

**John 3:16-17**  
Sunday Morning November 23, 1986  
Grace Bible Church Rome Ga.  
**August 4, 2013**

THIS IS "BIBLE SUNDAY" - at least here at Grace where we are dedicating these new pew Bibles that Mark and Becky McAllister have donated.

W.G. Scroggie once said, that "**the heart of the Bible is the NT, the book of John is the center, and the third chapter it's vital pulse.**" in other words says Scroggie, "**John 3:16 is the heart of the heart of the heart of the gospel.**" DB 1-8-72

**Martin Luther called Jn. 3:16 "THE MINIATURE BIBLE.'**

John 3:16 has been called the greatest verse in the Bible:

GOD..... THE GREATEST LOVER  
SO LOVED..... THE GREATEST DEGREE  
THE WORLD..... THE GREATEST NUMBER  
THAT HE GAVE..... THE GREATEST ACT  
HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON... THE GREATEST GIFT  
THAT WHOSOEVER..... THE GREATEST INVITATION  
BELIEVETH..... THE GREATEST SIMPLICITY  
IN HIM..... THE GREATEST PERSON  
SHOULD NOT PERISH..... THE GREATEST DELIVERANCE  
BUT..... THE GREATEST DIFFERENCE  
HAVE..... THE GREATEST CERTAINTY  
EVERLASTING LIFE..... THE GREATEST POSSESSION

Not too long after I was saved, at a church camp at the Toccoa GA Baptist retreat center, a missionary was presenting a message – oddly enough on John 3:16. It was the first time I wrote a Greek word in the margin of my Bible.

**Μ ο ν ο γ ε ν ῆ ς** -monogene<sup>s</sup> - *mon-og-en-ace* – From [G3441](#) and [G1096](#); **only born, that is, sole: - only** (begotten, child).

**GOD. THE GREATEST LOVER, LOVING THE WORLD TO THE GREATEST DEGREE, PERFORMED THE GREATEST ACT BY FREELY GIVING THE GREATEST GIFT - HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON.**

### **I. THE QUALITY OF GOD'S LOVE**

**I John 4:8** "... **God is Love.** " God as to His essential quality or nature is LOVE.

**Wuest.** Treasure p. 59. Love AGAPE. It speaks of a love that is called out of one's heart by the preciousness of the person loved, **a love that is SELF-SACRIFICIAL** in its essence, it is the love that God is in His essence. **Wuest"**

**Bypaths** p. 71 "It speaks of that love which **springs from an awakened sense of value in an object which causes one to prize the object loved.** It expresses the **love of approbation** ( *approval, sanction*), of esteem, as over against the love of pure delight, [*phileo*]

This love is demonstrated in **I Jn. 4:10** where we read: **Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent his son to be the propitiation for our sins."**

# FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE

## II. THE QUANTITY OF GOD'S LOVE.

\*\*\*\*\*God so loved THE WORLD \*\*\*\*\*

Κόσμος kosmos *kos'-mos* – *Strong's* Probably from the base of [G2865](#); (TO TEND, OR PROVIDE FOR)  
**orderly arrangement, that is, decoration;**

**by implication the world (in a wide or narrow sense, including its inhabitants, literally or figuratively [morally]):** - adorning, world.

WHAT IS MEANT BY THIS TERM?

In II Peter. the apostle contemplates **three phases of the earth or world.**

The world that **then was 3:6** (Kosmos)

The heavens and the earth that **now are v.7** NOTE – Earth- soil

Earth = γῆ *ge* Contracted from a primary word; *soil*; by extension a *region*, or the solid part or the whole of the *terrene* globe (including the occupants in each application): - country, earth (-ly), ground, land, world.

New heavens and **earth** that are to be. v. **13.** γῆ *ge* Contracted from a primary word; *soil*;

The **cosmos** concerns the "**world that now is.**"

**Cosmos** is used in the Septuigent ( LXX ) as "ornamentation" but never as "world." The use of **cosmos** to denote the world is **PECULIAR TO THE NT.** Volume II. 78 Lewis Sperry Chafer, Systematic Theology.

Has to do with order, regular disposition, ornament, decoration, embellishment.

" The **etymological development** is -- from that which represents order in the arrangement of things ---- TO THE contemplation of humanity in its relation to those things, ---- and, following the fall, as separate from, and foreign to God, being under authority which is **anti-god.**

( An attentive consideration of the **186 uses** of) cosmos, where it is translated "world" will reveal that in every instance WHERE MORAL VALUES are involved, **THE SPHERE OF SATANIC INFLUENCE AND AUTHORITY IS INDICATED.**" " II. 78-9 Chafer.

In his book "**SYNONYMS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT**" Richard C. Trench gives us this meaning for the term "**world.**" He says that it is....

**"All that floating mass of thoughts, opinions, maxims, speculations, hopes, impulses, aims, aspirations, at any time current in the world, which it may be impossible to seize and accurately define, but which constitute a most real and effective power, being the moral, or immoral atmosphere which at every moment of our lives we inhale, inevitably to exhale."**

Illustrations of this would be: **civil wars**, there were many in the world during the period that we had ours. The spirit of rebellion as seen on college campuses throughout the world in the 70,s. Even Christian campuses were drastically affected.

"The cosmos is a vast order or system that Satan has promoted, which conforms to his ideals, aims and methods. It is civilization now functioning apart from God - a civilization in which none of its promoters really expect God to share, who assign to God no consideration in respect to their projects; nor do they ascribe any causatively to Him. This system embraces its Godless governments, conflicts, armaments, jealousies, its education, culture, religions of morality, and pride. It is that sphere in which man lives. It is what he sees, what he employs. To the uncounted multitude it is all they ever know so long as they live on this earth. **It is properly styled the satanic system, which phrase is IN MANY INSTANCES a justified interpretation of the so- meaningful word, cosmos.** It is literally a cosmos diabolicus." *II. 77-8. Chafer*

This is the WORLD which **John** warns us to AVOID LOVING in

**I Jn. 2:15. Love not the world** (cosmos) neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the father is not in him."

Yet, we find in **Jn. 3:16** That "**GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD** "

{Jn. 3:16 as per Chafer v. II p. 78.} "In this passage, as almost no other, a **RESTRICTED USE** of the term cosmos is presented;...It is **RESTRICTED TO HUMANITY ITSELF** apart from its evil institutions, practices, and relationships.

God loved the **lost people who make up the cosmos** and this love was great enough to move him to give His only begotten Son, in providing a way of salvation through Him so complete that" simply by believing on Him men are able to avoid death and have life everlasting.

Contextually - Cf: **JOHN 3:15 - WHOSOEVER**

"This is not a love for an elect company alone - as though the title The Cosmos World, could ever be applied to the elect company who are saved out of it and whom the Cosmos hates ( **John 15:18**) -- but it is a love for the **WORLD** (cosmos) which hates, a **WORLD** which is lost, and a **WORLD** which needs to be saved. *III. 394 Chafer.*

" **God's love for the world is the response of the heart of God to the preciousness of each lost human soul that results in the infinite love God shows at Calvary.** Each human soul is precious because it bears the image of its maker, even though that image be marred by sin, and second, because it is composed of material, if you please, which God can through redemption, conform to the very image of His Beloved Son. **Thus, this love is a love of self sacrifice based on the preciousness of the object loved.**"

Those who seek to misrepresent God as an angry, vengeful, bloodthirsty God **neglect to see the QUALITY of His Love.** God "**takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked...**"

**Ezekiel 33:11** "As, I Live, saith the Lord God, **I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from his way and live...**"

God has not created man for destruction but for fellowship with Himself.

**JOHN 3:17** God sent not His son into the world to Condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."

"For this is good and acceptable in the **sight God our Savior, WHO WILL HAVE ALL MEN TO BE SAVED,** and to come unto the knowledge of the truth." **I Tim. 2:3-4.**

" the Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, NOT WILLING THAT ANY SHOULD PERISH, but that all should come to repentance."

And God desires for men to be saved. He has stayed the just judgment of the world for 6 millennia for the purpose of reclaiming a lost and dying race. To make of them a Peculiar people; He says of His Own:

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, **a people of his own**, that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." **I Pt. 2:9.**

**NO GIFT IS MORE NEEDED BY A DYING WORLD THAN A LIFE-GIVING SAVIOR.**

**AS IF THE TERM "WORLD" WERE NOT BROAD ENOUGH TO SHOW US THE QUANTITY OF GOD'S LOVE HE THEN CLARIFIES EVEN FURTHER THE EXTENT OF HIS LOVE FOR MANKIND...**

**WHOSOEVER** – same word as in v. 15 – reiterated to remove all doubt as to the extent of this "Free Offer"

ON **WHOSOEVER**. Insert your name and it is your verse. However,

**Wendell P. Loveless** used to say, "When I was first a Christian, I often wished that my name was in John 3:16 rather than the word "whosoever." However, one summer I was traveling down south and came upon a blacksmith shop owned by another Wendell P. Loveless. I realized then that if that name had appeared in the Bible it might have meant him and not me, but the word "whosoever" took us both in." DB June 24, 1968.

Someone has said: Let "**DESERVED**" be written on the door of Hell, but on the door of heaven: "**THE FREE GIFT!**"

We have looked at –

**THE QUALITY OF GOD'S LOVE**  
**THE QUANTITY OF GOD'S LOVE -now,**

### **III. THE REQUIREMENTS OF GOD'S LOVE**

**\*\*\*THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON..\*\*\*\*\***

**SALVATION IS FREE BUT IT IS NOT WITHOUT COST!!!**

" THE FACT THAT MAN'S SALVATION IS BY DIVINE GRACE IS TO THE END THAT THE GRACE OF GOD MAY HAVE AN ADEQUATE MANIFESTATION.

Of this truth it is recorded "**that in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us THROUGH CHRIST JESUS.**" **Eph. 2:7**  
There was that in God which no angel had ever seen.  
They had observed his **WISDOM AND POWER** displayed in the creation and upholding of all things.  
They had beheld his **GLORY**, but they **HAD NOT SEEN HIS GRACE.**

There could be no manifestation of divine grace until there were sinful creatures who were objects of grace. The importance, in heavenly realms, of the unveiling of infinite grace could not be estimated in this world.  
**THERE WAS NO COMPLETE EXHIBITION OF DIVINE LOVE UNTIL GOD GAVE HIS SON TO DIE FOR LOST MEN.**

The momentousness of that demonstration is also **beyond human understanding.**

**IN LIKE MANNER THERE COULD BE NO COMPLETE EXHIBITION OF DIVINE GRACE UNTIL SINNERS WERE SAVED THROUGH THE DEATH OF GOD'S SON,** and the measure of that grace is also beyond finite understanding."

DB. 11-16-74 Years ago there was a radio program called the "**Quiz Kids.**" One night a 9 year old genius was asked, "**what do you believe to be the most wonderful thing in all the world?**" after a long period of silence the boy said thoughtfully.

" **I THINK IT IS REDEMPTION**" This was followed by an even longer silence in the voice of the announcer. He no doubt expected the boy to name some scientific miracle. But when he finally spoke his voice had a warm approval " I hardly anticipated that, but I am sure that we would all agree."

**"The thought transcends all comprehension, that EVEN ONE fallen from this sinful race will be so changed by divine power that he will be satisfying to God as an exhibition of His infinite grace, and, though the vast spaces of heaven be thronged with such, the demonstration is not enhanced by multiplied representations, for each individual will be the expression of God's superlative Grace." III. Chafer P. 8.**

**The, QUALITY, QUANTITY, REQUIREMENTS AND NOW THE:**

#### **IV. THE RESULTS OF GOD'S LOVE**

There are two definite benefits to men who believe on the Lord.

- 1.) THEY DO NOT PERISH
- 2.) THEY DO RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE.

Expositors. Note the change from the aorist (APOLATAI-perish) to the present (EXA-have). The utter ruin being spoken of as an act; the possession of eternal life, as an enduring experience.

V.17 purpose of the coming of Christ was not to reveal a love of sin among men or to bring a heavier burden of judgment on man, but rather He came that they might be saved.

Jesus never called anyone a sinner – but He did, by His very presence, cause men to recognize sin within themselves. The Law was given to reveal sin – not to accuse. Likewise Jesus, as the fulfillment of the Law – did not need to accuse, but rather reveal . . . . *mn 8/4/2013*

Two divine perfections in the salvation of man.

- 1. The disposing of that which is evil and**
- 2. the securing of that which is good.**

1.) that **by the death of Christ**, all judgment and condemnation are so perfectly borne that they can never again be reckoned against the believer (**Rom. 8:1**)

2.) **Likewise** and on the ground **of that same death** and on the ground of Christ's resurrection, EVERY REQUIREMENT FOR ETERNAL ASSOCIATION WITH GOD IN HEAVEN IS BESTOWED- ALL, INDEED ON THE PRINCIPAL OF UNCOMPLICATED GRACE." Vol. III. Chafer p.9

INVITATION: DB. 10-18-69. " I once read the touching story of a London Boy who was wandering the streets cold and hungry. Seen by a Christian worker, the youngster was given a card with the words of **John 3:16** printed on it, and directed to a local mission. He told him " It is rather late, my boy, but if you knock at the door and they ask you who it is, just say "**John 3:16,**" show them this card, and they will understand and let you in." The Christian had his name on the back of the card, for he had often used this device to help needy ones in the great metropolis of London.

The homeless child did as he was told. As promised he received a royal welcome, a good supper and a warm bed. A few days later the boy was hurt in a traffic accident which left him unconscious. The scripture card with the address of the mission and the name of the Christian worker penciled on the back, was found in his pocket." A message was sent to those who had befriended him, telling them that he had been gravely injured. They tenderly nursed him during the few lingering days of his life and gently taught him of Heaven's portals, WHICH ARE ALSO ENTERED THROUGH THE WATCHWORD OF JOHN 3:16. In his last hours the boy repeated over and over again "**John 3:16 - John 3:16 - that's what lets you in!**" DB 11-21-78.

"I once read that the captain of the ironclad ship the Merrimack was quite skeptical about God's word. While the old seaman was living in the Pennsylvania Soldier's Home, the chaplain stopped by his room to talk. In the course of the conversation he challenged him with these words. "**read the Bible and mark anything that you don't believe!**" A glitter came into the mariner's eyes as he quipped, " all right, I'll do it." The chaplain called on him each day to see how he was getting along. His usual question was, "**Have you marked anything yet?**" The captain would grin but remain silent. A few days later when he came visiting again he found the old man dead in his bed. The man's bible was opened to the gospel of John, so he paged through it. Nothing was marked in the first chapter, nor in the second, nor in the third, until he came to the **16th verse!** Alongside were these words: "**I have cast my anchor in a safe harbor, thank God.**"