

February 28, 2021

Love in Deed and in Truth.

Our Verse for the day: 1 John 3:18 (KJV) ¹⁸ My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

Our devotion today is an outline of the message at Belfield Baptist Church for February 28, 2021.

God's L.G.P. John 3:16

Today as we think about this verse, we need to realize that this verse is many things to many people. What one will read into the verse, another cannot see, and the other way around.

It has been said that this verse in the center of the New Testament that it gives the plan of salvation in a nutshell, but it's the hardest shell that I have ever encountered.

Many people will read this verse and not get anything out of it. They will read it fast and not get much out of it. *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.*

Today, I want us to look at the verse in detail and see what it really says to us at this time. We need to realize that there is more to salvation than having our names on some church roll.

I. God's loves: For God so loved the world.

1. His Creation: In the Genesis account we read where God created all things. We could and would say that He is the Father or Creator.

a. But this love is not talking of the materials things of the world. God does not have a love for fine houses, large bank accounts and so on.

b. This love was for the people that he had made in his own image. In His very likeness. This was the love that God had, but when He looked down from heaven on His people, he did not like what he saw.

2. Creation defiled: Again, in Genesis we see where sin entered in. And His people went astray. Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit.

3. His creation Punished. Like any good loving father, God punished his creation, yet His children would not listen.

- a. He cast them out of the Garden because of sin.
- b. He sent Cain into the land of Nod.
- c. He sent the flood and still the people would not listen.
- d. He destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.
- e. He sent wars upon the Chosen Children.

Yet with mankind so wicked, so self-centered, so indifferent to the work of God, God still loved them enough to try again.

II. **God's Gift: That He gave His only Begotten Son.** This is the greatest gift that any father can and could give. But we need to notice some things about the gift.

1. Unique gift: One of a kind. There are many theories about His unique gift that we could cover:

- a. It was a gift to show that God was supreme, never before or since have we heard of anyone being born of a virgin.
- b. It was a gift to show the way of God. A way of love, a way of peace, a way of fellowship.
- c. It was a gift to the way of obedience, the supreme sacrifice by the Son: Death on the cross.

2. It was a personal gift: Given to each one of us individually.

- a. Can be rejected outright, no I do not believe in invitations, ways, actions. Anytime we refuse to do the will of God.
- b. Can be accepted. When we accept this gift, we are to be obedient to God.

It is up to us to accept or reject the gift.

III. GOD'S PEOPLE: **WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.** Who are His people? They are the ones who are accepting him and serving Him.

- a. Believe in Him: Complete obedience in everything. Not when it is convenient.
- b. They are not separated from God, they are the ones out doing His will: Visiting, witnessing, speaking for Him, and loving Him.

c. They are the ones who have eternal life. Very simply, living in God's time.

No one should perish if they believe in Him.

This is salvation:

- a. You have God's Love
- b. God's gift is offered.
- c. You can be one of His Children.

As we continue to deal with Covid-19, let us all be aware that John 3:16 is the only way to become children of God. Trust in the one that gave His Son for you.

As you pray, pray that our leaders state and national will believe in John 3:16.

Pastor Larry Vickery

PO Box 133

South Heart, ND 58655

Cell: 701 260 5940

Email: ldvickery@gmail.com