

John 3:16-18

I. Text – Read it

A. Word Study

1. **God – theos – Supreme Divine One**

- a. Another name for **Jehovah** – the most SACRED of all the names of God
- b. It means **SELF-EXISTENT ONE**

Regarded by the Jews to be the MOST HOLY, most GLORIOUS name of God

Exodus 3:13-15 Then Moses said to God, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I shall say to them, the God of your fathers has sent me unto you. Now they say to me, what is His name? And what shall I say to them? And God said to Moses, I AM WHO I AM, and He said, thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, I AM has sent you. And God, furthermore said to Moses, thus shall you say to the sons of Israel, The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is MY NAME FOREVER, and THIS in MY MEMORIAL-NAME to ALL GENERATIONS.

c. **What** is so important about a **NAME**?

- 1. **Name – Hebrew – shem - mark or brand –self disclosure**

THE NAME OF GOD SIGNIFIES the FULL DISCLOSURE in HIS HOLINESS and TRUTH and MAJESTY and MAGNITUDE of GREATNESS

- 2. **Name – Greek – Onoma – how one is called or KNOWN**

SIGNIFIES or IMPLIES authority, character, rank, majesty, power, excellence of everything that the **name** covers

POINT – So, at the **OUTSET** of **THIS PASSAGE**, John makes it **CRYSTAL CLEAR** that it is **GOD HIMSELF** who is **INITIATING** the **MESSAGE** of this **SCRIPTURE**.

It is **MARKED** by His **HOLINESS**, His **MAJESTY**, and the magnitude of His **GREATNESS**

2. ***So LOVED the WORLD***
 - a. ***loved – agapao – to regard with strong affection, favor, goodwill, and benevolence***
 - b. ***World – kosmos – all creation including the people in it***

It is the **DECLARATION** by **GOD HIMSELF** of HIS **DEEP FEELINGS** of **FAVOR** and **HEARTFELT GOODWILL** to the very **THINGS** He **CREATED** and **GAVE LIFE TO**

3. ***that he GAVE – Granted – Released***
 - a. Gave from a **HEART** of **DEEP** and **ABIDING LOVE**
4. ***Son – HIS ONLY begotten Son***
 - a. ***Begotten – monogenes – one and only***

The **ONLY SON** with the **GENETIC MAKEUP** of **THIS FATHER**

- b. ***Son – Huios – The ONE who derives His human nature DIRECTLY from God Himself and not by ORDINARY GENERATION***

Spoken **SPECIFICALLY** about Jesus and **OFFERED** to **US** by **COVENANT**

5. That ***WHOEVER BELIEVES in Him***
 - a. ***Whoever – he or she; this one or that one***
 - b. ***Believes – pisteuo – to be firmly persuaded to believe something that brings hope and certain expectation***

To **BELIEVE** is to **EMBRACE** and **RECEIVE** and **INTERNALIZE** as the **PERVADING MIND** and **HEART-SET**

6. ***Not Perish – be destroyed or die***
7. ***Eternal Life***

- a. *Eternal – without end or constraints – forever – without beginning or ending – AM LIFE – now and always*

B. **NOTICE** that Jesus was **SPECIFICALLY SENT**

- 1. *Send – apostello – apostle – to send forth - to set at liberty*

Hebrews 3:1 – Therefore holy brothers, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession (faith in Jesus to save us)

Remember that Jesus declared in *Luke 4:21* that it was HE who had been sent to *preach the gospel to the poor, to proclaim the liberty of the captives, the recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the downtrodden, and to declare the FAVOR of God for mankind*

- 2. **LOVE** was the **MOTIVE** of the **SENDING** – *For God so LOVED US*

Ephesians 2:4 – But God being rich in mercy because of HIS GREAT LOVE with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ and raised us up with him, and seated us in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

1 John 3:1-2 – What manner of love the father has bestowed upon us, that we should be CALLED the CHILDREN of GOD; and SUCH WE ARE. For this reason, the world does not know us, because it did not know him. Beloved, NOW we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when he appears, we shall be JUST LIKE HIM, because we shall SEE HIM JUST AS HE IS.

Galatians 2:20 - I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the LIFE (eternal life) which I now live in the flesh, I live by FAITH in the SON OF GOD who LOVED ME and DELIVERED HIMSELF UP for me.

LOVE redeemed me from the **CURSE of the LAW** and any other **CURSES** that others would attempt to place upon me

LOVE made all things **NEW** for me – **OLD THINGS** are passed away; behold **ALL THINGS** have become **NEW**

The **OLD MAN** is **DEAD** and **BURIED FOREVER**; the **NEW MAN LIVES** and **THRIVES FOREVER**

Because of **LOVE**, **MY SINS** have been **WASHED AWAY** and I have a **RENEWED HOPE** and a **FUTURE!**

HIS ABIDING LOVE for YOU and ME is BEYOND DESCRIPTION

II. **Love CUT a NEW COVENANT for US – *Hebrews 10***

A. Read the **HIGHLIGHTED VERSES**

B. The **BOOK** of *Hebrews* is WRITTEN for us to **UNDERSTAND** the **BETTER COVENANT** we have **through Jesus**

1. It was written to **REASSURE** the Jewish believers that their **FAITH** in Jesus was **SECURE** and **UNSHAKABLE**
2. **Why** was this so **IMPORTANT?**

Because **GOD** was about to **SHAKE** the **SYSTEM** of **JUDAISM** to the **GROUND**

- a. The book was written between AD 64-68
- b. The **destruction** of **Jerusalem**, the **Temple**, and the **Jewish system** was **COMING FAST!**

C. Look at the **IMPORTANT POINTS** of this **PASSAGE**

1. If the **LAW** of **RITUAL** was **GOOD ENOUGH**, then the **LAW** of **GRACE** and **FAITH** would not be necessary

The **NEW** and **LIVING WAY** has **MADE** the **OLD OBSOLETE**

JESUS cut a **NEW COVENANT** with **US** with **HIS OWN BODY** and **BLOOD ONCE FOR A LL**

2. **NOW**, we have been **SUMMONED** to **DRAW NEAR**
 - a. Our **BODIES** and **HEARTS** have been sprinkled **CLEAN** by and become **PURIFIED** by Jesus
 - b. Our **CONSCIENCE** has been **CLEANSED** of **ALL** its **EVIL**
3. We are **COMMANDED** to **NOT LET GO** of our **CONFESSION** that **GOOD THINGS** are **COMING OUR WAY**
4. We are **ADMONISHED** to **CONSIDER** how to **STIMULATE** one another to **LOVE** and **GOOD DEEDS**

- a. *Consider – discover – perceive – look for*
- b. *Stimulate – incitement to good – provoke to do good things*

- 1. **Good begets good –**

Sow goodness, reap goodness- Sow kind words, reap kind words – sow love; reap love

- c. **GOODNESS and KINDNESS are FUELS for LOVE**

- 1. ASSEMBLE TOGETHER
- 2. ENCOURAGE one another
- 3. BLESS one another

IV. We are ENTERING the SEASON of CELEBRATION

- A. We CELEBRATE the BIRTH of a CHILD
- B. We CELEBRATE the NEW COVENANT of SALVATION by GRACE
- C. We CELEBRATE the ASSURANCE of NEW HOPE and a BRIGHT FUTURE
- D. We CELEBRATE JESUS who LOVES US and LIVES FOR ALL of US TODAY!

V. Closing - Read *Psalm 136 – For His lovingkindness is everlasting*