

GOD AS HE IS REVEALED IN JOHN 3:16

John 3:16

INTRODUCTION

- A. A study of Theology is the “study of God and God’s relation to the world.”
- B. To begin such a study one must analyze what God has revealed.
 - 1. General Revelation is when one examines the creation and intellectually knows that there is a God. RO 1:20.
 - 2. One cannot know the “nature” of God by a study of nature. For example: Is God one or many? Kind or cruel? Personal or impersonal?
- C. Special Revelation is when one appeals the revelation of God – the Scriptures – 2 TI 3:16, 17 – to find about the nature of God.
- D. Many passages give us information regarding the nature of God but today we will consider JN 3:16.

DISCUSSION

- I. JOHN 3:16 TELL US THAT GOD IS A GOD OF LOVE – “For God so loved...”
 - A. God is a God of love because He is love – 1 JN 4:8.
 - 1. Love is one of the infinite attributes of God.
 - a. God is infinite in power, wisdom, and love.
 - b. There has been love as long as there has been God. PS 90:2.
 - c. Love will live as long as God lives. There will always be love.
 - 2. Therefore, all love originates with God.
 - a. Love between husband and wife.
 - b. Between mother and child.
 - c. Between brethren in Christ.
 - B. God loves with a perfect and pure love which surpasses human love. “For God so loved.”
 - 1. Think about All the love shared between husbands and wives of the world who have ever lived.
 - 2. All the love each mother who has ever lived feels/has felt for her children.
 - 3. Think about the love expressed in each act of human kindness since the world began.
 - 4. Think about all the tears of love that have been shed in every funeral from the beginning of time.
 - 5. Add all of this together and multiply times infinity and the product is not comparable to the love of God feels for the vilest, reprobate sinner who ever lived. “So loved.”
 - C. God’s love is Unmerited, Unchanging, and Unending.
 - 1. Unmerited – you cannot earn it!
 - a. A young man may try to win a young lady’s heart.
 - b. There is nothing one can do to cause God to love him. DT 7:7-8 – He loved Israel, because He loves them!
 - 2. Unchanging – God will always love you!
 - a. A wife may stop loving her husband or vice cease; this shouldn’t be the case but it does happen.
 - b. But God’s love will never change toward Christians or non- Christian. JA1:17; ML 3:6.
 - 3. Unending – God’s love will last as long as God last – PS 90:2.
 - D. This God whose love is Unmerited, Unchanging, and Unending loves you – His love is personal! “For God so loved the world...”
- II. JOHN 3:16 TELL US THAT GOD IS A GIVING GOD – “that He gave His only begotten son...”
 - A. God gave a personal gift. “HE gave His...”
 - 1. I have a box full of screws and washers that I have accumulated over the years. You are welcome to what you need or even the whole box – that’s impersonal. But I have another box in my office which contains things I collected while in school – that’s personal.
 - 2. God gave a personal gift.

- B. God gave a perfect gift.
 - 1. The Passover lamb was to be without blemish; the best of the flock.
 - 2. Jesus is the Lamb of God – JN 1:29, was without blemish – 1 PE 1:18, 19.
 - 3. Pilate gives his assessment of Jesus – JN 18:389.
 - 4. God gave a perfect gift.
- C. God gave a precious gift.
 - 1. During a famine in Germany centuries ago, there was certain family which was about to die from starvation, the husband and wife decided to sell one of their children...later decided to stare than to part with one of their children.
 - 2. Jacob in GE 37:35 – “I will go down into my grave...” Yet he had many other sons
 - 3. But God gave the ONLY Son He had.
 - a. Would I give my son for my best friends?
 - b. God gave His Son for His worst enemies! Precious!
- D. God is a giving God who gave the unspeakable gift!
- III. JOHN 3:16 TELL US THAT GOD IS A GOD WHO WANTS ALL MEN TO BE SAVED – “that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish...”
 - A. Provision for salvation of all men – “Whosoever.”
 - 1. Whosoever means all that sinned.
 - a. RO 3:9, 10, 23.
 - b. All sinners are invited to come to Him for salvation. John Calvin said, “He has once for all determined, both whom He would admit to salvation, and whom He would condemn to destruction.” This is a mockery of JN 3:16; Cf. HE 2:9.
 - 2. Whosoever means “me” – you – personal!
 - a. Some say, “I’ve gone so far into sin, I can’t be saved.”
 - b. Christians who struggle may say, “Well, what’s the use? I am not very useful to the Lord, I might as well quit.”
 - c. GA 2:20 – He loved “me” – gave Himself for “me” – If I had been the only sinner, Jesus would have died just for me!
 - B. God has provided a plan of salvation – “...that whosoever believeth...”
 - 1. This does not mean faith alone – JA 2:26.
 - a. Some use this passage to teach that one does not have to be baptized to be saved. “I don’t see a drop of water in this verse,” some say.
 - b. If you read the entire context you will find it – JN 3:3-5.
 - c. There is no mention of repentance – LK 13:3, 5.
 - d. You can’t believe “in Jesus” without being “in Jesus” – GA 3:27. One cannot jump “in” water unless he is in the water. He can jump into the water.
 - 2. Belief stands for all that one must do to be save. JN 3:36; 1 PE 3:21.
 - C. God has offered promises. “...should not perish but have everlasting life.”
 - 1. In spite of all God has done for the world, many will perish. MT 7:13-14.
 - a. This is not what God wants – 2 PE 3:9.
 - b. They will suffer “everlasting punishment” – MT 25:46.
 - 2. Other will receive “life eternal” – MT 25:46. Song: Never Grow Old.

Conclusion

- A. God wants everyone to be saved, and that because He has invested so much – He is a giving God, and that because He is a God of love.
- B. JN 3:16 tells us so much about God.
- C. God wants the love He has shown man to be reciprocated. Have you shown that you love the love by obeying His Gospel?