

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **John 3:14-18**.
- B. It is called the "golden text of the Bible." The overall message is timeless and precious.
- C. But the things spoken of individually in the verse are important too.

I. JOHN 3:16 SPEAKS OF THE GREATEST PERSON.

- A. "For God..."
- B. The greatest person ever is God Himself:
 - 1. The Creator (Isa. 40:28).
Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable.
 - 2. The Great "I AM" (Ex. 3:14).
And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"
 - 3. Our Father (Mt. 6:9).
"Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name.'"
 - 4. Omnipotent (Mk. 10:27).
Looking upon them, Jesus said, "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God."
 - 5. Omniscient (1Jn. 3:20).
in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.
 - 6. Omni-benevolent (Mk. 10:18).
And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone."
 - 7. Omnipresent (see Psa. 139:7-12).
- C. When you recite Jn. 3:16 you mention the greatest PERSON ever--God.

II. JOHN 3:16 SPEAKS OF THE GREATEST DEVOTION.

- A. "...so loved..."
- B. God desired to express His affection for us in the clearest possible terms:
 - 1. God loved us while we were sinners (Rom. 5:8).
But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
 - 2. God did not count our sins against us (2Cor. 5:19).
namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.
 - 3. We know love, because God is love (1Jn. 4:7, 11).
Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. **11** Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.
 - 4. Nothing can separate one from the love of God (Rom. 8:38-39).
For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, **39** nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- C. When you recite Jn. 3:16 you mention the greatest DEVOTION ever--love.

III. JOHN 3:16 SPEAKS OF THE GREATEST NUMBER.

- A. "...the world..."
- B. People are not just organisms functioning in a cosmic test tube. They are spirit beings made in the image of the Father:
 - 1. God created man (see Gen. 1:26-27; 2:7).
Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every

creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” 27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 2:7 Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

2. God did not send Jesus to condemn the world (Jn. 3:17).
For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.
 3. God created the world, everything in it (Ac. 17:24).
“The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands;...”
 4. God wants the world to know Him (1Cor. 1:21).
For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.
 5. God sent Jesus to save the whole world (1Tim. 1:15).
It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.
 6. Christ is the propitiation for the whole world (1Jn. 2:1).
My little children, I am writing these things to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;
- C. When you recite Jn. 3:16 you mention the greatest NUMBER ever--the whole world.

IV. JOHN 3:16 SPEAKS OF THE GREATEST ACT.

- A. “...He gave...”
- B. Giving is always common among those who practice love. God has given in such a way as to give more than anyone else ever has or will:
 1. God has given the HS to those who obey Him (Ac. 5:32; 2Cor. 1:22).
(Ac 5:32) “And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.”
(2Cor 1:22) who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.
 2. God’s will was that X should give of Himself for our sins (Gal. 1:4).
who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us out of this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,
 3. Jesus gave of himself as the ransom for many (1Tim. 2:5-6).
For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony borne at the proper time.
 4. Jesus gave that He might redeem for Himself a purified people (Titus 2:14).
who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.
 5. Jesus gives people time to repent (Rev. 2:21).
‘And I gave her time to repent; and she does not want to repent of her immorality.’
- C. When you recite Jn. 3:16 you mention the greatest ACT ever--giving.

V. JOHN 3:16 SPEAKS OF THE GREATEST GIFT.

- A. “...His only begotten Son...”
- B. Search the expanse of heaven, and you cannot find another gift as great as the Son:
 1. God gave His Son-- rejoice (see Lk. 2:8-14).
 2. Jesus was from the Father, full of grace and truth (Jn. 1:14).
And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.
 3. The free gift is not like the transgression (Rom. 5:15-17).
But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many. 16 The gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment arose from one transgression resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the free gift arose from many transgressions resulting in justification. 17 For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign

in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

4. Grace is the free gift of God as found in X (Eph. 2:8-9; Jn. 1:17).

(Eph 2:8-9) For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, that no one should boast.

(Jn 1:17) For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.

- C. When you recite Jn. 3:16 you mention the greatest GIFT ever--Jesus the Son of God.

VI. JOHN 3:16 SPEAKS OF THE GREATEST **CONDITION**.

- A. "...that whosoever believes..."

- B. To believe is one of life's most noble conditions. To believe answers life's most important questions and puzzling mysteries. By faith (belief) you can know of your origin, destiny, and purpose:

1. All things come to those who believe (Mk. 9:23).

And Jesus said to him, "If You can!" All things are possible to him who believes."

2. Believers have the right to become children of God (Jn. 1:12).

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,...

3. Believers pass from condemnation (Jn. 3:18).

"He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

4. To believe in the Law of Moses is to believe in X (Jn. 5:46-47).

"For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote of Me. 47 "But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"

5. The work of God is to believe on the One He has sent (Jn. 6:29).

Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."

6. Unless we believe in X we will die in our sins (Jn. 8:24).

"I said therefore to you, that you shall die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you shall die in your sins."

7. He who believes will never die (Jn. 11:26).

"...and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

8. If we believe in God, we are to also believe in X (Jn. 14:1).

"Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me."

- C. When you recite Jn. 3:16 you mention the greatest CONDITION ever--belief.

VII. JOHN 3:16 SPEAKS OF THE GREATEST **MERCY**.

- A. "... should not perish..."

- B. This means to be undeservedly acquitted or unmerited favor. Those who ought to cast from God's presence are granted grace:

1. Salvation is not dependent on man, but on God who has mercy (Rom 9:16).

So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.

2. God has shown mercy on those who were by themselves set on evil (Rom. 9:22-23).

What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction? 23 And He did so in order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory,

3. Both Jews and Gentiles have been shown mercy by God (Rom. 9:30-32).

What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, even the righteousness which is by faith; 31 but Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at that law. 32 Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as though it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone,

4. The chief of sinners found mercy--you can too (1Tim. 1:15-16).

It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. [16] And yet for this reason I found mercy, in order that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience, as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.

5. God saved us not according to our works, but His mercy (Titus 3:5).

He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,...

- C. When you recite Jn. 3:16 you mention the greatest MERCY ever--we should not perish.

VIII. JOHN 3:16 SPEAKS OF THE GREATEST REWARD.

- A. "...have eternal life."
- B. Forever! Unending! To be glorified with deity always. This is a promise without equal:
1. The rich young ruler asked for it (Mt. 19:16).
one came to Him and said, "Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may obtain eternal life?"
 2. The righteous are granted eternal life (Mt. 25:46).
"And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."
 3. The Son of Man has been lifted up so that we might have eternal life (Jn. 3:14-15).
"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; **15** that whoever believes may in Him have eternal life."
 4. Jesus has the words of eternal life (Jn. 6:68).
Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life."
 5. The great benefit of being freed from sin is eternal life (Rom. 6:22-23).
But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life. [23] For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
 6. This is the great promise made to Xians (1Jn. 2:25).
And this is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.
- C. When you recite Jn. 3:16 you mention the greatest REWARD ever--eternal life.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. John 3:16 in summary:
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| 1. For God, | the greatest person. |
| 2. ...so loved, | the greatest devotion. |
| 3. ...the world, | the greatest number. |
| 4. ...that He gave, | the greatest act. |
| 5. ...His only begotten Son, | the greatest gift. |
| 2. ...that whosoever believes, | the greatest condition. |
| 7. ...should not perish, | the greatest mercy. |
| 8. ...but have eternal life, | the greatest reward. |
- B. This is the golden text of the Bible. To believe in it is to believe in God, His Son, and the possibility of salvation.
- C. Believe and obey God today so that you will not perish, but have everlasting life.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.