

## For God So Loved The World

**Text:** John 3:16-17

**Context** - A religious Pharisee named Nicodemus had observed that Jesus was sent from God. Nicodemus approached Jesus with many questions. Jesus spends the entire chapter discussing how someone can receive salvation.

### As you celebrate Christmas...

#### 1. \_\_\_\_\_ **God's love (vs. 16a)**

- A. God so loved the world was an astounding statement in that context because the OT and other Jewish writings had spoken only of God's love for his people Israel. God's love for "the world" made it possible for "whoever" (v. 15) believes in Christ, not Jews alone, to have eternal life. (ESV Study Bible)
- B. His love for the world is remarkable not because the world is so big but because the world is so bad. We did not deserve his love. We did not earn it. We were rebels against God, yet God still gave us the gift of his Son (Rom 5:8). (Matt Carter)

#### 2. \_\_\_\_\_ **on Jesus (vs. 16b)**

- A. To "believe" is more than intellectual agreement that Jesus is God. It means to put our trust and confidence in him that he alone can save us. It is to put Christ in charge of our present plans and eternal destiny. (Life Application Bible)
- B. For if you have been converted and placed all your trust in Christ the Son of God, who suffered for you and made satisfaction for your sins, reconciling you to God, you will be saved. (Heinrich Bullinger, Swiss reformer, written in 1565)

#### 3. \_\_\_\_\_ **the warning (vs. 16c)**

- A. From the words. "Shall not perish," comes the warning of eternal separation from God by our sins. John 3:36 further warns that for those who do not obey Christ, "the wrath of God abides on them."
- B. But let us remember that there are two advents of Christ, one past, the other to come. The first was not to judge but to pardon us. The second will be not to pardon but to judge us. John Chrysostom (Written in AD 398)