

John 3:16

I. Introduction

- A. John 3:16 is probably the most well-known verse in Scripture. Consider some things brought out in this meaning-filled verse.

II. “For God So Loved the World”

- A. The foremost subject of John 3:16 is *God*. The verse begins by explaining the motivation for the Son of Man being lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness (cf. **verses 14-15**). That motivation is God’s love. **John 3:16a**
- B. By giving His Son, God has proven His genuine love. Love is such a primary part of God’s character that He is not just said to be “loving,” but to be “love.” **1 John 3:18; 4:8; Romans 5:6-8**

III. “That He Gave His Only Begotten Son”

- A. God’s love prompted Him to *give* His Son. There is no greater example of giving. **John 3:16b; 2 Corinthians 8:9**
- B. While those directly responsible for Christ’s crucifixion seemed to view Jesus’ state as being out of His control, the truth is that Jesus *willfully gave* Himself, and God *willfully gave* His Son. **Matthew 27:39-42; John 10:11** (cf. **Matt. 26:53**)

IV. “That Whosoever”

- A. The gift of everlasting life in Jesus is for *whosoever* of us will choose to accept it. **John 3:16c; 1 Timothy 2:3-4**
- B. This infers that each of us (who’ve reached a point of accountability) *needs* salvation. No matter how successful or morally good we are from the world’s perspective, we need God’s forgiveness. **Luke 16:19; Romans 3:23**
- C. The word “whosoever” also infers that each of us *can* be saved. No matter how sinful we have been or how insignificant we may feel, God would love to have us choose to be a part of His kingdom. **1 Timothy 1:15; Luke 16:20-21**

V. “Believeth in Him”

- A. The word “whosoever” is qualified by the phrase “believeth in Him.” While God wants each of us to be saved, the salvation He offers is *conditional*. **John 3:16d**
- B. The phrase “believeth in Him” is a summary term describing the trusting, obedient response to God we must have. This is seen both in the immediate context of John 3:16, and the broader context of Scripture. **John 3:3, 14-15; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9**
- C. John 3:16 demonstrates, though, that while works of faith are needed, salvation is an unmerited *gift*. **Ephesians 2:8-9**

VI. “Should Not Perish”

- A. The gift God offers allows us to escape the perishing condition sin yields. **John 3:16e; Romans 6:23**
- B. “Perish” in this context does not mean simply ceasing to exist. Rather, it refers to facing *pain* that is *everlasting* in hell. **Matthew 13:49-50; Mark 9:48**

VII. “But Have Everlasting Life”

- A. Because of God’s love, those who turn to Jesus can escape everlasting pain and receive everlasting *life*. **John 3:16f**
- B. Everlasting life involves eternity in the direct presence of God. **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Revelation 21:23**
- C. Those who enter heaven will be in a place free from sin and darkness, and free from all death, mourning, crying, and pain. **2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:4**
- D. Because of God’s love, those who turn to Jesus have reason to look forward to the Day of Judgment with eager anticipation. **2 Peter 3:11-13**

VIII. Conclusion

- A. May we appreciate the truths John 3:16 teaches about God, His Son, and what He has done for us.