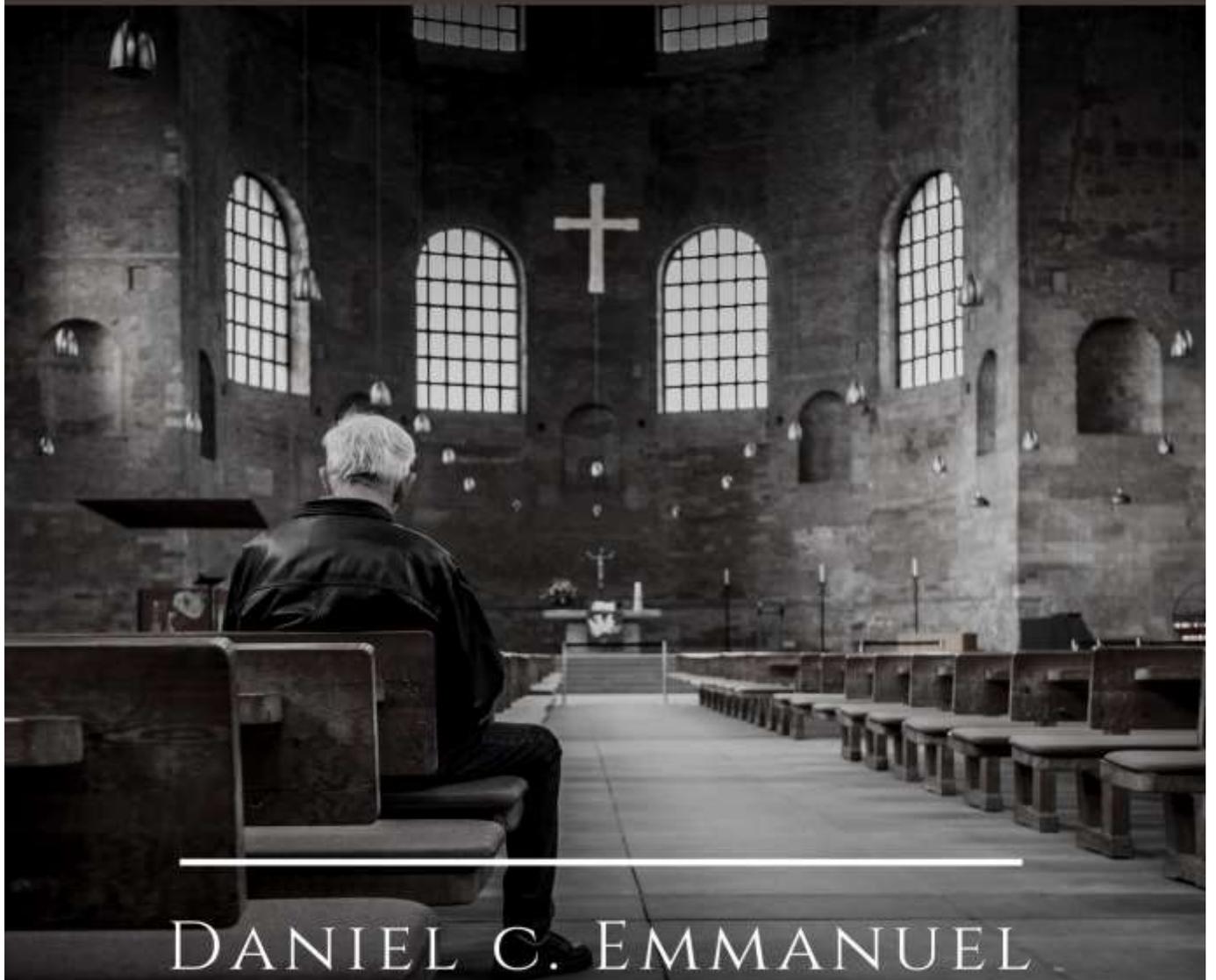


BIBLE STUDY NOTE

VOLUME 1, WEEK 1



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BIBLE STUDY NOTE

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All Scripture quotations are from the King James Version of the Bible, except otherwise stated.

MAKING THE MOST OF THIS STUDY NOTE:

- 1. Be open to learn.**
- 2. Get your study materials: Book, Bible, Pen and Note.**
- 3. Take your time to study and understand.**
- 4. If you have any questions, contact the author with the details in the previous page.**

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STUDY TEXT:

John 3:16

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.

WHY THIS STUDY?

1. This has to do with the nature of God.
2. To understand the primary context of God's love.
3. To lead the individual to be stable in their understanding of God's love.
4. To lead the individual to share God's love to everyone around them.

STUDY

What is the love of God? How do we know God loves us? Before we answer that, the first thing to note is that, **God is love.**

1 John 4:8

He that loveth not knoweth not God; **for God is love.**

Allow those words be rooted and grounded in your heart, “**God is love.**” That is His nature; His character. **God is love!** The constant thing to know about God is that He is love. He can’t be anything else. He is love—that’s who He is always—yesterday, today and forever.

Now, back to our study text:

John 3:16

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.

One thing that will help our understanding of the Bible is to know that the Bible was not originally written in English Language. The Bible was originally written in Greek Language for the New Testament and in Hebrew and Aramaic for the Old Testament. So what we have today in English is a translation. But here is the dilemma, it wasn’t translated to modern day English.

The most popular translation is the King James Version (KJV) which was translated in 1611, is in old English. That is over 400 years! Since then, English Language has progressed. We have more English words today than we had at that time for use. So when we see words like “**saith**” “**goeth**” “**believeth**”, it is not heavenly language, it is King James Language! That would be simply saying “**says**” “**goes**” “**believes**” in modern day English.

Guess what? Jesus never spoke English! Neither did the early apostles! So a good Bible student will be patient to look up the Greek and Hebrew equivalents of words and also use newer translations as they study. This calls for diligence, but it’s worth it. You are not doing so to sound ‘deep’, but to understand better what God is communicating to you.

In modern day English, the word “**so**” in our text will speak of the intensity of something. For example, if you love someone and want to put an emphasis to the expression of your love, you tell the person, “I love you **so much.**” But this text doesn’t speak of the intensity of God’s love for us. Instead, it speaks of what God **did** to show His love; the action that proved God’s love.

Now, God loves us that much; He loves us intensely; He loves us so much (in today’s English), but this text is not speaking about how much God loves us. Instead, it speaks of the demonstration of God’s love for us; the display of God’s love for us; how God showed His love for us.

The word “**so**” was translated from the Greek word “**houto**” which means in this way; in this manner; like this.

So John 3:16 can be rephrased thus:

For God (**in this manner/in this way/like this**) loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

God in this manner loved the world or God in this way loved the world or God like this loved the world. This is how God loved the world—He gave His Son that whoever believes in Him will have everlasting life.

Why is this important?

It would help our understanding of God’s love to remain constant; unshakable; unmovable; steadfast! No matter what comes our way, we never doubt God’s love for us. Circumstances, whether good or not, won’t define God’s love to us. Our possessions, whether we have or not, won’t define God’s love to us. We have **a definite definition** of God’s love!

Where is this definition?

God’s love is revealed in His Son—Jesus Christ! By one action, God **eternally** proved His love for us. In the death and subsequent resurrection of Jesus Christ for us was God proving His love for us **eternally**. What God has done in Christ is an eternal demonstration of God’s love for us. If anyone wants to know how God loves you, you simply point them to the work of the cross. We remember the work of the cross—through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ and see that, that was God showing us his love **eternally**.

Forever, the work of the cross will be the display of God’s love. He displayed to the whole world: this is me showing you my love **eternally—forever!** Never doubt it! This is the best Public Display of Affection (P.D.A) ever! This is the love of God—He sent Jesus to die for our sins and resurrect from the dead for our justification and has offered eternal life to all who will believe in Him. This is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (1 John 4:10)

Friend, this knowledge should always be at the center of our hearts; at the back of our minds. It should saturate our thoughts. Our emotions can change, but the Word of God never changes. Sometimes we may feel like God loves us and some other times we may not feel like He does, but we have an assurance—the Word of God. We don’t depend on our emotions to determine God’s love for us, we trust the facts of the Bible. And the Bible points to the sacrifice of Jesus as the symbol of God’s love for us. We sing the song:

Yes, Jesus loves me

Yes, Jesus loves me

Yes, Jesus loves me

The Bible tells me so

So what does the Bible tell us? He proved His love for us on the cross. So we can rephrase the song thus:

Yes, Jesus loves me

Yes, Jesus loves me

Yes, Jesus loves me

He proved it on the cross

We have no doubts of the love of God—it is proved through Jesus Christ and his finished work. When our understanding of God’s love for us shifts from how we feel to what God did in Christ, our relationship with God will be stable. We will never have to ask, “Does God even love me?” No! No! No! It is a fact. He loves you, and He proved it on the cross!

Romans 8:38-39

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, **shall be able to separate us from the love of God**, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Apostle Paul sir, are you sure? Nothing can separate us from the love of God? Not life, not death, not angels, not principalities, not powers, not things present, not things to come, not a person? Yes! Nothing! Why? The answer is seen in the last part of verse 39, “...**which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**” God’s love for us is revealed in Christ Jesus. To discern God’s love; to know God’s love, we look to Jesus.

In looking to Jesus, we look to the Cross and what Jesus going to the cross and his subsequent resurrection has done for mankind. For anything to be able to separate us from the love of God, it would have to stop Jesus from going to the cross. As long as you can’t do that, we can’t be separated from the love of God. And guess what? It is impossible! He has already gone! Glory to God! Jesus can’t be un-crucified, He has already been crucified. And He is risen and alive today and we are in Him. Because He lives, we live too! Therefore, nothing can separate us from the love of God!

We are **eternally** loved by God. His love for us is steadfast; never changing; constant. He loves us **always**. What He did through the cross to prove His love for you is a permanent work. Nothing can undo it because nothing can stop Jesus from going to the cross. He has already gone! Hallelujah! Friend, God’s love for you is permanent and unchanging. Nothing can separate you from God’s love because it was proved through Jesus’s sacrifice. He loves you **always** and nothing can ever change that!

Look at the International Standard Version (ISV) of John 3:16:

For **this is how** God loved the world: He gave his unique Son so that everyone who believes in him might not be lost but have eternal life.

God has proved His love for us eternally in Christ. This is how God loved us—He gave Jesus!

We rest in this knowledge always.

Let's look at other texts that show the display of God's love for us:

Romans 5:8

But **God commendeth his love toward us**, in that, **while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

God demonstrated His love for us by the fact that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1 John 3:16

Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren.

This is how we have come to know the love of God, Jesus laid down His life for us.

1 John 4:9

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.

This is how God's love was revealed to us—in the sacrifice of Jesus!

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.**

This is love! Notice it reads "**herein is love**" not "**herein is the love of God**". This is the definition of love. This is the original love—the love of God! This is the best display of love. No other display of love can compare to what has been shown in Christ. Not that we loved God, but that He loved us! So we don't boast in our love for God, we boast in His overwhelming love for us. We love only because He **first** loved us. Now, we say we love God because He **first** loved us.

Galatians 2:20

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the **Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.**

He loved us, and gave Himself for us.

Revelation 1:5

And from Jesus Christ, *who is* the faithful witness, *and* the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. **Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,**

He loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.

Conclusion

This is the love of God—not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. That word “propitiation” implies “to appease.” That is, to stop someone from being angry by pleasing them. The sacrifice of Jesus for man’s sins was pleasing to God. And all because of Jesus, God is pleased with you yesterday, today and always. God never changes His opinion of you. Why? His opinion of you is in Christ! So since He is pleased with Christ, and you are in Christ, He is pleased with you too! He loves you always! Hallelujah! Go out to the world and tell of His love revealed in Christ! You are blessed. God loves you. Yes, you!

Affirmation

God loves me eternally

He loves me and He proved it on the cross

I never doubt it, I am convinced of it

I am stable in my understanding of His love

And I tell the world around me of His love!

OUR MISSION

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