

“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**

“FOR GOD”: Who is this God? This is **THE** only and **TRUE** God and ...

- A. He is the creator of the world – Ge. 1:1; Jn. 1:1-3
- B. He keeps it from falling apart – Ne. 9:6
- C. He preserves the faithful – Ps. 37:28; 2 Ti. 4:18
- D. He is a refuge in time of trouble – Ps. 57:1
- E. He is a refuge from the storm – Is. 25:4
- F. He hides us in the shadow of His hand – Is. 51:16
- G. He is a God of compassion – Ps. 78:38; 86:15
- H. He is a God of comfort – Is. 12:1; 2 Co. 1:13
- I. He is the God of conversion – Lu. 19:9; Ac. 8:37

“SO LOVED”: Ro. 5:8 “Commendeth” or exhibited. This same **TRUE** God had such great love for His creation that “...while we were yet sinners ...” that is, while we were in the very acts of doing sin.

“THE WORLD”: Human family; inhabitants of the earth, men. The “world” means NOT merely the plant and animal life, but we human beings and their eternal souls He created.

“THAT HE GAVE”: – so then, therefore, wherefore; “gave” - to give what is due or obligatory, to pay: such as in wages or reward. “wages” – Ro. 6:23 – such as soldiers pay or allowance, used in the sense (metaphor) as the hire or pay of sin. We, God’s creation, owed a debt we could not pay so He, God, paid on our behalf a debt He did not owe. We were spiritually bankrupt and there was no way possible we could make atonement for our sinful condition, and so God stepped in and came to our rescue with the ultimate, sacrificial gift on our behalf.

“HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON”: Jn. 4:10; Ro. 6:23; 2 Co. 9:15 “his” – of himself “only begotten son” – single of its kind; unique one of a kind. This “only begotten son” was none other than Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ **WAS NOT** a created being or some prophet, He was in eternity past, is now, and will always be God the Son. There is one God who is manifested in three persons, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. These are three separate deities and yet one and all co-equal in all aspects of being and eternal. Indeed, this is a mystery to our finite minds but still a biblical fact. Jesus Christ as God the Son left Heaven’s glory and took to Himself the body of a man so that He could pay our sin debt with His shed blood and death on the Cross of Calvary. Jesus Christ was sinless and perfect in every way; He **DID NOT** have a sin nature like you and I but was in all other aspects human like us. Mary, the person chosen to be the vessel through whom Jesus Christ would come into the human world, was a sinner, a virgin. It was this Mary that conceived by the Holy Spirit; she did not become with child as a result of a sexual relationship with Joseph and so the sin nature of the human race did not pass through her to the Christ child. It is for this reason that Jesus Christ, THE sinless perfect sacrifice, was qualified to bear our sins on Himself at the Cross of Calvary.

“THAT”: or in order that. Now then, you may ask, “Why would God do all of this for such a sinful and undeserving people?” The answer to this question lies in what you read a moment ago. God Almighty had then

and still does today, such a great love for His creation that He did not and still does not want to see anyone die in their sin and pass into a devil's hell and remain for all eternity.

“WHOSOEVER”: each, any, every, all, everyone. The “whosoever” means every living person has an open invitation. It does not matter how rich or poor, famous or obscure, educated or illiterate, whatever the status in life may be. It does not matter what the degree of sin may be. The “whosoever” means **ANYBODY**, including **YOU** dear reader.

“BELIEVETH”: to think to be true, to be persuaded of ...

This is used in the New Testament of the conviction and trust to which a man is impelled by a certain inner and higher prerogative and law of soul. It means to trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as able to aid either in obtaining or in doing something. It simply means to take God at His word alone.

“IN HIM”: meaning the person God's word Jesus Christ. It is not in some religious order or person but in Jesus Christ alone.

“SHOULD NOT”: cannot and will not for there is no way possible for it to happen.

“PERISH”: to be lost, ruined, destroyed. For the one who trusts Jesus Christ as personal Saviour, it is impossible for him to lose his salvation and go to a devil's hell. God said it and that settles it!

“BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE”: Not just a quality of life, but life eternal.

“have” – own, possess **“everlasting”** – without end, never to cease **“life”** – life real and genuine, a life active and vigorous, devoted to God. Blessed, in the portion even in this world of those who put their trust in Christ, but after the resurrection to be consummated by new accessions (among them a more perfect body), and to last forever. When this physical body dies, the eternal soul that has been redeemed and saved by the blood of Jesus Christ **IMMEDIATELY** goes to Heaven to be with Him for all eternity. This is God's promise to us!

“And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.” (1 John 5:11-13)

Well friend, I have just shared with you a little bit of what John 5:11-13 is about. Now then, as kindly as I know how, I must ask you this question, a question that you cannot avoid answering. Have **you** ever repented of **your** sin and sought God's forgiveness by faith alone; have **you** asked the Lord Jesus Christ to forgive **you** and to come into **your** heart and save **you**? Are **you absolutely** sure that if **you** were to die today or next year that **you** would be with Jesus Christ in Heaven? If your answer to either of these questions is no, then I would plead with **you**, for the sake of **your** eternal soul, to repent of **your** sin and ask the Lord Jesus Christ to come into **your** heart and save **you**. There is no magical prayer to pray with special words; it's a matter of repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. **You** can pray in **your** own words and admit to God that **you** are a sinner and that **you** want Him to save **you**.

As Christians, we do have a responsibility to live a life that brings honor and glory to our Saviour. That's why it's important to attend a good, fundamental Baptist Church where you can be taught the Word of God and grow spiritually and have Christian fellowship. It is also important to spend time in God's Word daily.

Friend, the final decision is now up to **YOU**. As the song writer wrote, "What will you do with Jesus, neutral you cannot be, for one day your soul will be asking, what will He do with me." "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." *Romans 12:1-2*

After receiving Christ as Saviour, you are encouraged to spend time in God's Word, the Bible - read it daily. Daily come to the Lord in prayer, and then seek out a good independent fundamental Baptist church. Attend it regularly so that you can be taught God's Word and grow spiritually.

~Richard A. Ciarrocca©2008