The World’s greatest Text

John 3:16

Introduction: John 3:16 is arguably the world’s greatest Bible verse. It is probably the most quoted and therefore the one verse most heard by the world. Does that mean it is the most understood by those who quote it or hear it? This week our look into John’s gospel brings us to John 3:16 and the title of my message today is “The World’s Greatest Text.” I arrived at that title not because of the popularity but because of the depth and breadth of the verse. I hope upon hearing this message you will a deeper understanding of this beautiful verse and your relationship with God through His Son Jesus Christ is closer and stronger.

Do you realize there are 10 words in this verse that are key to its understanding? Those words are: God, loved, word, gave, Son, whosever, believeth, perish, have, and life. We can say these words make up the “constellation of the redeemer” when we consider divine revelation a firmament of God’s eternal plan. We know God’s creative work is summed up in Genesis 1 and it is defined by God with 10 “And God Said.” The legislative work of God is summed up in Exodus 20 with His 10 Commandments. In John 3:16 we find the redemptive work of God with the 10 words I gave you a few moments ago.

Do you realize numbers are very important in the Bible, God uses them for very specific purposes? Bible scholars refer to the study of numbers and numerology. Do you realize the number 10 is the number of sufficiency according to Gods purpose in divine order and human responsibility? Most of us have 5 fingers on each hand representing our responsibility for divine work. Likewise we have 5 toes on each foot to represent our responsibility for a divine walk. I said earlier the 10 commandments were legislative, they simply provide to man a responsibility to God, and no man has ever met that responsibility. The sufficiency of Gods judgment on Egypt’s lack of responsibility was seen through 10 plagues. Noah was the 10th patriarch before the flood the Bible tells us “Noah was a just man, and perfect in his generation, and Noah walked with God” Noah was sufficient in the eyes of God.

ILL. Have you noticed the Gospel story exists in the names of the first 10 patriarchs mentioned in Genesis 5? Adam – man; Seth – appointed; Enos – subject to death; Cainan – sorrowful, lamenting; Mahalaleel – from the praise of God; Jared – one comes down; Enoch – learning obedience or trained; Methuslah – dying he shall send; Lamech – to the poor brought very low; Noah – rest. Now let’s read those meanings as a sentence and see the revealed gospel. Man, appointed, subject to death, sorrowful and lamenting; from the praise of God, One comes down (Christ) learning obedience of trained, dying, He shall send, to the poor brought very low, rest.

Within the words of John 3:16 we find the sufficiency of God and the responsibility of man. Look with me as I preach to you “The World’s Greatest Text” John 3:16. There are three things I want to concentrate on. First…

# God loves this poor lost world.

## From the creation of Adam (Gen. “and it was good”)

## Enough to provide redemption (a glimpse of His heart)

# God calls us to trust His Son.

Believeth is a term that is too loosely used today. Simply put it means “to have faith.”

Likewise the greatest sin someone can commit is to “not” believe. When someone came to D.L. Moody and said I cannot believe, Moody ask *Whom can’t you believe*? It is one thing to not believe man but entirely another to not believe God!

There is eternal life for those who believe, but for those who do not…

# God warns us of a consequence.

Salvation is the rescue of the perishing. Perish is a word that expresses the deepest terror.

As I conclude the message will our musicians come and prepare a hymn of invitation?

Conclusion: This message only scratches the surface of John 3:16 but I hope the scratch is deep enough to leave a godly scar on your soul. As I have said before the Bible is Gods inspired and infallible word, it is deep and broad reaching into our lives and this verse is no exception. I want to ask two question as we close this morning: First, knowing that Jesus is sufficient to redeem you sins have you been born again by accepting Him by grace through faith?... Second, knowing that you are responsible before God for you physical and spiritual decisions are you living as close to God as He calls you to be? The first question is for the lost sinner and the second question is for the saved sinner. If God is dealing with your heart as we sing will you come…