

"Inheriting the Promises!" 2021 Summer Series at the Village Church

#1- "The Greatest Gift God Has Ever Given!" John 3: 16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life!"

Introduction: IL- A church house in a certain rural district was sadly in need of repairs. The official board had called a meeting of the parishioners to see what could be done toward raising the necessary funds. One of the wealthiest and stingiest of the adherents of that church arose and said that he would give five dollars, and sat down. Just then a bit of plastering fell from the ceiling and hit him squarely upon the head. Whereupon he jumped up, looked confused and said: "I—er—I meant I'll give fifty dollars!" then again resumed his seat. After a brief silence a voice in the back was heard to say: "O Lord, hit 'im again!"

My prayer over the past week has been that God would "hit" us again or for the first time with this powerful verse- the most well known verse in our Bibles. I want to demonstrate that *Every person can have eternal life because of four simple truths...*

1. **God is love-** "so loved..." SO- Smallest word to describe the marvel of God's love! It literally means "in such a way." It is a love letter from God written in blood! **IL-** Martin Luther called it the 'miniature Gospel'! Deuteronomy 7: 7 and 8- "It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set His love upon you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all people, but it is because the Lord loves you!" Here is John 3: 16 in the Amplified Bible- "For God so greatly loved and dearly prized the world, that He even gave His One and only begotten Son, so that whoever believes and trusts in Him as Savior shall not perish, but have eternal life." No one could love everyone except God!

2. **God desires relationship-** "the world..." 'The world' refers to the people on it, not the material world or Satan's system that promotes evil in every way. 1 John 4: 7 and 8- "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God because GOD IS LOVE!" Far too many people think they are right with God and they try their hardest to show love to a neighbor, hoping that their good works will count when they stand before God some day. But the Gospel is clear that good works do not save- that is what Paul calls in Galatians 1: 8 and 9- "another gospel which is not the Gospel at all!" Think of it- questions abound with this "other" gospel- how much do I need to do? How long do I need to perform these works? What if someone else beats me out of my place with greater output of works? As awesome as this verse is, memorizing it to recite it flawlessly won't save us from sin! Romans 5:8 tells us- "But God demonstrated His love for us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ dies for us!" God loves the sinner- not the sin!

3. **God did it-** "He gave..." **IL-** VBS little boy- "His only *forgotten* Son"! He gave His Son to take our place in dying on the cross because of our sins! In reality, I should have been crucified! **IL-** Spurgeon- " While Jehovah loves the world, yet He loves you as much as if there were nobody

else in the world to love! " A sinner may go to Hell unsaved but not unloved! Man's ruin is entirely his doing, salvation is entirely God's!

4. **God invites everyone-** "whoever believes..." Luke 18: 10 to 13- "Two men went into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing afar off, would not even lift up his eyes to Heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified!" There is nothing in me to attract God to love me, rather there is much to repel Him from me! This verse is a clear promise, not a mistake in the text! I can put my name in that space where it uses the word, "whoever". **IL-** William Chandler Bagley, educator who died in 1946; William Grant Bagley- historian who has written many books about Utah's history; William Bagley- real estate agent in Atlanta. "Whosoever meaneth me!" John uses the words "believe" over 100 times in this book! **IL-** Walk into church and stand in the back or, if you trust the chair, sit! Eternal life doesn't begin when you die- it starts when you believe!

Conclusion: God, the greatest Giver made the greatest sacrifice to offer the greatest gift and confirm it with the greatest promise for you and me to claim! I know what that means for me! What does it mean to YOU that God loves you that much that He would give His only Son to die on a cross and rise again to offer you that greatest gift the world has ever known? Have you accepted God's gracious invitation to an eternal relationship with Him? John 1: 12- "But as many as received Him to them He gave the right to become the children of God!"

Communion

Closing Song- "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus!"