

BIBLE STUDY NOTE

Volume 1, Week 2

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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.**

STUDY TEXT:
John 3:16-17

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. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

WHY THIS STUDY?

1. To understand some characteristics of God's love.
2. To understand what the love of God has provided.
3. To understand how one benefits from the love of God.

STUDY

John 3 vs 16 is one of the most popular texts in the Bible if not the most popular. Even individuals who don't believe the Gospel know it! But it is also one text we need to pay careful attention to. That's why in our study today we will identify some characteristics of God's love from the text and also verse 17.

First, we see that **it is God that showed love**

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.

Observe the highlighted portion of our text above reads, "For God so loved the world" not "The world so loved God." It is God that decided to show love to the world. The word world here is from the Greek word "Kosmos" and it implies "inhabitants" or "the earth space." So God decided to show love to the inhabitants of the world. God decided to show love to the people in the world. God chose to show love to man—He chose us as the focus of His love!

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.

It is not that we loved God, it is God that chose to love us. God initiated the love. It is His idea. It is God displaying love to man. So there is no boasting in our love for God. Instead we boast in God's incredible love for us.

Romans 5:8

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

That word "commendeth" implies; to show; to prove; to exhibit; to present. So God showed His love for us. He demonstrated love to us. He exhibited His love for us—He put His love on display for all to see. Hillsong Music sang it like this:

***Freely you gave it all for us
Surrendered your life upon the cross
Great is your love, poured out for all.***

He made a presentation of His love for us. He proved His love for us. God has proved beyond doubts the abundance of His love for us. He is not going to prove it, He already has! He has already proved beyond doubts His love for us. There is no question that He loves us. We have the assurance of His love.

Ephesians 2:4

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for **his great love wherewith he loved us,**

5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

In the great love in which God loved us is Him showing us how rich He is in mercy. We were dead in sins, but through the work of Christ, we are quickened to life forever! Hallelujah!

If you observe in all the texts referenced above, the emphasis has been on God showing us love, not on us showing him love. Why? When the understanding of God's love for us is rooted and grounded in our hearts, it would be easy to respond to his love. So let it sink in and overwhelm your consciousness FIRST that **God loves you**. God loves you always! Remember that all the time.

Next, we see that **God's love is for everyone!**

Everyone in the world, God loves! John 3 vs 16 didn't say "For God so loved Christians" or "For God so loved those who go to Church." It reads, "For God so loved the world." It is not only Christians God loves, He loves everyone in the world! It is because of God's love showed to the world that we have Christians today.

So who is a Christian? The individual who has believed the Gospel—that is, the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus as effective for him. And who is a non-Christian? The individual who has not believed these facts stated. The difference between the Christian and non-Christian is that one has responded to God's love, while the other hasn't. The more reason why those who have believed should tell everyone else so they will believe too. Jesus told us to preach the Gospel to every creature. We are not to concern ourselves with whether they will accept or not, ours is to tell people about the love of God in Christ.

So everyone in the world, God loves! No matter an individual's country, city, village, God loves them. No matter how bad or evil they think they are, God loves them. No matter the wrong things they have done, God loves them. You mean including that man who has murdered a million people? Yes, God loves him! You mean the lady who has committed multiple abortions? Yes, God loves her! He doesn't approve of these deeds, but He is concerned about the person. He loves the individual. He loves you! There is nothing you or anyone has done that there is no forgiveness for. Forgiveness is available already in Christ. Through the blood of Jesus Christ, forgiveness has been provided for.

Ephesians 1:7

In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Colossians 1:14

In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:

Do you observe the two texts above are saying the same thing? Not to worry, it's the same author! Paul is emphasizing where the provision of forgiveness of sins is in. He said, "In whom (referring to Christ) we have the forgiveness of sins. Think about this: You are reading this material because you have it. You are not going to have this material later, you have it now. Likewise, you are not going to have forgiveness of sins, you already have it now.

The moment Christ offered his blood, forgiveness was provided. The verses we looked at said we have forgiveness where? In confession? No. In the blood of Jesus Christ. We simply acknowledge that Christ has provided forgiveness of sins for us. (We will address forgiveness of sins in a future study).

So friend, God loves you regardless. There is nothing you can do to make God love you more and there is nothing you can do to make God love you less. He loves you just because He loves you. Yes, you read correctly. There is nothing you can do to make God love you more or less than He does now. His love for you is constant; never changing; the same yesterday, today and forever. You can't change the opinion of God's love for you. You accept it, He loves you! You reject it, He still loves you! Why? He proved His love eternally in Christ already. You were not even physically in the picture, so why do you now think you can alter his love for you?

Ephesians 1:4

According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

Before the foundation of the world was laid, God had already settled on you as the focus of His love. As we go on in our study, we will understand more the primary context of God's love.

Next, we see that **God's love is demonstrated in the gift of Jesus Christ**. John 3 vs 16 reads, "For God so loved the world that **he gave** his only begotten Son." God loved and He gave. What did He give? Things or a person? He gave a person!

1 Peter 1:18-19

18 Forasmuch as ye know that **ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold**, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers;

19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

We have not been redeemed with things no matter how precious they may seem. We have been redeemed with the precious blood of Jesus Christ. God gave His Son—Jesus Christ! How did He give Him?

John 3:14

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

He gave Jesus Christ to be crucified for our sins and to resurrect from the dead for our justification. The giving of Jesus was to die for man. When we study the bible, we observe the love of God in the death of Jesus Christ for our sins. The display of God's love for all of mankind is seen in the death of Jesus Christ for our sins.

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.

From the "a" part of our text above, we see that we perceive; we know the ultimate love of God in Christ laying down His life for mankind. We just look at the sacrifice of Jesus and we see the love of God. We have no doubts in our hearts of God's love for us. Jesus Christ is the ultimate display of God's love. We just know it and believe it—God loved us and He gave His Son—Jesus Christ to be propitiation for our sins and now we live through Him! Glory!

Next, we see that **the love of God provided salvation**

John 3:17

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

Jesus Christ—the demonstration of God's love came so that through him, the world might be saved. So the primary context of God's love is salvation! Can you see now why God's love is for everyone and why no one can be loved more or less by God? Can you see why his love is constant for all? It is because the primary context of God's love is salvation. All men needed salvation. So God displayed His love for all men in providing salvation. We understand the love of God primarily in the provision of salvation for mankind.

Genesis 2:15-17

15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof **thou shalt surely die.**

When the first man—Adam was created, he was without sin. So God gave him an instruction. In his obedience or disobedience to that instruction, he will be choosing life or death.

Romans 5:12, 19

12 Wherefore, as **by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin;** and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

19 For as **by one man's disobedience** many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

Man disobeyed God's instruction to him. And because of his disobedience, sin entered the world and death by sin. This means that the ability to sin in people was birth because of the first man's disobedience. Man became susceptible to sin—to do wrong; to do evil; to do bad things. And death was the result of sin. This was the effect of Adam's disobedience. First, spiritual death (eternal separation from God) and subsequently physical death.

The "a" part of Romans 6:23 says that the wages of sin is death. The punishment for sin is death. What sin deserves is death. Yes, God is merciful, but He is also just. He can't allow sin go unpunished. And now, man has messed up. Man deserves death because of sin. Who will pay the penalty of man's sin which is death? That is why Jesus came! Praise God!

John 1:1, 14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God**.

14 And **the Word was made flesh**, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

This text speaks of the incarnation—the act of God coming to the earth in human form as Jesus Christ. God became a man in the person of Jesus to save man. Only God could save man. God himself was the only one that could provide for our salvation; we are unable to save ourselves. Only God could save us. You know, when someone gets into trouble, sometimes we make the statement, "Only God can save me from this situation." That is the reality of mankind. Only God could save us by himself; and he provided for that in Christ Jesus.

So without God's plan of salvation in Christ, every human is condemned to eternal death—eternal separation from God. But guess what? The moment man disobeyed, God began to intimate of how he will take care of our sin in Christ. He had a plan!

Genesis 3:15

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and **her seed**; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

"Her seed" refers to Christ. This was an intimation of the virgin birth. Normally a woman doesn't produce the seed. The seed comes from the man. But the text above reads "her seed." If a man was to produce the seed for Jesus to come into the world, he won't have been a worthy substitute for man's sin. So he had to come into the world not by natural conception, but by the supernatural act of God.

So in God initiating the plan of salvation, is God showing us love. God is responsible for our salvation. It is not by works of righteousness that we are saved; it is according to God's mercy; God's kindness; God's love that we are saved. Our righteousness is like filthy rag before God; we can't be righteous apart from Christ. We are ONLY righteous in Christ! This is the love of God in providing salvation for mankind in Christ Jesus.

Next, we see that **we benefit by simply believing.**

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.

Notice the highlighted portion of John 3 vs 16 above reads “whosoever believeth.” It doesn’t read “whosoever believeth and does something else.” It says “whosoever believes” alone! Those words are in red in the Bible meaning they are Jesus’ words. And what did He say would be needed? Whosoever believes! Nothing more! If there was something more, then Jesus would not have been careless not to mention it. But He sure wasn’t careless! He knew what He was saying and meant it with all of Him.

There is nothing more than to believe. Whosoever believes—boy, girl, man, woman, young, old, abled, disabled, anyone who believes in what Jesus did benefits of salvation; benefits of the ultimate display of the love of God.

Acts 16:30-31

30 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

31 And they said, **Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved**, and thy house.

The Philippian Jailer asked Paul and Silas what He needed to do to be saved. And their response was, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.” Nothing more!

Ephesians 2:8-9

8 For **by grace are ye saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves: **it is the gift of God**:

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

The provision of salvation is the grace of God shown to all men. And it is received by faith alone—by simply believing. ONLY believe! Now, **Ephesians 2:10** tells us the believer has been recreated in Christ unto good works. A believer (in Christ) produces good works, but it is not his good works that makes him a beneficiary of God’s love. The moment he believed in the death of Jesus Christ for our sins and in His resurrection for our justification, we are beneficiaries of God’s love in the context of salvation. That is when an individual is saved. ONLY believe, nothing more!

Finally, we see that **God’s love offers eternal life.**

God’s display of love through Christ Jesus which brought salvation wasn’t to save us temporarily, but forever. It wasn’t to save us for a while, it is for eternity. It wasn’t to save us till we make a mistake or do something wrong, it was to save us till the end. If we are not saved eternally, then we are not saved at all. If we are not saved forever, then we were not saved to begin with.

Hebrew 9:12

Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, **having obtained eternal redemption** *for us*.

Jesus has obtained eternal redemption for us. I didn't say it, that's what the Bible says! If your salvation is not eternal; forever, then it is not Jesus that saved you. But if you say Jesus saved you, then His salvation is eternal! It is not a temporary salvation, it is an eternal salvation.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Yes, the wages of sin is death. Yes, what man deserved was death because of sin. But Jesus died our death. Jesus took the responsibility for our sin so that through Him we might live forever! So the reason someone doesn't 'make heaven' is because the person rejected the sacrifice of Christ, not because he did something wrong. Does this mean this knowledge leads to licentiousness? No way! People do wrong without a license already! It leads you to be thankful; to realize that your stand before God is not based on you, but on Christ ALONE!

Our hope is built on nothing else than the blood of Jesus. We don't trust the sweetest frame, we only trust in Jesus' name! So yes, the punishment for sin is death, BUT the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord! Eternal life is a gift; Eternal life is the gift of God. You don't pay for a gift, it is free. You don't earn a gift, you receive it. Jesus has paid for it. Jesus has earned it on your behalf. All you need to do is receive it by simply believing!

Jesus, not me, said, "Whosoever believes should not perish, but have everlasting life." If you have believed, live rest assured that you have eternal life; you will live forever! Eternal life is what we receive in God's demonstration of love. We trust Him; we have eternal life now in our spirits and we are sure of eternal life when He comes again. Give Him thanks today! He loves you. You are blessed. God loves you. Yes, you!

Affirmation

I understand it is God that showed love first

I understand that God's love is for all men

I see the love of God always in Jesus laying down His life

I understand that the sacrifice of Jesus has provided salvation

I have believed in the sacrifice of Jesus for sins

Therefore I have forgiveness of sins

I have been made righteous

I am saved forever

I have eternal life; I am assured of eternal life.

OUR MISSION

We believe that a published material will go where one may not go physically. And that is why our mission is to see the Gospel of Christ published in all nations through our various publications.

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