

BIBLE STUDY NOTE

VOLUME 1, WEEK 5



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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

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. To lead the individual to see the true picture of God.
2. To stir up the individual to desire and take steps to see to the salvation of the lost.

STUDY

Revelation in the scriptures is progressive from the Old Testament to the New Testament. The New Testament gives us the clear picture of God; the real image of God. So what does the New Testament describe as the image of God?

2 Corinthians 4:4

In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Christ is the image of God.

Colossians 1:13-17

13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son:

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

15 Who **is the image of the invisible God**, the firstborn of every creature:

16 For **by him were all things created**, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: **all things were created by him, and for him:**

17 And **he is before all things, and by him all things consist.**

Christ is the image of the invisible God. By Him were all things created and for Him. He is before all things, and by Him all things consist!

Hebrews 1:1-3

1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners **spake** in time past **unto the fathers by the prophets**,

2 Hath in these last days **spoken unto us by *his* Son**, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

3 Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and **the express image of his person**, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Let's see the Amplified Version of **Verse 3**:

***“He is the sole expression of the glory of God [the Light-being, the out-
raying or radiance of the divine], and He is the perfect imprint and very
image of [God’s] nature, upholding and maintaining and guiding and
propelling the universe by His mighty word of power. When He had by
offering Himself accomplished our cleansing of sins and riddance of
guilt, He sat down at the right hand of the divine Majesty on high,”***

Christ is the express image of God. He is the SOLE expression of the glory of God! There is no other expression of God's glory! He is the perfect imprint and very image of God. So you want to see God? Look at Jesus! Christ is the express image of God; the exact image of God! He came to reveal God to us. No other picture is better to reveal God than Christ. We see God in the lenses of Christ. God has chosen to reveal Himself in Christ

John 1:14

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.

The phrase “the Word” here is from the Greek word “logos.”

Now let's go back to earlier verses:

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

2 The same was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made **by him**; and **without him** was not any thing made that was made.

4 **In him** was life; and the life was the light of men.

Observe the phrase “**the Word**” was used in **verse 1**. And in **verse 3 and 4** we see “**him**” being used implying that “**the Word**” is a person.

Now, observe the following verses still in **John 1**

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name *was* John.

7 The same **came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light**, that all *men* through him might believe.

8 He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light.

9 *That* was **the true Light, which lighteth every man** that cometh into the world.

John the Baptist is being referred to here. He was sent to bear witness of the Light who we have seen described in earlier verses as the Word referring to Jesus.

Also observe in **verses 1-3** that “the Word” who is a person was referred to as God.

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

2 **The same was in the beginning with God**.

3 All things were **made by him**; and **without him** was not any thing made that was made.

That is, Jesus—the Word was (pre-existed as) God!

Now observe **verse 10-11**

10 **He was in the world**, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

11 **He came unto his own**, and his own received him not.

“**World**” here speaks of **inhabitants; humanity**. So in coming to the world He partook of humanity.

“**His own**” here speaks of his **lineage** in which He came to the world.

So Jesus who pre-existed as God became a man.

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**.

God became a man in the person of Jesus Christ—full of grace and truth!

17 For the law was given by Moses, *but* **grace and truth came by Jesus Christ**.

18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared *him*.

The word “**and**” in verse 17 is from the Greek word “**kai**” and it is explanatory in most instances—this inclusive. It could be better understood as “**which is**.” So grace (which is) truth came by Jesus!

Now, observe verse 18, **no man hath seen God at any time...** No man at any time had seen God? What of Enoch? What of Elijah? (We will address this in a future study).

That phrase “**no man**” implies **none; nobody; not even one**. The text goes on to say, “...**the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared *him***.” So Jesus has declared the Father to us! The perfect picture of God is seen in Christ because He is from the Father. To know God, we look to Jesus!

Now, let’s observe how Jesus who is the revelation of the Father addressed Elijah calling down fire.

Luke 9:51-56

51 And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem,

52 And sent messengers before his face: and they went, **and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him**.

53 **And they did not receive him**, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem.

54 And **when his disciples James and John saw *this***, they said, Lord,

wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did?

55 But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of.

56 For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save *them*. And they went to another village.

So Jesus and His disciples went to a village of the Samaritans but they didn't receive Him (verses 52-53). The disciples must have read of how Elijah called down fire to destroy people (2 Kings 1:10-14) and because of this rejection sought Jesus' approval to do same. But look at Jesus response:

55 But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of.

56 For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save *them*. And they went to another village.

Jesus rebuked them for thinking that way! Why? **Destruction of people is not of God!** He went on to tell them, "...**Ye KNOW NOT what manner of spirit ye are of.**" He was telling them; you have a knowledge problem. You don't know the manner of spirit you are of. You are of love! Later on John came to understand this—he is popularly called the Apostle of love (we will address him in a future study).

You may ask, what of "my enemies" or "agents of darkness"?

Ephesians 1:15-23

15 Wherefore I also, **after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus**, and love unto all the saints,

16 Cease not to give thanks for you, **making mention of you in my prayers;**

17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, **may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:**

18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

19 And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who **believe**, according to the working of his mighty power,

20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set *him* at his own right hand in the heavenly *places*,

21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

22 And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church,

23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

You have authority in Christ; you are seated in Him far above all principality, power, might and dominion. That's your location in Christ! So they are not your problem. **No one needs to die for you to live or progress!** You are safe in Christ always! And that's what Paul was praying for you to see. He was pointing us—the believer to focus on the right thing; what Christ has done and who we are because of what He has done.

Jesus' words in **Luke 9:56** is something to pay careful attention to:

56 For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save *them*. And they went to another village.

Jesus says He didn't come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. Who did He come to save? The people in the world.

John 3:16-17

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.

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

God is not willing that any should perish. He wants all men saved; all men to believe in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ as effective for them. That's His desire for all men and should be our desire too; to see all men saved. That is, come to the knowledge of Christ.

This is the primary context of God's love—the salvation of men. We do not deny the existence of witches, wizards, terrorist groups, name it, but our target is not the **individual's life**. They are in darkness; they are simply being influenced by the devil. So our prayer is not for the individual to die. We take authority over the influence of the forces of darkness over their lives and pray for the salvation of the individual. We have seen witch doctors; terrorists believe the Gospel. Think about this: The Apostle Paul before his conversion would be classified as a terrorist today. But today we read his letters! Praise Jesus! No one is so far that God can't reach...in fact, He already reached them through the sacrifice of Jesus for **all men!**

Ephesians 5:8

For **ye were sometimes darkness**, but **now are ye light in the Lord**: walk as children of light:

Everyone outside Christ is in darkness. And this WAS the state of the believer before he believed in Jesus. We WERE darkness in the past. You may not have yielded to the devil like some people have, but in reality you are either LIGHT (in Christ) or DARKNESS (outside Christ). There is no middle point. This knowledge should lead us to be driven with compassion towards these individuals.

Our prayers should be focused on them coming to see the light in the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God. Our prayers should be that the light of the Gospel that has shun in our hearts should also shine in their hearts. We should pray that opportunities are presented for the Gospel to be preached to these individuals so they can believe like we do and become a part of God's family which is God's desire for **all men**. We should pray that those thoughts and imaginations of their hearts that exalts itself against the knowledge of God which is revealed in Christ, be brought into captivity and obey Christ by believing in Him. This should be our focus!

Matthew 5:43-48

43 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.

44 But I say unto you, **Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;**

45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?

47 And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more *than others*? do not even the publicans so?

48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Interestingly, this is where it is recorded first that Jesus spoke on prayers. And who did He say we should pray for? Our enemies! Someone may say, but He didn't specify what prayer to pray so I can pray what I like! No! Observe the preceding words before the instruction to pray, "...**Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you...**"

He was speaking on love. So the prayer also is in line with love. And what is the number one prayer of love you can pray? That they should come to the knowledge of salvation—the saving grace in Christ! And Jesus isn't asking you to do what He hasn't done. Remember the Cross? He looked at the people who crucified Him and said, "...**Father, forgive them for they know not what they do...**" (Luke 23:34).

That's the revelation of God speaking. He knew the real issue, "...**they know not what they do.**" The unbeliever doesn't know what he is doing! That's why **our desire should be that they know, not that they die without knowing!**

In context when He speaks of being perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect in verse 48, He is referring to walking in love towards our enemies just like our Father who **makes his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.** He doesn't hold back these blessings from anyone whether they believe in Him or not.

Romans 5:8

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

He didn't wait for us to cry out for salvation. He took the initiative—He initiated the plan of salvation for all men. Salvation has been provided for all men whether they accept it or not. It has been provided already—that is the love of God revealed in Christ, the image of God.

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 (John 3:16). This leaves the believer with the responsibility to tell the unsaved of the salvation plan in Christ. Will you play your part? Tell someone about Jesus this week! You are blessed. God loves you. Yes, you!

Affirmations

I see clearly the true picture of God in Christ.

There are no shadows; no mysteries.

I know God as I see Christ.

I see the display of love in the provision of salvation for all men.

I play my part to tell the world about the salvation provided in Christ.

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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