

## John 3:16 - Part 3, Daily Devotions

### ☐ Monday - The General Call of the Gospel.

John 3:16

In one of the most beloved and well known verses in the Bible, Jesus proclaims, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). This is the *general call* of the Gospel and it is a genuine offer of salvation to "whosoever" will believe in Christ. Though the general call of the Gospel, by itself, is not enough to save anyone, neither can anyone be saved without first hearing the Gospel. "How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who announces peace and brings good news of happiness, who announces salvation" (Isa. 52:7).

Read Daniel 12:3

### ☐ Tuesday - The Fallen Nature of Man.

John 3:16

The unbeliever may hear the Gospel preached but not respond, because his heart is spiritually dead (Eph. 2:1) and he is a slave of his own sinful appetites (Jn. 8:34). In this lost condition, no one seeks for God (Rom. 3:11). Our best presentations of the Gospel cannot save anyone, until God regenerates that spiritually dead heart to receive it. So then, Christian, *pray* for your lost loved ones and neighbors that God will regenerate their hearts (Titus. 3:5), grant repentance (Acts 11:18, 2 Tim. 2:25), and give them faith to believe (Eph. 2:8). Read Jeremiah 17:9, Romans 8:5-8

### ☐ Wednesday - The Effectual Call of God.

John 3:16

"The preaching of the gospel represents the *outward call* of God. ... but people will not respond to the outward call unless it is accompanied by the effectual *inward call* of the Holy Spirit" (Sproul). Jesus said, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:44). The true church is made up of those who have responded to the inward call of God. In the New Testament, the Greek word that is translated "church" is *ekklesia*, which literally means "called out". The true people of God are those who have been *called out* of darkness into His marvellous light (1 Pet. 2:9).

Read John 8:30, Ephesians 5:8

### ☐ Thursday - Are You a Full-Time Christian?

John 3:16

We often think of "full-time ministry" as a title that is reserved for pastors and missionaries, but the truth is that if you are a full-time Christian, then you are in full-time ministry – and there is no other kind of (true) Christian than a full-time Christian. You might work 40 hours a week at a secular job, but you are a Christian 168 hours a week. And the full-time Christian's job (ministry) is to know Christ and to *make Him known* (that's the general call of the Gospel). So, fulfill your calling, Christian, and share the truth about Jesus Christ to a lost family member, friend, neighbor, or co-worker today. Read 2 Corinthians 5:18, 20; 2 Timothy 2:15, 1 Peter 3:15, Matthew 5:14-16

### ☐ Friday - What Does it Mean to Believe?.

John 3:16

According to a recent survey, approximately 67% of the people in the United States, that's two-thirds of Americans, identify themselves as Christians. If that were true this country would be a very different place. Jesus said that on Judgement Day, "Many will say to Me, 'Lord, Lord!' ... but I will declare to them, 'Depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness, I never knew you'" (Matt. 7:22-23). They call themselves "Christians" but they are not, and they call Jesus "Lord" but He is not; that is, Jesus is not Lord of their lives. The Bible says, "You believe in one God. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder" (James 2:19). Demons believe in God, but intellectual knowledge alone is not enough. The demon's "belief" lacks obedience, trust and submission to God. What about you, friend? Is Jesus the Lord of your life? And by your association with Him are you becoming more Christ-like? Is there Christian fruit in your life? (Gal. 5:22). Perhaps a little introspection and conversation with God is warranted. Read 2 Corinthians 13:5, James 2:26