

Seven Great Themes From John 3:16

Jn 3:14-21

John 3:14-22 - "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the Light and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

Introduction:

- A. Probably the most loved and memorized text in the Bible is John 3:16. Young and old alike love it.
- B. While it is true that many people misuse this passage and use it to teach the doctrine of faith only, that should not keep us from teaching the rich truths that can be found in the passage.
- C. In this lesson we want to look at 7 reasons why this is one of the greatest texts in the Bible. This text is made up of superlatives and suggests the greatest theme ever known to man.

I. The Greatest Being - God

A. The very first words introduce the greatest being that we know anything about.

- 1. It says, "For God"
- 2. Gen. 1:1

Genesis 1:1 - In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

- 3. God is so great that we would have to be His equal in order to fully understand Him

B. God upholds all things by His word - Heb 1:3

Hebrews 1:3 - And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

C. God created all things and made man in His image - Gen 1:26-27

Genesis 1:26-27 - Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

D. There are two theories with reference to the origin of things

- 1. The modernistic theory that matter (not God) is the eternally-existent something and that blind forces of nature guided by no intelligence brought all things into existence by mere accident and chance - Psa. 14:1; Heb. 3:4

Psalms 14:1 - The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds; There is no one who does good.

Hebrews 3:4 - For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.

- 2. If there were no men, there would be no houses and no cities
- 3. If there is no God there would be no universe nor would there be any men

E. If we are to be pleasing to God, we must believe what is said in Heb. 11:6

Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

1. Two propositions
 - a. Believe that God is
 - b. Believe that He rewards those who diligently seek Him

II. *The Greatest Things - Love*

- A. It also mentions the greatest and most powerful thing in the world
- B. For God so loved He gave His only begotten Son
- C. There are three great things in this world - 1 Cor. 13:13

1 Corinthians 13:13 - But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.

- D. Definition of love - 1 Cor. 13:4-8

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 - Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not consider a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away.

- F. God loves the sinner; He hates the sin

III. *The Greatest Number - All Nations*

- A. Just as God is the greatest being known to man and love is the greatest thing in the world, the largest possible number of human beings to think about is involved in the word "world"
- B. God loves all men
 1. Some will try to limit that love to one race
 2. Some will try to limit that to the Church of Christ (body of Christ)
 3. But that is not what this verse is teaching
- C. Think of the billions that have lived from Adam until Christ comes again
 1. God loved, and still loves all men
 - a. He loved Adolph Hitler, Susan Smith, Jeffrey Dahmer, etc.
 - b. He loved Peter, Abraham, Noah, Paul
 2. This the golden text says, "God so loved..."
- D. God loves me and He loves you

IV. *The Greatest Gift - His Son*

- A. God has such great love for His creation that He gave the greatest gift of all ages
 1. The richest, finest gift of all time
 2. God did not give one Son among many sons, but His ONLY Son
 - a. Gave Him to die on the cross between two thieves
 - b. Did all that was right and proper for the salvation of mankind
 3. Rich have been known to give thousands, even millions of dollars to some good cause but God gave His ONLY Son
- B. 2 Cor. 9:15

2 Corinthians 9:15 - Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

- C. God is the greatest Being, love is the greatest thing, the world the greatest possible number, to be loved and blessed, and the gift of God's Son is the greatest gift that is possible to conceive of.

V. *The Greatest Faith - Belief/Trust In God*

- A. God wants man to have the greatest faith humanly possible
- B. We have faith in many things
 - 1. Children in their parents
 - a. Trust to provide all needs
 - b. Do not worry
 - 2. Husbands and wives believe in and trust each other implicitly
- C. The text says, "God so...that whoever believes in Him..."
 - 1. This means to believe in the virgin birth
 - 2. Before being baptized one confesses his faith in the Divine Sonship of Christ, trust Him to save them
 - 3. Knowing that you are saved

VI. *The Greatest Tragedy - Being Lost*

- A. A man is never ruined until he is eternally lost
 - 1. Illustrate with losing money, health, etc.
- B. The next thing to being lost is the sadness of burying a loved one who died in sin
- C. The Bible describes hell - Matt 25:41-46; 2 Thess 1:7-9

Matthew 25:41-46 - "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.' Then they themselves also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?' Then He will answer them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 - and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

- D. All God's love, the gift of His Son, and all else done by grace, was to save us from perishing
- E. Yes, the unbelieving and disobedient will perish

VII. *The Greatest Blessing - Eternal Life*

- A. The text says, "...everlasting life"
- B. What would you give to go to a place where there is no death, separations, pain, tears, etc.?
- C. Note these scriptures
 - 1. John 14:1-3

John 14:1-3 - "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also."

2. Rev 21:1-5

Revelation 21:1-5 - Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He *said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true."

3. 2 Tim 4:6-8

2 Timothy 4:6-8 - For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Conclusion:

- A. John 3:16 is perhaps the greatest verse in the Bible. Not because so many people have it memorized or because so many sermons and doctrines revolve around it. But because of what it really says.
- B. Hopefully, we all have a better understanding of how great it really is?