

## John 3

### Part 4b

John 3:14-21

### Golden Text Of The Bible Everybody's Text

**John 3:16 "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.**

- This verse is frequently called “the Golden Text of the Bible” or “Everybody’s Text.”
- The conjunction “for” is used to explain the preceding statement found in verses 14-15 that imply the great love of God in sending and permitting His Son to die on the cross for sinful men.
- God is not a stern, angry, unforgiving God that must be pacified by the death of His Son, but He is a loving and gentle God.
- Salvation started in the mind of a loving God, and this great love led to giving His precious Son on the cross for the redemption of man.
- God did not make this sacrifice to satisfy His hunger for power nor to bring man to a life of slavery and unhappiness, but that man might have the abundant life with Him now and for eternity.
- The word “God” can refer to the Father, the Son or the Holy Spirit, but here it refers to the Father. (Eph. 1:3; Jn. 1:1; Acts 5:3,4).
- “so” is the adverb “houtos” [**hoo** tohs] expressing the intensity of God’s immense love for man.
- Christ’s love is not mentioned here, but it is elsewhere. (Jn. 15:13; Eph. 5:25).

John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,

1. God has demonstrated His love for man over and over again, but by far His greatest demonstration of His love was the giving of His precious Son to die on the cross.
  - a. Christ died in our place and suffered for us. (Isa. 53:4-6).

Is 53:4 Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted.

Is 53:5 But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being {fell} upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.

Is 53:6 All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.

- b. He died for us while we were yet sinners. (Rom. 5:8).

Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

- c. "World" is used here to mean "the world of humanity" - not the universe or the physical world or even the lower creation. "World" is a metonymy standing for its inhabitants and emphasizes the universal love of God.

- 1) God did not give His Son for the lower creation or even angels. (Heb. 2:16).

Heb 2:16 For assuredly He does not give help to angels, but He gives help to the descendant of Abraham.

- 2) Because of His great love He gave His Son for those made in His image. (Gen. 1:26,27).

- 3) God does not force men to be saved, but He wants all men to be saved. (Acts 10:34, 35; 1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9). God does manifest love toward all. (Matt. 5:45).

- 4) This verse is a powerful refutation of the doctrine of predestination - "that whoever believes in Him shall not perish." Literally "that everyone believing"

- 5) God does not arbitrarily choose those who will be saved or lost.

- 6) He saves the elect, but the elect are those who accept the gospel. (2 Thess. 2:13,14).

2 Thess 2:13 But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

2 Thess 2:14 It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- 7) The gospel is to be preached to "all" (Mk. 16:15; Matt. 28:19; Acts 1:8), but not "all" choose to accept it.

- 8) Some use Matthew 20:28 to teach the doctrine of predestination since Jesus said the Son of Man came "to give His life a ransom for many."

Matt 20:28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

- 9) "Many" is, however, an expression meaning "all." (Mk. 16:15; 1 Tim. 2:4, 6; Tit. 2:11; Heb. 2:9; Jn. 1:29; 2 Pet. 3:9).

- 10) Those who surrender their lives to Jesus will be saved.

2. Other scriptures speak of the great love God manifested in sending His Son to die on the cross. (Rom. 5:8; 1 Jn. 4:19 ).

- a. The sending of His Son to die for man was not an after-thought of God.

- b. God planned the salvation of men even before the world and men were created. (Eph. 1:4-5).

Eph 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love

Eph 1:5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

- c. Since God is both eternal and omniscient, God always loved those He would create in His image.

3. Here are some marvelous thoughts about God's love.

## God's Love

It is <b>not earned</b> , but is free to those who come to Christ. (Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 6:23).	It is <b>supremely sacrificial</b> . (Jn. 3:16; Rom. 5:8; 1 Jn. 2:2).
It <b>pre-existed</b> man. (Eph. 1:4-5).	It is <b>demanding</b> . (1 Jn. 2:3-5; 5:3; Jn. 14:15; Heb. 5:9).
It is <b>not partial</b> , but it is manifested to all. (Jn. 3:16; 1 Jn. 2:2; Acts 10:34-35; 2 Pet. 3:9; 1 Tim. 2:4).	It is <b>everlasting</b> . (Jere. 31:3).
It is <b>not fickle</b> or based on changeable human emotions.	It is <b>long-suffering</b> with man. (2 Pet. 3:9).
It is <b>forgiving</b> . (Isa. 1:18; Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Jn. 1:7,9).	It is <b>providing</b> . (Matt. 5:43-48; Jas. 1:17).
It is <b>protecting</b> . (Jas. 4:8; Rom. 8:31-39; 1 Cor. 10:13).	It has <b>limits</b> . (2 Thess. 1:8, 9; Matt. 25:41, 46).
It is <b>not irresistible</b> , but it is <b>compelling</b> .	It <b>disciplines</b> . (Heb. 12:5-6).

- a. God is the giver of life and all material blessings. (Acts 17:25; Jas. 1:17).
- b. God has given His Son. (Isa. 9:6).
- c. God's gift is indescribable. (2 Cor. 9:15). "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift."
- d. It is sad so many reject Christ - God's gift.
- e. This gift is free, but free does not mean man has no part in his salvation.
  - 1) Jericho was a gift to Israel. (Josh. 6:2).
  - 2) Though a gift God gave them instructions for taking the city.
  - 3) The gift was received, not earned, when they obeyed God's instructions. (Heb. 11:30).

Heb 11:30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days.

- 4) Failure to obey God's instructions would mean they would not conquer Jericho.

### "Only Begotten"

4. The words "only begotten" come from the Greek word "monogenes" [mah nah geh **nace**] meaning "one of a kind, unique."
  - a. The word is composed of two words "monos" [**mah** nahs] meaning "only, alone" and "genos" [**geh** nahs] meaning "race, stock, kind."
  - b. It is used of Christ five of the nine times it is used in the New Testament. (Jn. 1:14, 18; 3:16, 18; 1 Jn. 4:9).
- When used of others it is translated "only." (Lk. 7:12; 8:42; 9:38; Heb. 11:17).

### Widow's Son

Luke 7:12 Now as He approached the gate of the city, a dead man was being carried out, the **only** son of his mother,

and she was a widow; and a sizeable crowd from the city was with her.

### **Jairus' Daughter**

Luke 8:42 for he had an **only** daughter, about twelve years old, and she was dying. But as He went, the crowds were pressing against Him.

### **Healing of Son With An Evil Spirit**

Luke 9:38 And a man from the crowd shouted, saying, "Teacher, I beg You to look at my son, for he is my **only** {boy,}

### **Isaac**

Heb 11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his **only** begotten {son;}

- Isaac was not literally Abraham's only son (Heb. 11:17), but he was a one of a kind, unique son.
- Abraham had five other sons. (Gen. 16:15; Gen. 25:1,2).

Gen 16:15 So Hagar bore Abram a son; and Abram called the name of his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael.

Gen 25:1 Now Abraham took another wife, whose name was Keturah.

Gen 25:2 She bore to him Zimran and Jokshan and Medan and Midian and Ishbak and Shuah.

- c. Jesus is not God's only son.
- d. All humans are sons of God by creation. (Gen. 1:26,27).

Gen 1:26 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."

Gen 1:27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

- e. Christians born into the family of God by the new birth are sons of God. (Gal. 3:26, 27).

Gal 3:26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

Gal 3:27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

- f. Jesus is God's special, one of a kind, unique Son.
  - 1) Only Jesus is co-eternal with the Father. (Jn. 1:1-3; 1 Jn. 1:2).

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:2 He was in the beginning with God.

John 1:3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

1 John 1:2 and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you **the eternal life**, which was with the Father and was manifested [in the flesh] to us--

- 2) Only Jesus is Deity. (Matt. 1:23; Jn.1:14; 10:30; 14:9; Col. 1:15-18; 2:9; Phil. 2:5-8).

- 3) Only Jesus was qualified and willing to die for the sins of man.
- 4) He voluntarily gave His life as a “propitiation” for our sins. (Jn. 10:18; 1 Jn. 2:1-2' 4:10).
5. Jesus is the Son of God and was declared to be such by: (1) Isaiah (Isa. 9:6); the angels (Lk. 1:32); the Father (Matt. 3:17); Himself (Mk. 14:62); His disciples (Matt. 16:16); His enemies (Matt. 27:54) and was also declared to be God’s Son by His resurrection. (Rom. 1:4).
6. “Faith” is a synecdoche [a part for the whole] standing for the total human response to God’s grace.
  - a. It includes faith, self-denial, repentance, confession, baptism, following Christ all of one’s days.
  - b. The words “repentance” and “baptism” are sometimes used in the same way as a synecdoche. (Lk. 13:3; 1 Pet. 3:21).
    - 1) “Repentance” includes faith, self-denial, confession, baptism, walking in the newness of life.
    - 2) “Baptism” includes faith, self-denial, confession, walking in the newness of life.
7. “Shall not perish” does not mean annihilation [extinction], but refers to hell.
  - a. The Greek “apollumi” [ah **pahl** loo mee] refers to eternal misery in hell.
  - b. Those who believe in Christ will be saved, and not suffer eternal ruin, loss, misery.
  - c. Those who reject Him will not be annihilated, but will suffer eternal condemnation. (Matt. 25:46; 2 Thess. 1:7-9).
8. God’s love should motivate us to seek His grace by loving Him back. (1 Jn. 4:19).
9. Those who love God and His commandments will avoid “the second death,” that is, the lake of fire. (Rev. 2:11; 20:6,14; 21:8).
10. The “second death” is eternal separation from God in hell where there will be the weeping and gnashing of teeth. (Matt. 25:30).
11. It is eternal separation from God and eternal suffering in the devil’s hell. (Matt. 7:23; 25:41; 2 Thess. 1:9).

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