

Week of April 15-21

JOHN 3:16

Scripture Reading: Read John chapter 3

One of the most familiar and well-loved verses of the Bible is found in today's chapter reading. It is John 3:16. You may have seen this reference on a poster held by a fan at some sporting event on television as a camera panned the audience. *"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."*

This verse is filled with greatness and summarizes the gospel well.

God – the greatest being

So loved the world – the greatest love

That he gave – the greatest giver

His only begotten Son – the greatest gift

That whosoever believeth in him – the greatest opportunity

Should not perish but have everlasting life – the greatest salvation

The rest of the chapter, both preceding and following, leads to the pinnacle of this verse. Our need to be born again, to experience salvation, is driven home by Jesus to Nicodemus earlier in the chapter. The danger of rejecting this salvation is brought home later in the chapter. In between, we are given an opportunity to receive God's gift by faith.

God spared no cost in providing us with this gift. He gave his very best, his one and only Son. And, he did so out of love. He did not send his Son to condemn you, according to John 3:17, but to save you. More good news? You don't have to wait till Christmas to receive this gift. It's available today.

Action Step: Do you know Jesus as Savior? If not, today is the day to receive God's greatest gift. If you're already a Christian, share your faith with someone today as the Lord gives you an opportunity.

Prayer Focus: Repent and give your heart to Jesus today in prayer. If you're already a Christian, give God thanks for your salvation.

Take-away: *John 3:16...the gospel in condensed form.*