

# Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

April 15, 2020

Notes on 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.”***

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Pastor Tom reminded us of the context of this verse: Jesus was in a conversation with Nicodemus, a master scholar, who was struggling to understand Jesus' teachings. So if we have difficulty understanding also, we're in good company.

Tonight's emphasis is on the **love** part of the verse. Pastor Tom pointed out 3 meanings or types of love described in the Greek language:

1. Philos - brotherly love
2. Eros - romantic love between a man and woman
3. Agape - God's unconditional, no strings attached love for us

Then we looked at several supportive verses giving more details about that **agape love** in John 3:16

Romans 8:28

*“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

\* This shows the supreme act of love: Jesus laying down His life for our salvation.

\* If we are to be 'little Christs', then we are to love the sinners as God did.

Romans 6:23

*“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

- \* There are 2 kinds of death - physical and eternal death (this is the absence of God, hell)
- \* A gift is something you give with no expectations of something in return. God's gift through His agape love to us (no strings attached) is eternal life.

### Ephesians 2:8 & 9

*"8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast."*

- \* Grace is unmerited favor- something you didn't deserve
- \* Karen reminded us:

*"What is faith? It is the confident assurance that something we want is going to happen. It is the certainty that what we hope for is waiting for us, even though we cannot see it up ahead." Hebrews 11: 1*

- \*Each time you sit on a chair you have to have faith that it won't crumble under you.
- \*Salvation is not by anything we can do, but is the gift God offers us.
- \* We choose to accept or reject that gift
- \*As soon as we accept the gift, the Holy Spirit begins to sanctify us (set us apart for God)

### Ephesians 2: 4 & 5

*"4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved."*

- \* In King James the word quickened is used to mean make alive. The gift from God makes us, who were dead in sin, to be alive in Christ.
  - \*It saves us from judgement.
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Then we moved on to discuss the final phrases of John 3:16 in relation to **love**.

### The Only Begotten Son:

- \*Our understanding of son is a parent/ child relationship
- \*Biblical understanding of Son deals with the Deity of God
- \* The word begotten, from the word beget means it has to have a cause and the cause was us - we are the reason Jesus rose from the dead.

### Whosoever Believes in Him:

- \*We can choose to believe or not but we cannot choose whom we believe in...
- \*We must believe in Him (Jesus) 2 Peter 2:1 warns against false prophets (past and future) with a red flag warning against anyone who says they have private knowledge that others don't have

### Should not perish:

- \*Perish is the physical death as well as life without Jesus.

### But have everlasting life:

- \*This is the rest of the gift package...eternal life
  - \*We cannot work our way into heaven
  - \*Without Jesus being God, none of this works! Only God forgives and makes us right for Heaven.
  - \*Often we take the Deity and Love out of this and try to take things upon ourselves to get to heaven.
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2 final notes:

John 14: 1-6

*“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.  
2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*

*3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

*4 And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.*

*5 Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?*

*6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”*

\*Don't worry - believe in God/believe in me = believe in the Deity

\*Promise: I will come again

\*How to know the way? I am the way, the truth and the life...Jesus is the only road.

1 John 4:9

*“In this was manifested the **love of God toward us**, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.”*

\* manifest - means made known or revealed so... The love of God towards us shows us the way to Him... is by His one-of-a-kind Son, Jesus!