

Greatness of God's Love 2019-01-27

John 3:16-18

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

One of most well-known; it was the first verse translated. Luther: miniature gospel and a Bible in itself.

- But should not "stand alone" but must be referenced in context.
 - Explains why provision of eternal life, God's love John 3:14-16, Matthew 5:43-45

Object God's love: World= all sinful humans....not angels.

- Displayed in common grace extended to all equally, without distinction/exception
 - Greatness of God's love is that He loves/provides for all sinners/enemies who hate Him.....including Gentiles!

Extent of His love measured by greatness of gift given in response to that love.

- Money is no object...value of gift given reflects depth of love.
 - Immeasurable love cause gave His most priceless gift, His unique Son.

Greatness of God's love also seen in reason gave His Son. John 3:17-18, Matthew 13:41-42

- Would you give your life to save enemy from death due to committing crime against you?
 - Love motivated Father save world from His righteous wrath.

Not just forgive because God's great love is a holy love.

- To uphold His perfect holiness/justice God must judge all sin.
 - All deserve to perish because all have sinned.
- To overlook dark side is to miss full breath/depth of God's immeasurable love

Calvary: highest expression of God's eternal love. Romans 5:8, 3:23-26

- Cross only way uphold holiness/justice and at same time love/forgive sinners.

Salvation primary reason sent Jesus into world not judgment.

- In His great holy, just love, Father gave His Son, to bear penalty we deserve.
 - By believing in Jesus Christ, we escape "already" existing judgment and eternal condemnation and receive eternal life.
 - Pardoned, accepted, receive all benefits Jesus deserves.

No limits to offer of salvation: Universal (all, every degree of sinner).

- Understand like BB Warfield...."world" here word of intensity, not extension.
 - Not so big embraces all world, but rather so deep/significant it can love wicked people. Romans 10:16; 9:13, Ezekiel 18:32, MacArthur
- Greatness of God's love: He loves sinners/enemies who hate Him so much that he gave Son to save some, not all.
 - Jesus' death sufficient for all yet, Jesus died for only Christians.

- Greater love than His providential love....a special selecting covenant love for His own. Ephesians 1:4-5; 2:4-5, 3:17-19
- Trust gracious promise: Believe on My Son. I will forgive you.
 - If not you're ultimately rejecting God's love.

Greatness of God's Love for us is our pattern for loving others.

- Universal....toward all people, including "enemies".
- Unconditional....not earned by others performance toward us.
- Extravagant...always given lavishly to everyone.
- Sacrificial/giving...cost you something precious. Forgive, Time, money, reputation,
 - Called to be Bible-believing, Holy Spirit-filled, giving lives away for gospel. Romans 10:14, 2 Corinthians 5:18, John 17:18
- Unchanging.....Nothing done or ever will be done alters or stops it.

J. C. Ryle: "Nothing is so provoking and offensive to God as to refuse the glorious salvation He has provided at so mighty a cost, by the death of His only begotten Son.

John MacArthur in *The Love of God* "As humans, love and hate toward same person are not mutually exclusive: God in a real and sincere sense hates the wicked because of their sin; yet in a real and sincere sense He also has compassion, pity, patience, and true affection for them because of His own loving nature."