

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE

DATE: 10/30/2016 am

TEXT: John 3:16 - *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life”*

INTRODUCTION

We began a few weeks ago to look at the Great Text of the Bible

Verses like **Job 42:1-17** and Having More from God; then **Jeremiah 6:16** and the Old Paths, then **Psalms 139** and The Ever Abiding Presence of God

What I mean by the Great Texts is the Bible verses that we hear about or that are preached about often ...

... And have meant something to people over the years

This morning brings us to another one of those Great Text

One that I'm assured you are already familiar with

But one that we can take a fresh look at anyways

The phone rang the other day and I answered it

And after few seconds of silence, a voice on the other end of the line said - *“Please hold for an important message”*

Well, I did just what most of you do when you get one of those wonderful calls from a telemarketer - I hung up!

An Important Message – John 3:16

Of course, I never did find out what was so important

I am sure that it was one of any number of messages I get concerning things like ...

- The warranty on my 2011 Buick Regal, which I traded in over 6 years ago
- Or, maybe how this was my last chance to get in on a money savings new credit card! (At no doubt a 19% annual rate)
- Or maybe they were going to try and sell me a spectacular movie that even your dog wouldn't want to watch!

Oh well, I guess I will never know, will I?

It seems that everyone is trying to get our attention

Everyone wants us to lend them our ears while *they* fill us in on what *they* think, *they* want, or what *they* are doing

- The news media wants our ear
- The Politicians want our ear
- The Advertisers want our ear

But, most of their words, opinions and details we could live without, right?

However, there is One Person Who wants to tell you something that you really should take the time to listen to

An Important Message – John 3:16

In this passage, the Lord Jesus brings us an important message from God the Father

He tells us something we really need to listen to this morning

You can hang up if you want, but I would advise you to not to

The Lord has something to say to you, so please hold for...

“An Important Message From God”

That’s the thought I want to preach on for a while today!

Found in This Great Text of **John 3:16**

~~~Prayer~~~

First, God has an Important Message for us about ...

I. “LOVE”

“For God so Loved...”

You can talk to 100 different people, and get 100 different definitions of the meaning of Love

But first, I think we need to go to ...

A. The ‘Source’ of Love

The Source of something is where that something originates

An Important Message – John 3:16

“For God so Loved”

Contrary to popular belief; Love did not originate with man

I John 4:7, 8 – “Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God ...” “... for God is love”

Love is in the very Nature of God

-- Human love is biased and often impure as to its motives

-- Human love is selfish and is usually given out on the basis of what it can hope to receive in return!

God's Love is not like that at all!

His Love is always Pure, always Holy, always Seeking what is best for those He Loves

His Love is given freely without any desire for anything in return

God Loves, because He is Love!

His Love is Never Ending ...

Jeremiah 31:3 – “The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee”

-- His Love is Always Previous ...

An Important Message – John 3:16

I John 4:19 – “We love Him, because He first loved us”

His love is not only Previous ...

-- But also Precious ... and that ... beyond words!

It's good to know there is a Loving Creator

The ‘Source’ of Love

B. The ‘Scope’ of Love

The second thing we need to understand when it comes to understanding the Love of God is the Scope of God's Love

Scope speaks of *the size, dimension of something, the range covered by an activity, subject, or topic*

In our case it is “*the world*”

“*God so loved the world*” (Human inhabitants)

1. The Depth

The word “*so*” indicates how Deep God's Love is

It describes the Manner of His Love for fallen men

It's so Deep a Love that it motivated the Father to send His Son to die for the lost

This is an uncommon Love! This is God's Love!

2. The Object

“the world” is the Object of God's Great Love

By its very definition, this Love is no ordinary Love!

It is a special Love that seeks to give itself away on behalf of those Loved

Of course, this should not surprise us, after all, to Love is the very nature of God

Friend, regardless of the heartaches life may have brought your way, you need to know today that God Loves you!

No one is beyond the Scope of His Love!

-- The greatest thought to grip the human mind should be this ...

“Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so!”

-- The second greatest thought is this ...

There is nothing you can do to make Him stop Loving you

Romans 8:38, 39 – “For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,” “Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the Love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord”

So in **John 3:16** we see ...

The ‘Source’ of Love

The ‘Scope’ of Love

Then the 3rd element we need to understand when it comes to Understanding God’s Love is ...

C. The ‘Sacrifice’ of Love

The True Value of Love lies in what that Love is willing to give to those it Loves

What *Sacrifices* someone will make

Sacrifice means *giving up something of great value*

You see, God’s Love is not static or self-centered!

He doesn’t just Talk about His Love

His Love doesn’t just sit quietly by while men drop off into Hell!

His Love prompted Him to do something for the men He Loves!

Humor: Many love like the man who called his girlfriend and said, “*Darling, I love you! I would cross the burning sands for you! I would fight a jungle full of lions for you! I would brave anything just to be with you because I love you! And, if it doesn’t rain tonight, I’ll be over to see you!*”

God’s Love is seen in the Gracious Gift of His Son Jesus on the cross

An Important Message – John 3:16

The death of Jesus Christ for sinners is the greatest, most visible and the absolute demonstration of God's Love for humanity

Romans 5:8 – “But God commendeth (showed earnestly) His Love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us”

John 15:13 – “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends”

I John 4:9, 10 – “In this was manifested the Love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him” “Herein is Love, not that we loved God, but that He Loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation (His Favor) for our sins”

Isaiah 53:6 – “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all”

I Peter 3:18 – “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:”

I John 3:16 – “Hereby perceive we the Love of God, because He laid down His life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren”

We don't have to look any farther than the bloody cross of Calvary to see the extent of God's Love for us!

“LOVE”

An Important Message – John 3:16

Secondly, God has an Important Message for us about...

II. “LIFE”

True Life is much more than just mere existents

In **John 10:10**, Jesus said - ***“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly”***

Unlike a thief, the Lord Jesus did not come for selfish reasons

He came to give, not to get

He came that people may have Real Life in Him

Life that is Meaningful, Purposeful, Joyful, and Eternal

We receive this abundant life the moment we accept Him as our Saviour

“God so Loved the world that He Gave....”

A. The ‘Worth’ of Life

God was not Content to see man stay lost in sin

He was not Content to watch humanity die ...

... And march off into endless torment

Therefore, God declared man worthy of His Love!

What Grace! / What Love!

Friend, I'm Not talking about people who are friendly to God!

No! Not by any stretch of the imagination

The Bible declares the lost man to be God's enemy

Romans 8:7 – “Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be”

In spite of man's sinful condition, in spite of the fact that natural man hates God and opposes all God stands for

God still sees the value in human life!

The value the world attaches to life is seen in the performing of abortion, euthanasia and the murder of one-an-other

People around you may question your Worth,

But God declares you to be Worth His Son!

The ‘Worth’ of Life

B. The ‘Worry’ of Life

God mentions in **John 3:16** the ultimate Worry of Life

He uses the word “*perish*”

An Important Message – John 3:16

This word means *to be destroyed, to give over to the misery of hell*

There is a Worry greater than cancer, greater than losing a child in death, greater than losing a mate

The most horrible thing that can happen to anyone is for them to live their entire life without a relationship with the Lord and then die and go to Hell!

Nothing in this world, or eternity beyond, can compare with dying without Jesus Christ! Why?

Because of what the Bible says happens to those who die without Him (They **“Perish”**)

Psalm 9:17 – “The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God”

II Thessalonians 1:8, 9 – “In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:” “Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power”

There is no thought more horrible than the thought of going to Hell, forever, with no hope of release or of reprieve

Yet, that has been / and will be the fate of countless billions!

Even religious people will be in Hell

Matthew 7:21-23 – “Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven” “Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? and in Thy name have cast out devils? and in Thy name done many wonderful works?” “And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity”

Is it possible that you might be in that number?

The ‘Worth’ of Life

The ‘Worry’ of Life

C. The ‘Wonder’ of Life

Not everyone will experience the flames of Hell!

Those who have believed on the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ will enjoy **“*everlasting life*”**

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life”

I John 5:12 – “He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life”

You may die physically, but not spiritually

And it’s in that sense we are made in the image of God

Man was made to live eternally

An Important Message – John 3:16

John 11:25, 26 – “Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:” “And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?”

Death may claim our bodies, but the spirits of the redeemed will live on with Jesus in Heaven

II Corinthians 5:1, 2 – “For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens” “For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:”

Philippians 1:23 – “For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:”

The difference between the saved man and the lost man lies in one word - Jesus (The only begotten Son)

Do you know Him?

If you do, then you know all about the life I am trying to describe

Because the moment you were saved, you became a partaker of His Perfect Righteousness and His Eternal Life

II Corinthians 5:17 – “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new”

An Important Message – John 3:16

If you are saved, you know what He did for you and you know whether or not He lives within!

If you are not saved, you are not certain of the reality of having Forgiveness and Eternal life

I suggest you get that settled

Lastly, God has an Important Message for us about ...

III. “LIABILITY”

A Liability is a Disadvantage

It is something that holds somebody back or causes trouble

The Truth this morning is that the unbeliever has a Liability

Let's look at it in light of **John 3:16**

A. There is a ‘Precise’ Liability

Jesus says here that the difference between the saved man who enjoys everlasting life and the lost man who perishes, all comes down to the idea of *Believing*

“that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish”

Believing accepts something as true, it gives mental accent to The Truth

Here is God's Plan of salvation in its simplest form

An Important Message – John 3:16

I think of the Philippian Jailor ...

Acts 16:30, 31 – “And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” “And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house”

Romans 10:9, 10 – “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved” “For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation”

Ephesians 2:8, 9 – “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:” “Not of works, lest any man should boast”

This assumes that you understand some things first

Like, that you are a sinner and your sin is an offence to a Holy God

And that because of your sin you deserve to die and go to Hell

And that the only way to Eternal life is thru the Cross

Which, by-the-way, is an offering of Grace and Mercy

Jesus paid our sin debt

Everyone in this room is trusting in something or someone this morning!

Only a fool wants to go to Hell

Therefore, I believe that each person in this room has some hope of heaven, something that they believe in!

But ... is that Hope Rightly placed?

You see, the saved man has trusted Jesus Christ, His finished work on the cross and His resurrection from the dead as his only hope of salvation

The lost man has not trusted Jesus

Again I cite **I John 5:12** ...

Many people trust many things, like their good works, their religion, their church membership, etc,

But in that, they are Not trusting the One and only Person Who can save the soul!

There is a 'Precise' Liability

B. There is a 'Personal' Liability

The truth of the matter is this - if you go to Hell, you'll go on your own, never trusting Jesus Christ as your Saviour!

-- It won't be God's fault

-- It won't be the church's fault

-- It won't be your family's fault

An Important Message – John 3:16

If you die without Jesus, you will have no one to blame but yourself!

Friend, you parents cannot make this decision for you!

Your spouse cannot decide this for you!

Your friends cannot do it for you

No one in this room can do it!

If you want to be saved and go to Heaven when you leave this world, ... this is a decision you must make personally

If you leave this world without Jesus, one day, you will stand before God and be judged for your sins

Sins, by the way, Jesus paid for on the Cross

You will be sent away into the lake of fire to be tormented there forever

There are No Second Chances!

On that day, you will have no one to blame but yourself!

There will be no one to point your finger at

The blame will rest squarely on your own shoulders!

INVITATION

God is on the line waiting for you this morning

An Important Message – John 3:16

He is holding, waiting for your response to His message

What will you do?

Friend, are you really saved?

Have you truly, genuinely trusted Jesus as your personal Saviour?

Have you been born again by the grace of God?

If you haven't and you know you need to, then you can do that today!

If you are saved, maybe you should go into His presence and thank Him for the time He rang your number and changed your life!

I'm praising His Name that I didn't hang up the day He called me!

How about you?

GOD'S "LOVE"

GOD'S "LIFE"

YOUR "LIABILITY"

An Important Message – John 3:16
