

Father has given, and Whom the Son will be for us, and Whom the Holy Spirit presses upon us.

Will you just listen also to these following NEVER points? NEVER is there a more right time to get right with God than right now. NEVER is another time a better time than this present hour to repent of sin and trust this gospel of Jesus Christ, God's only begotten beloved Son. NEVER do you gain with postponing again to take this gospel to heart. NEVER either will there be escape for you from eternal condemnation and judgment if you should live and die in continued unbelief and disobedience before God and His gospel call.

Oh, but why should anyone end up in the place of hell, for know this NEVER point as well, surely in view of the Saviour being Jesus Christ, God's only begotten beloved Son. NEVER is God pleased in the death of the wicked but that people turn and trust and obey Him, the only Saviour of sinners. Also now the Saviour calls earnestly and lovingly through this message that you repent and believe and be saved. NEVER does a person regret it when truly believing on Jesus and having Him as all your hope and confidence for this life and the next. NEVER will you find a forgiveness so sure, a righteousness so pure, a hope for eternity so definite, and a peace so deep, and a joy so rich, and a purpose so meaningful, and a comfort so enduring as when trusting and following the gospel of Jesus Christ. And NEVER surely will you be done with praises to God Triune in this life and certainly not in the eternal world to come for His so great salvation through His only begotten beloved Son sent to this world and come to this world to save sinners.

In conclusion then, I ask each and all, from the youngest to the oldest, 'Are you trusting and following after this gospel in true faith, and repentance and devotion and adoration before God and men?' One of Jesus' names is that He is God's only begotten beloved Son, and John 3:16 is the full gospel in a single verse. Will you just stop and consider it some more today on your own, and let your heart be broken and melted, warmed and overwhelmed in wonder and awe that God SO loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son sinners to save. Or, will respond as if you NEVER heard this message either. NEVER let it be so, will you? Amen.

*Hans Overduin, Radio Pastor*

*November 4, 2007*

Publication No.335

**BANNER OF TRUTH RADIO BROADCAST**

*Radio Ministry of the FREE REFORMED CHURCHES of North America*

*Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee that it may be displayed because of the truth. (Psalm 60:4)*



### GOD GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON

Our Scripture for this message is the well known verse, John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." With especially the first part of this verse in mind, I am going to make a number of "NEVER" statements, and for sure in each case I am not making any overstatement. The one goal with this message is to try to bring out the infinite love and mercy of God in the giving of His only begotten Son to be Saviour of sinners.

Here is the first statement. With the giving of God's Son to save sinners, NEVER was there a Father so close to His Son as God the Father. Jesus is God's only begotten Son, that is, 'He alone is the eternal and natural Son of God.' There is so much mystery involved in how Jesus is God's only begotten Son from eternity, as the Nicene Creed of the early church in the year 325 puts it, "begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made". There is admittedly mind-boggling mystery involved here. This need not disturb us, however, for this grand truth surely e

mphasizes Jesus' supreme Godhead while at the same time bringing out the infinitely close relationship of the Father with His only eternal, natural begotten Son. Hear Jesus say thus in John 10:30, "I and My Father are one." In Matthew 3:17 the Father says about Jesus His Son, "This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased." In Proverbs 8:30 we are told too about the Son in the eternal bond of love with His Father even before the creation of the world, testifying as Wisdom personified, "And I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him

The point is NEVER was there a Father as close to His Son than God the Father is with His only begotten beloved Son. The best father on earth, however loving and kind and close to his child, is but a dim small reflection yet of the infinitely close and loving relationship God has with His only begotten Son. And now hear this. God SO loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son to be the Saviour of sinners. Have you ever stood still with the gospel truth that God gave His only begotten beloved Son and offered Him up to save sinners like you and me?

Notice the next 'NEVER' gospel truth. Not only NEVER was there a Father so close to His Son as God's Son, but also NEVER was there a Son

Who so loves His Father like Jesus, the only begotten, beloved Son of God. NEVER was there a Son so devoted to His Father like Jesus, the Son of God. In John 5:30 we hear Jesus say, "I seek not My own will, but the will of the Father which [Who] has sent Me." In John 14:31 Jesus states further in reference to His approaching suffering and death on the cross as Saviour of sinners, "But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave Me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence", and onward He went then to Golgotha! Jesus' passion was and is, as expressed in John 14:13, "that the Father may be glorified in the Son". Never was there a Father Who so loved His Son, and never a Son Who so held dear His Father as with Jesus, God's only begotten beloved Son. Let these NEVERS catch hold of you so that you are moved in true repentance and faith with these familiar words of Scripture so precious and inexhaustible. God SO loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son to save sinners.

I come to my next indisputable NEVER point. NEVER was there more reason for not giving His only begotten beloved Son sinners to save. What I mean here is God would have been perfectly in His right and totally not unjust if He never promised and never sent His beloved Son to save sinners. Mankind with our first parents, Adam and Eve, and ever since are the ones who inexcusably and most willfully and wickedly rebelled against the Lord their Maker, and of ourselves no one of the human race asks for God to intervene in mercy and grace. Even while God of His own accord sent His only begotten beloved Son, the vast majority simply ignore Him and despise Him and mock and reject Him. But God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son to this sinful, godless, rebellious, evil world, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. NEVER was there more reason for God not to give His Son than He had in His dealings with us, but still God, in infinite love towards sinners like us, gave His only begotten, beloved Son. And to have you truly melted in conviction and conversion and consecration before Him about that, notice this next NEVER gospel truth further.

NEVER was there more horrible suffering and agony to be endured than when God gave up His only begotten, beloved Son to save sinners. When Jesus was sent by God to this world, what a flood of sufferings as Sinbearer He would suffer and endure! What did we do to Jesus Christ, the Saviour, when He came to this earth? The Bible tells us clearly He was taken by wicked hand, repeatedly falsely accused, wrongly tried, and then brutally tortured and finally cruelly crucified and terribly mocked and scoffed at the whole time. He was despised and rejected of men, and His face and image became so marred with all that He suffered and endured. NEVER was there greater injustice done than what Jesus suffered; NEVER was there deeper loneliness than Jesus endured as Sinbearer on the Cross of Calvary; NEVER was there such fierce battle from Satan and all his demons against Jesus and such horrible forsaking of friends even than Jesus experienced; NEVER

was there such agony of heart and body that Jesus suffered when on the cross in the sinner's place Jesus endured the equivalent of the eternal wrath of God against sin, as the Just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God. NEVER was there such heart-sorrow as Jesus suffered when forsaken as Sinbearer in the sinner's place even by God His dear Father. NEVER did any human being ever go through the depths of suffering that Jesus suffered and endured in His saving work for sinners like us. That God gave His Son, His only Son, His beloved only begotten Son, His eternal and natural Son, for such suffering and torture, shame and pain and death, even the death on the cross, is something so unspeakably amazing and unheard of! Does this all make you see too more the wonder and worth of the gospel of Jesus Christ?

Here also I come to my next NEVER point. Surely we have to say, and I delight to tell, NEVER was so much accomplished with so great a gift as the Son of God come to seek and to save sinners. "Thanks be to God for His unspeakable [indescribable] gift!" Paul exclaims in II Corinthians 9:15. Jesus being God's only begotten Son come in the flesh and sent of God the Father for the salvation of sinners shows and proves so much the love of God for undeserving hell worthy sinners as we are of ourselves, and it brings out too the divine quality and eternal value of all Christ's saving work for sinners. There is a perfectness and pricelessness and preciousness to the saving work of Christ Jesus because Jesus in His Person is both truly human and at the same time truly God, indeed, the only begotten, beloved Son of God. Shall God the Father Who loves His Son with an infinite love not honour His Son's saving work on behalf of sinners? NEVER can you or will you find a more God-pleasing Saviour of sinners than the one God has provided in His only begotten beloved Son, Jesus Christ. NEVER can or will you exhaust the riches of salvation He has obtained for sinners. Paul exclaims in fact in Romans 8:31&32, "What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" Does this gospel of God so loving this world that He gave His only begotten Son also overwhelm you in wonder, faith, repentance and praise before Him, God Triune, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

That question leads me also to my next NEVER point which is this. Surely NEVER can unbelief or disobedience or indifference and lack of commitment and devotion to this Saviour God ever be permissible or excusable or reasonable or tolerable. Yet could it be you are one actually living this way, day by day, week after week, year after year, not converted to God, not submissive to God, not committed to God, the only God of grace and truth and tremendous salvation for us in and through His only begotten Son, come to save sinners? Listen, God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes on Him should not perish but have everlasting life! NEVER do you sin so grievously as when you keep shrugging off and discounting and refusing this gospel and this Saviour God Whom the