what Jesus is talking about...

- You can Marvel at this.... You can understand it and believe it...
- You can call it a bunch of Bull and that there is no way a loving God could do this...
- You can say, I am in no danger of this place even if I do not get saved....
- But, it does not make any less truthful...
- Jesus has never been in the business of lying....
- The Most Respected Man in History, even among Non Believers.... Did not lie about Hell

➤ **Now for the Good News**

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world,

❖ **God's Love for the World**

- Was Intense... It was and Is Great
- The Greek Word for Love here.... (as you have been told many times)
 - Is a form of the word for love (agape)
- **Agape –**
 - A love that is based on choice... The agape lover chooses to love the object of His affection
 - A love that is great... different from just loving like a brother
 - And unlike the love of passion
 - This is a love that moved past our imperfections and loved anyway...
- **Active and Indicative**
 - Active voice means God is doing this action of loving.....
 - God Actively loves us
 - Indicative Mood – means the writer is portraying something as real and actual...
 - Not merely possible...
 - His love for the World is real
- His love is Summed up here in Ephesians
 - **Ephesians 2:3-5** ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—
 - **Expound**

that he gave his only Son,

❖ **God's Giving of His Son**

- To Remotely Understand this You need Children...
- To Understand it even better, You need only One
- **It is Impossible to Grasp the Love Between God the Father and God the Son**
 - Throughout Infinity there has been fellowship within the Godhead
 - The Son was the object of the Father's greatest affection
 - They had no need for anything, perfectly content within the Godhead
- **Yet, the Godhead chose to create man**
 - And to pour out extravagant love upon us...
 - **Example of my son:**
 - He is always so thankful that God made him...
 - He thanks God for making him so he can spend time with his mommy and his daddy and his sister...
 - It has been better to be, than not to be

- **And We Rebelled Against our Maker....**
- **Then God gives up His Son... to be killed**
 - Isaiah 53:10¹⁰ Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put *him* to grief:
 - Acts 2:23²³ this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.
- **God gave us an example of this in the Story of Abraham and Isaac**
 - We look at that story with great unrest and wandering...
 - Yet God saved Isaac from death and brought a substitute with the ram caught in the thicket
 - And God saves Mankind from death by being the substitute for us...
- **Sin in God's eyes is so bad...**
 - He created a place like Hell because of it...
 - Because He is also a God of Justice and Righteousness....
 - And can not turn a blind eye to what is wrong...
 - Yet He sent His Son to die so we will not go there...

that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

❖ **True Believers gain Eternal Life**

- **Whoever**
 - This is anyone.... It means believing is open to the public
 - Anyone that believes God
 - Anyone that hears His words and believes they are true
 - Anyone hears of who Jesus is and believes He is God, the Son of God
 - And will take away your sins...
- **Believes**
 - Take into consideration all we have said on this topic of Believing
 - Nicodemus' believing that was not believing
 - True believing means we follow
 - Ezekiel indicates God causes us to walk in His ways...
- **Not Perish**
- **Eternal Life....**
 - Life that never ends... but it is greater than that
 - Because if it was life like what we have here... and it never ended....
 - I would go insane...
 - **Abundant, Eternal Life**
 - Revelation 21:3-4³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."