



3D Guide

DO.

BOTTOM LINE: Believe in and live out the mission of God's profound love.



DIG DEEPER.

1. What does this study reveal to you about God?
 2. What does this study reveal to you about yourself?
 3. Based on this, what changes do you need to make?
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4. What is your prayer for today?



DISCUSS.

1. How would you explain the concept of being "born again" in your own words?
 2. Reflect on the significance of John 3:16. What does this verse reveal about God's character and His desire for humanity?
 3. Jesus came not to condemn the world, but to save it. How can we embody this mission of salvation in our interactions with others?
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Anytime you read God's word you have to put things into perspective. You also have to realize that the terms, not words, have meanings. As a group re-read the scriptures that were studied. Try a the Amplified Version and compare that to the NJKV, NIV, ESV, or NASB. Pick a few words and have a group member look that word up on blueletterbible.com or with their app.





Title: Coffee Mug Christianity: Believe in the Mission

Scripture: John 3:16

Date: 08/20/2023

Bible Version: NKJV

BOTTOM LINE: Believe in and live out the mission of God's profound love.

What's the Mission of God?

*For **God** so loved the world that He gave His **only** begotten **Son**, that whoever believes in Him should not **perish** but have **everlasting life**.*

- In one verse of 25 words, Jesus explained the essence of his mission. No other verse better summarizes God's relationship with humanity and the way of salvation. It has been called the GOSPEL in a nutshell.
- When we misunderstand the context and meaning of this popular verse, we miss the fullness of the good news found in Jesus.
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New Birth

Vs. 1-8

1 There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

- Nicodemus was one of the Pharisees - the most strict, conservative, and traditional Jewish sect of those times.
- He was both impressed and curious about Jesus and came by night with spiritual questions.
- The words born again in the Greek language (*gennaō anōthen*) literally means to be born from above, a spiritual rebirth.
- No one who is relying on his or her own merit, or Jewish heritage, can see the kingdom of God.
- There is only one kind of Christian, a born again one. It's through the life changing, transformative power of the work of Christ, that we receive this new birth, this new life in him.

This possibility of conversion, regeneration, opens a new and astonishing possibility to men – that men need not remain as we are; that we can have a new birth in this birth, another chance when we have muffed this business of living; ... a new blood transfusion from the Son of God.

—E. Stanley Jones

The Son Lifted up as a Serpent

Vs. 9-15

9 Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?"

10 Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things? 11 Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness. 12 If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? 13 No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. 14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

- Jesus made a remarkable statement, explaining that the serpent of Numbers 21:4-9 was a picture of the Messiah and His work.
- In Numbers 21:4-9, the dying Israelites looked upon the lifted up snake and lived. In the same way, salvation happens when we look to Jesus, believing he will save us.

Love in Action

Vs. 16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

1. The scope of God's love - the world.

- God's love extends to all people everywhere in the world.
- This offer is made to whoever believes.

2. The demonstration of God's love - he gave his Son.

- God so loved - he gave, not wished or hoped, but put love in action by giving his one and only Son.
- God's actions defined his sacrificial love (*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* Romans 5:8)
- The word we translate "so" (in context "so loved") is the Greek word *hoytō* which does not mean loved "greatly" or loved "to this amount," as we typically think of the verse, but instead means "*thus,*" "*even so,*" "*in this way.*" This is the way God loves - he gave his Son.

3. The benefit of God's love - our salvation.

- Jesus accepted our punishment and paid the price for our sin so that we would not perish.
- Perish is to be eternally apart from God.
- To "believe" is more than intellectual agreement that Jesus is God, it means to rely on and trust in.
- Who fully realizes the benefit of God's love - only those who receive it - it's the gift of salvation and it brings everlasting life with God.

Living in the Light of God's Love

Vs. 17-21

17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

- Jesus came on a rescue mission, to restore, and redeem that which was lost.
- He came to bring salvation, but those who reject that salvation condemn themselves.
- God's love empowers us to love others and walk in the light.
- God has not come to condemn us, but to invite us to life in him. This is how he loves us, and how he invites us to love the world with him.

There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, "Thy will be done," and those to whom God says, in the end, "Thy will be done." All that are in Hell, choose it. Without that self-choice there could be no Hell. No soul that seriously and constantly desires joy will ever miss it. Those who seek find. Those who knock it is opened. C.S. Lewis