

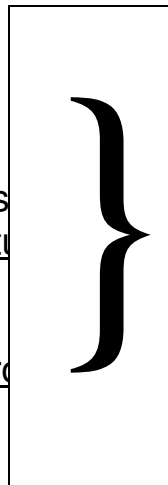
The Golden Text of the Bible

Lesson Text: **John 3:16**

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Old western expression: “There’s gold in them thar hills.”
1. Friends, “There’s gold in them thar Scriptures” . . . and men need to find it.
 2. One Scripture in particular has long been called the “Golden Text” of the Bible—**John 3:16**
 3. 25 powerful words are used to tell us: For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.
 4. An additional 23 powerful words continues the thought in **verse 17** - For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.
- B. One writer suggested that John 3:16 has been called the “golden text of the Bible” because in so few words the great theme of the Bible is expressed.
- C. Context of the passage.
1. Jesus is in Jerusalem . . . and it is night.
 2. He is in conversation with one who has come to Him, Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.
 3. In that conversation recorded in John 3:1-21, our lord makes a number of memorable statements. Among them:
 - a. . . . Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. **John 3:3**
 - b. Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. **John 3:5**
 - c. . . . You must be born again. **John 3:7**
 - d. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up. **John 3:14**
 4. As profound and memorable as these statements are, it’s the sixteenth verse in that conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus that surpasses all others both in familiarity and in the frequency of its being quoted.
 - a. Some have referred to it as the world’s best know Scripture.
 - b. The golden text of the Bible.
 5. It’s reference sure shows up on cameras at major sporting events all around our nation.
- D. **John 3:16** - For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. Herein we see

- **God** — The Greatest Giver
- **So loved** — The greatest degree
- **The World** — The Greatest Object
- **That He gave** — The Greatest Act
- **His only begotten Son**— The Greatest
- **That whoever** — The Greatest Opportunity
- **Believes** — The Greatest Simplicity
- **In Him** — The Greatest Attraction.
- **Should not perish** — The Greatest Proof
- **But** — The Greatest Difference
- **Have** — The Greatest Certainty
- **Eternal Life** — The Greatest Possession



**And
Friends,
YOU can
have it
ALL!**

D. Using verse and rhyme another has written:

- **God** — The Lord of earth and heaven,
- **So loved** — and longed to see forgiven,
- **The World** — in sin and pleasure mad,
- **That He gave** — the greatest gift He had,
- **His only begotten Son**— to take our place,
- **That whoever** — oh, what grace!
- **Believes** — placing simple trust,
- **In Him** — the righteous and the just,
- **Should not perish** — lost in sin
- **Have Eternal Life** — in Him

E. In this grand text, Jesus revealed God’s great love.

1. The **fact** — God so loved.
2. The **evidence** — God gave.
3. The **purpose** — to save.
4. The **proof** — God sent His only begotten Son
5. The **means** — through Him

“FOR GOD”

A. The very existence of God denies ATHEISM.

1. **Psalm 53:1** - The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."
2. **Hebrews 11:6** - . . . He (God) is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

B. John 3:16 denies atheism in asserting the existence of God.

C. Let’s make it personal:

1. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob can YOUR God as well.
2. The God of the Old Testament Israel . . . the Israelites . . . is the God of the New Testament Israel . . . the Church.
3. The God who loved David is the God who loves you.

4. The God who knew Abraham as “the friend of God” seeks you as His friend as well.
 5. The God who loved you enough to give His Son for you, wants you to be his son . . . his daughter as well.
 6. The God that many have denied . . . the God that many have defied . . . the God to Whom many have lied . . . is the God ready to stand by your side as your Heavenly father.
 7. The God who parted the Red Sea can part your sins from you through the blood of Jesus Christ his on.
- D. God is Great! “OMNI” is from the Latin meaning “ALL.”
1. God is great because He is **Omniscient** . . . **ALL KNOWING** - God knows everything
1 John 3:20 - God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.
 2. God is great because He is **Omnipresent** . . . **ALL PRESENT** - God is everywhere. **Jeremiah 23:23-34** - Am I a God near at hand," says the LORD, "And not a God afar off?
 Can anyone hide himself in secret places, So I shall not see him?" says the LORD; "Do I not fill heaven and earth?" says the LORD. May we add—Yes ,Lord and you are welcomed!
- E. In this grand text, Jesus revealed God’s great love.
1. The **fact** — God so loved.
 2. The **evidence** — God gave.
 3. The **purpose** — to save.
 4. The **proof** — God sent His only begotten Son
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“SO LOVED”

- A. The fact that” God so loves the world” denies FATALISM.. . the idea that God created the world then abandoned it to fate, thereby taking a “hand’ off’ approach to it.
1. God care for and provides for its needs. **Acts 14:17**- . . . He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.”
 2. **Acts 17:28** – “. . . For in Him we live and move and have our being.”
 3. John 3:16 denies fatalism.
- B. Not only did God love the world.. . He loved the WHOLE world.
1. The idea that God loves the whole world is a relatively new idea.
 2. The Jews believed that God only loved the religious (by them defined as the true Jew) and hated the non-religious (defined by them as the Gentiles.)

3. Some wonder and others question how God could possibly love the
- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| a. Vile person | g. Thief | J. The aids victim |
| b. Murderer | h. Alcoholic | k. The Jerry Dommers |
| c. Immoral person | i. Street person | l. Etc. |
| d. Wife beater | j. Oppressor | |
| e. Child abuser | k. Enslaver | |
| f. Prostitute | i. Bitter and vengeful | |
- C. The basis of God’s love is His nature . . . For God is love. (1 John 4:8)
1. 1 John 4:16 - And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.
 2. Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
 3. 1 John 4:9 - In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.
 4. 1 John 3:16 - By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us.
- D. “God so loved” is past tense . . . A proven fact . . . a clearly demonstrated fact.
1. The **HEIGHT** of it . . . “God loved.”
 2. The **DEPTH** of it — “So loved”
 3. The **LENGTH** of it — “God gave.”
 4. The **BREADTH** of it — “Whoever” **EVIDENCE OF GOD’S LOVE**
.“GOD GAVE”

“THE WORLD”

- A. The word gave is from the Greek word “edoken”
1. “Edoken” has a twofold meaning in the Golden Text of the Bible.
 - a. God gave His Son to the world.
 - b. God gave His Son to die for the world.
 2. The idea of great sacrifice and great cost is involved in both acts. God sent His one begotten Son to be separated from Him . . . allowing Jesus to leave His presence . . . to leave His majesty and glory on high . . .
- . . .
- a. To come into a world that was . . .

1. Fallen	4. Rebellious
2. Depraved	5. Revolting
3. Wicked	6. Apostate
 - b. Into a world that was full of . . .

1. Darkness	7. Selfishness
2. Hostility	8. Greed
3. Bitterness	9. Immorality
4. Wrath	10. Barriers
5. Anger	11. Sin

3. Not Confucius
3. Not Krishna
4. Not Zoroaster
5. Not Baha'u'lla
6. We **MUST** believe in and **OBEY** Jesus Christ

“SHOULD NOT PERISH.”

A. Perish” is from the Greek word “apoletai” which means:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. ”To be lost.” | 4. “To lose eternal life.” |
| 2. “To destroy utterly.” | 5. “To be spiritually destitute.” |
| 3. “To lose utterly.” | 6. “To be cut off.” |

B. Perishing means to be in a lost state in this world

1. Without forgiveness.
2. Without peace.
3. Without hope of eternal life.

C. Perishing means to be in a lost state, not only in this world, but in the world to come.

1. It means having to die.
2. It means having to face a judgment.
3. It means being condemned.
4. It means suffering separation form God and saved loved ones.
5. It means experiencing all that hell is with is fire, brimstone, darkness and indescribable pain.

“BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE”

A. Life without end in a wonderful place called Heaven . . . not is a horrible place called hell.

B. **1 John 2:17** – “And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”

CONCLUSION:

A. **John 3:17** - For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

B. Salvation is through Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ alone.

1. **Acts 4:12** - Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.
2. When I tell you that salvation is through Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ alone . . . I am telling you that:
 - a. Salvation is not through His earthly mother. When you are sick, you do not go to the doctors mother.
 - b. Salvation is not through some self-appointed savior who develops a cult following.

- c. Salvation is not through some man-made institution.
- d. Salvation is not through some religious-based commune.
- C. Salvation is through Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ alone.
 - 1. Bypass Christ and you will not find it.
 - 2. Bypass Christ and you cannot have it.
 - 3. Bypass Christ and you will be lost forever.
- D. **John 14:16** - I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
 - 1. If Christ is THE way, why spend time traveling SOME OTHER way.
 - 2. Christ is the answer . . . Christ is God’s Way for your life.
- E. Listen Friend . . . Insert your name: For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that believe in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.
NOTE: Insert my name first, then reread it again and pause for each to insert his name.
- F. Friends, I want your name there and God wants your name in the [Lamb’s Book of Life](#).
- G. Born one . . . die twice — Born twice . . . die once.
- H. Have you accepted what God has offered you . . . Salvation through His Son?
- I. **GOD’S PLAN FOR MAN’S SALVATION**
- J. God loves you . . . will you obey His Son . . . will you come to Him Now?