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The World's Greatest Love Story

The month of February is known as the month of love. February 14 is Valentine's Day, that special day of love. But God is the world's greatest lover. Perhaps John 3:16 is the greatest verse in the Bible that tells us of God's great love. John 3:16 has been called the gospel in a nutshell. It is considered by many to be the greatest verse in the Bible. I believe the theme and the message of the entire Bible is contained in this verse. Now there are other verses that tell of God's love for sinners, how men are saved, and how men have deliverance from judgement. But no one single verse gives us all these precious truths as clearly as 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."**

I want to show you five things that we see in John 3:16 that are so very important.

I. The World that God Loves

The Bible says that God so loved the world. This is not talking about the dirt, the mountains, the lakes, the valleys, the oceans of the earth. But the world He loves are the people.

Let me just say this about the world that God loves. First, it is a BIG world. There are over 7.6 billion people in the world. God loves every person in the world. Oh, this is a big, big world.

Second, it is a lost world. I believe the saddest word in the human language is the word lost. The Bible says in Luke 19:10, **"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."** II Corinthians 4:3 says, **"But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost."** Oh, this world is a lost world that needs a Savior!!

II. The Gift That God Gave

The Bible says that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. Oh, I thank God that He did not give religion, but He gave His only Son.

How did God give His son Jesus? Do you remember that little song, "Jesus loves me, this I know for the Bible tells me so"? The Bible tells us in I 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."** Jesus paid for your sins when He died on the cross. He rose again on the third day conquering death itself. God shows His love in Romans 5:8, **"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."**

III. The People That God Includes

Notice the people that God includes, whosoever. I love that word, whosoever. That means the leper, the lame, the poor, the blind, the sick, the rich, the educated, the black, the white, the brown. Aren't you glad that you are a whosoever? I am glad I can look at any person any place in the world and say God loves you and you can be saved!!

IV. The Request God Makes

What is the request that God makes? Whosoever believes. Religion says there has to be deeds. Religion says there has to be sacrifice after sacrifice. But Jesus says, "Come to Me." Jesus says Believe. How does a person get to heaven? "Believe upon the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved!" You say I feel like I need to do something. Well, join a religion. But, if you want to go to heaven, believe in Jesus.

V. The Escape God Offers

What is the escape God offers? Shall not perish but have everlasting life! You say I don't believe God would send anybody to hell. I don't either. I will tell you what sends people to hell. If you reject Jesus Christ, you send yourself to hell.

But come to Jesus, He will save you! Then one day you will be with Jesus in heaven for ever and for ever!!

This is the message I have the privilege to preach across this nation and around the world week after week. Thanks for your prayers and support that makes this possible for me to go week after week!!