

THE GREATEST GOSPEL

By: Dr. Hal Webb, Evangelist.

"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.

I think most all would agree that this is the clearest and most wonderful Gospel verse in the Bible. It is so simple a child can understand, and yet pages of words cannot do justice to the depth and amazing scope of its contents. Please open your Bible to John 3:16 and consider every word of this life giving verse. **GOD, the greatest lover:** In the beginning He created the heavens and the earth. He then made man after His own image. Thus, began great love as the creator loved His creation. We would do well to remember that God is the instigator of this great Gospel. It is no manmade religion, but a father-son relationship that only deity could offer to one and all. Our world hangs in space just as He created it. Millions are born, live and die under His watchful eye. The God of eternity created man for His purpose. He made it possible for us to dwell with Him forever. **SO LOVED, the greatest degree:** It is a statement of amazing love for a human race He knew would live in sin, in spite of His great provision and love. He loves the worst sinner, and no one is forbidden to come to Him. He knows our weaknesses and failures as humans and yet yearns to intercede, and direct us in the right. If you have been born again, His great spirit opened your heart and directed your attention to a new life. A life that will reach its fruition in the glories above. No one is forbidden to come under His great love which is without measure. **THE WORLD, the greatest number:** Many millions have walked on His world in the past. More millions are in the

present who have the choice of eternal life, and millions yet to be born. How can we number such a love that includes everyone, past, present, and future. His love is gigantic in size, sufficient for everyone, and available to all. His world rests in His arms and no one is forbidden to come to Him. **THAT HE GAVE, the greatest act:** No such saving action could have been given by man, or by any man made God. In His greatness He spoke the word, and began His plan of redemption for all who would believe. He was willing to give His son in the greatest act of rescue ever presented. This great action provided the blood of His Son, to redeem every soul willing to believe in Him. Only the greatest God could provide such salvation by an act of such love and mercy. God is a great God! **HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, the greatest gift:** At Christmas time most think of gifts, but the gift of God is best of all. The curse of sin put all mankind in deep eternal trouble. Old testament sacrifices were a part of God's plan for men to carry out. Then God gave His own Son for a one time redemption plan for as many as would believe. God asked Abraham to offer his son, and he was willing, but God gave him a ram from the thicket instead. Better still for us God has already given His Son in a cruel crucifixion for all sinners. He suffered all the pain and suffering of the cross to provide forgiveness for sin. Have you accepted Jesus as your Saviour? **THAT WHOSOEVER, the greatest invitation:** In our lifetime we receive invitations to many things, like weddings and parties and other events. Sometimes these are much sought after. A direct invitation to be forgiven of your sin, and to become a child of God, is the greatest of all. It is the only way to be forgiven, and promised a welcome reception in heaven. Your name is on it, for the Bible says, *"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved "* Rom. 10:13. By faith put yourselves in God's invitation book, and be fully accepted in the heavenlies when

the Lord calls all mankind to the judgment day up yonder. This is one invitation you don't want to miss. **BELIEVETH, the greatest simplicity:** Getting right and accepted by God is not a difficult procedure. The work for you has already been done, and the test is, will you believe it? The truth is so profound and yet so simple. If you will only believe, it can be yours at once. In life we believe many things without even thinking. Why not believe in the true way to be saved as John 3:16 promises? This belief has nothing to do with all the false acts taught by false religions. Repeated prayers, counting beads, taking communion, joining church and other things you could do are not true believing. Sit down and accept the truth of John 3:16, trusting it to be true. This will change you into a child of God. Simply believe and leave all the rest to God who says believing is sufficient. **IN HIM, the greatest person:** No one will ever see heaven unless they personally accept what Christ did for them. You must believe with all your heart that He is the Son of God. Not a prophet, nor a religious man, nor a great teacher, but the actual son of God. Life has had many men who in their earthly efforts have tried to bring help and blessing to others. Many in the flesh have given much to make something for you. Only one person, the Son of God, has ever shed His blood and given His life for salvation of lost souls. His love for us is too great to measure. His desire to save us is beyond comprehension. His deed for our justification will never be equaled. He surely is the greatest, and today He is wanting to receive you as His very own. The hymn writer truthfully wrote, "There is no one else like Jesus". **SHOULD NOT PERISH, the greatest deliverance:** *"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."* Rom. 6:23. God's Word is so very clear. *"The soul that sinneth, it shall die."* Ezekiel 18:4c. The wage demanded by God for sin is death, but in His mercy He has a better plan for all who will

repent and believe. The body of every person is indwelt by their eternal soul. This soul at death goes to Heaven or to Hell. The need to seek forgiveness and be saved is vital to everyone. No one has to perish unless you harden your heart, make excuses, and refuse the gift of salvation. You do not have to perish, but by faith kneel at the cross and trust in Christ who offers the gift of life instead. That way the eternal you, your soul, will be welcomed in heaven because you trusted God's plan of redemption. **BUT, the greatest difference.** Many are the false hopes and plans men have conjured up in the hope of seeking and receiving life eternal. Every one of them will fail but God's plan will deliver. They try to find satisfaction but only God offers that in His plan. They labor in vain, falling short but God's plan is guaranteed by simple faith. They strive for perfection but God's plan offers adoption into the family of God. The word "but" is small but makes the greatest difference to all those who truly believe. Man is lost, but can be saved. The world is full of "buts" but this in this verse connects hope to reality. **HAVE, the greatest certainty:** Without beating around the bush, God offers the greatest gift ever offered to man. His offer not only enters eternity, but begins right now. The only condition is for you to reach out your hand by faith, and accept this gift right now. Don't wait for a later date with wasted years and tears, but accept it from the hand of God. Don't reason and doubt and hesitate for God wants you to be rich with this offer of mercy. Immediately you can have **EVERLASTING LIFE, the greatest possession:** Talk about good insurance, this is perfect everlasting assurance, and it can be yours today, if you will accept it. You will no more need to fear death, but can begin enjoying this gift from God. Unlike the stock market, this gift is guaranteed, and will never fall from eternal value. I think John 3:16 is the greatest verse of all. **Don't you?**