

John 3:16 - Week 1, Daily Devotions

☐ **Monday - God's Love of Beneficence (Common Grace).** John 3:16
God extends incredible earthly blessings (common grace) to mankind (Psa. 145:9), and it comes in the form of many earthly treasures and pleasures (Lk. 16:19-31). What is extraordinary is that God extends His common grace to all, regardless of their acceptance or rejection of Jesus Christ, for it says, "He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous." By way of application, God commands His people, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven" (Mt. 5:44-45).
Read Psalm 145:9, 16; Acts 14:16-18, 17:28

☐ **Tuesday - The Love of Beneficence from God's People.** John 3:16
As Christians we show that we are children of our heavenly Father by loving the world with a love of beneficence (common grace) in several ways: "love your neighbor as yourself" (Rom. 13:8); "love your enemies" (Mt. 5:44); "pray for those who persecute you" (Mt. 5:44); "do good to those who hate you" (Lk. 6:27); "bless those who curse you" (Rom. 12:14).
Read and meditate on the preceding verses

☐ **Wednesday - God's Discriminating Love.** John 3:16
God's "common grace" is extended to all mankind, even the atheist, and it can be exceedingly generous and at times extravagant. Yet there is a deeper, covenantal love (Hebrew: *khesed*) which God has exclusively toward His people. But is it wrong that God's love should discriminate? No. A Christian husband is commanded to love everyone, even his enemies (Matt. 5:44), and at the same time, he must love his wife with a special love that he does not have for anyone else (Eph. 5:25). So also, Christ intimately loves His bride, the Church, with a special covenantal love. The unbeliever has cut himself off from this kind of love (Isa. 59:2); conversely, the Christian cannot be separated from it (Rom. 8:35-39).
Read Romans 8:38-39

☐ **Thursday - The Dimensions of God's Love.** John 3:16
How great is God's covenantal love for His people? "For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him" (Psa. 103:11). God made the universe inconceivably big, so that He might have a suitable metaphor to compare His covenant lovingkindness toward His people. And what is the duration of God's covenantal love for His people? Scripture declares, "The lovingkindness of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him (Psa. 103:17). But again, notice this love is only toward those who fear Him. That is the condition: fear of the Lord that produces faith in Jesus Christ. God's eternal plan for His people is that "because of His great love with which He loved us ... in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 2:4-7). Dear Christian, revel in this: there is One who loves you with a love that is infinite both in magnitude and duration. "O the deep, deep love of Jesus, vast unmeasured, boundless, free; rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me" (Hymn). Read Psalm 103:11, 17

☐ **Friday - God is Love & God is Holy.** John 3:16
The Bible declares, "God is love" (1 John 4:8, 16), meaning love is an intrinsic attribute of God. Love is not just something God expresses, but the essence of who God is. So we might be inclined to think that God loves everything, but that would be a wrong conclusion. Remember, at the same time that God is love, He is also holy. And so, His love is a holy love. There are things that God does not love. In fact, there are things that the Lord hates (cf. Prov. 6:16-19). God loves righteousness and hates wickedness (Psa. 45:7). Let His people do likewise.
Read Psalm 97:10