

## GOD'S ULTIMATE GIFT – Jn. 3v16

Scripture READING: *Psalm. 103 & Hymn: 418 "We Have Not Known You" (Neh. 1v7): John 3:16 [vv16-20] (READ)....*

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INTRO:

"We must focus our meditations on God's love which is the gift of himself" – John Piper

*"From you our life arrives. And into you departs. Then we begin to live. You are the life of lives. You are the heart of hearts. You are the gift you give" – JOHN Piper in – GOD IS THE GOSPEL*

- i.** Today's generation Vs. the gone by: drift away from God & His all-satisfying gift of Himself to US because *HE loved US* ( Rom. 5v6 & 8) However; Ps 14v1-3 C.f. Rom. 3v10ff
- ii.** Today's – PEOPLE try to suppress that truth (Rom 1:19ff) & are without excuse. They have exchanged God's glory for a lie. – Rom.1:18ff. BUT! One day *we will all stand before God to be judged*. C.f. II Cor. 5v10
- iii.** Today – Scripture bids US to behold the only greatest and final gift FOR ALL OF HISTORY
  - Jesus, the incarnate ONE → John 1v14 & 18. C.f. I Tim 1:17
  - Behold David's Desire: Psalm 27v4

App: Realizing thus; OUR response MUST be "longing" to "know" and to "gain Christ". *Phil. 3v8 c.f. Roman 11v33-36; Eph. 3v10; Rev. 7:12*),

Therefore, Proclaiming Christ is to proclaim the news of REDEMPTION;

### NOTICE: A TWO PART SERIES

**PROP:** Let us Consider Four (4) Main INQUIRIES about God's ultimate gift, if we are to respond to HIM in obedient faith for our Spiritual liberation...

First Question is centered on GOD's personality in relation to love .....

#### **1. WHAT IS THE CHARACTER OF GOD IN LOVE? (HIS PERSON) – v16a**

*"For God so loved...." – v16a*

- C.f. I Cor 13

NOW if God is the whole embracing reality of LOVE then....

Q. The question is; if God is both the SUBJECT & OBJECT of LOVE, then ...

#### **Who is GOD....?**

According to our document of Faith: 1689 LBCF: - of the truth we confess state; regarding who God is:

Chapter 2: Of God and of the Holy Trinity

Scripture says: In Jer. 10v10—God is "*the living God* "; John 5v26—He "*has life in Himself*"— THESE are the unsearchable riches that describe GOD. John 17v23 –"*HE loves the SON*" - expressing the fondness of unity that exist between the Father God and HIS Son.

The complexity in God in God's nature is the ground of blessedness for Him and of progress for US: c.f. 1 Tim. 1v11; Jer. 9v23,24—"*let him who boast, boast in this, that he knows me.*"

On the other hand, the complex nature of God permits anger at the sinner and compassion for him at the same time: Ps. 7v11—"God that hath indignation every day (WHY?) b/c of man's wickedness. "; YET in John 3v16—" God so loved the world "; Ps. 85:10-11 adds; —" God's mercy and truth are met together."

THEREFORE, for us to know something or anything of God, we must begin FIRST to know the object itself – *who is God Himself*.

NOTE: THE EXISTENCE OF GOD is the FIRST TRUTH, that He is the living GOD who has neither beginning nor end. He is Everlasting; He existed before the beginning begun in untimed HISTORY. – Gen. 1v1

Therefore;

- A. *GOD is The LIVING GOD....*
- B. *GOD is the CREATOR God C.f. Col. 1v15 – 16; John. 1v3 (READ)*
- C. *God Is Spirit c.f. Jn 4v24 – invisible; without body or body parts*

All in all:

- God is Changeless – (immutable) He stays them through all the ages. He is eternal in essence. He is incomprehensible (beyond human understanding or imagination)
  - God is Almighty (all-powerful in every way)
  - God is infinitely Holy; Most wise; most free; most absolute i.e. *He is independent; completely satisfied in and of Himself, His character is unmixed with anything unholy or against His holiness.*
  - God is holy in all of His counsel, plans and purpose – in all of His works, and in all of His commands.
  - God is a Merciful savior of mankind, BUT... HE is the JUDGE – He in HIS righteousness punishes SIN justly e.t.c
- D. GOD is ONE
- *THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD who Is worthy of our WORSHIP & praise!!*
  - ILLUSTRATION: C.f. John 1v18 “NO ONE has seen God – “the ONLY God...” c.f. Acts. 14v15ff (vv11 – 15) & Deut. 6v4
- E. *God reigns SUPREME over all things – Isa. 52v7 c.f. Rom. 10v15. Scripture extols God that He - God reigns Sovereignly Psalm 97v1-2*

YET – in response, Man despises God & seeks nothing of God’s goodness, but death.

*Having looked at who GOD is in relation to HIS PURE love, THEN! Who were the recipients of God’s Love?*

## 2. IN WHAT CONDITION WAS THE WORLD? (HIS PEOPLE)– v16b.

“...the World...” – v16

What is the World?

THE WORLD – There are at least ten different uses of the word “world” in the GOSPEL of JOHN. "WORLD" - John's Ten Uses of the Word by (Pastor John Samson – Reformation Theology Web-Page)

John uses the word “world” in ten different ways in his Gospel.

- 1. The Entire Universe - John 1:10; 1:3; 17:5
- 2. The Physical Earth - John 13:1; 16:33; 21:25
- 3. The World System - John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11 (see also similar usage in Gal 1:4 by Paul)
- 4. All humanity minus believers - John 7:7; 15:18
- 5. A Big Group but less than all people everywhere - John 12:19
- 6. The Elect Only - John 3:17
- 7. The Non-Elect Only - John 17:9
- 8. The Realm of Mankind - John 1:10; (this is very probably the best understanding of the word "world" in John 3:16 also)
- 9. Jews and Gentiles (not just Israel but many Gentiles too) - John 4:42
- 10. The General Public (as distinguished from a private group) are not those in small private groups - John 7:4

NOTE: The WORD “world” in the text is (*Grk kosmos*). However, the word World, is used in other places in the scriptures interchangeably between “aion AND Kosmos”

John in context is *NOT USING the Word –WORLD* referring to (*Grk – ‘aion’ – spiritual world*) – which refers to AGE or paradigm/ or time as can be seen in – c.f. II Cor. 4v4

The World in v16 of John 3, points to this *cosmic/physical habitable world*.

The word “World” is being used in the sense of...The fallen world and Hostile, wicked World

*Q. Was there anything that attracted God’s attention to love the world? – John 3:19 c.f. Gen 6:5-8 (context – vv1-4 man’s wickedness caught the attention of God)*

*Q. What was wrong with the world? – v16b*

- v19 “...men loved darkness rather than light...”
- v19 (the World’s deeds) – “... were evil...”
- vv18-20 – the world was under an *inescapable judgment* for hating the light

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS: Pic: Men Constituting the World:

- Universal Condemnation b/c Sin →( Rom. 1v18 – 32 & Rom. 3v10 – 19b c.f. Eph. 2v1ff –
- Paul gives a Reminder of The Levels Of Human Depravity – Rom. 3v10ff c.f. Eph. 2v1ff
- Paul’s Warning To Titus = (Practical Atheism) – Tit. 1v10 – 16  
Tit. 1:16Rebellious and empty talker, deceivers – Tit. 1v10 – intentionally upsetting those of the faith  
PS: Fallacy of Prosperity Gospel As An affront to God & His Nature
  - o II Pet. 2v1 – 21// Jude. 4 – 16 C.f. I Tim. 6v5
- Paul’s Warning To Timothy: II Tim. 3:1-7 (READ)

App.

The sad thing is that a radically man-centered view of love has permeated every level of Society, culture and our churches.

*It is sad and so frightening; dying believing you are alive; and have received God’s saving love, when in fact, you are dead*

Reminder of the ancient Noahic World AND its Sinfulness & God’s Response to Sin – Gen.6v5 & Abraham’s-Lot’s World Vs. Sodom & Gomorrah – Gen. 19; compare that with the new covenant response of God, in Christ, - John. 3v16, “*how did God respond to the decaying human condition?*”

Please; do join us next L/Day week, as we CONCLUDE with the GOOD NEWS of divine GRACE, as GOD responds in the most UNCOMMON, the most UNUSUAL YET glorious WAY for MAN’S REDEMPTION.... (yours and mine)

*BUT! watch out....lest you find yourself wanting.... Watch out before it’s too late...*

As we Closing; reflect on this Hymn:

*“Lord what love is this, that pays, so dearly. That I the guilty one, may go free!*

*(Amazing love, O what sacrifice; the Son of God, given for me; My debt He pays, and My death He dies; That I might live)*

*So, they watched Him die; despised and rejected, BUT O the Blood He shed, flowed for Me!*

*And now, this love of Christ shall flow like rivers, come wash your guilty away, Live again” [Graham Kendrick – 1989]*

Amen

Lets Pray...