

John 3:16

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

John 3:16 is one of the best known verses of the bible. At sports events on TV we see someone holding up a sign that says "John 3:16." Others may mock it and have one that says someone's name and 3:16. I wonder if they have any thought of what the verse really means.

Look at it carefully. **John 3:16**. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." **For God**. This statement and all of the promise contained within it comes from God. Man didn't seek God - it was the Lord's plan and effort that man has a means of salvation. All of the goodness, blessings, and hope that we have comes to us from God. He made the way for us, man didn't do it, our God did.

So loved. The greatest love that there could ever be comes from God. We are his creation, made to have fellowship with him. When sin came in and separated us from him he loved us enough to make a way to restore that fellowship with him. If he had not loved us we would be lost

and without any hope. Thank God that he loved, and still loves, us.

The world. This means mankind, all around the world, past, present, and future, all in need of salvation. This is the creation of God and all separated from God by the sin brought into the world by Adam and Eve. The devil caused this division between God and man, but thank God that his love for us was greater than our sin.

That he gave. He gave to us, to the world. We are to be the receivers of God's grace. Man could do nothing to save himself. Works could not help, nor could money, earthly power and position. Man was, and is, helpless to save himself. God gave to the world out of his love, mercy, and grace to us.

His only begotten Son. Jesus is the son of God, born of a virgin - God in the body of flesh. God and man, walking among men to show and teach the way of holiness and truth. Our guide to heaven and our example to follow.

That whosoever. Whosoever means that you and I can come to the Lord. We don't have to be Jewish to receive God's love. People of any race, or color, can and will be in heaven as we read in the book of Revelation. We don't have to be able to do great works, just be able and

willing to believe and trust God and his son, Jesus.

Believeth in him. The plan of salvation is simple. Believe in God - that's it. To believe in him is to do what he says. If we believe, and obey, we will believe, repent, confess, and be baptized for the remission of sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Matthew 28:19.

Should not perish. Notice the words should not. If everyone would believe and obey it could say will not, but many refuse God's invitation and will be lost. Those who believe and obey will not perish. It is up to the individual to accept Jesus and be saved.

But have. To have is to possess and God grants us "to have" a relationship with him. It is certain, not a maybe, but he says we can have, or possess, the gift of God.. This is God's gift to us and what he gives, we can have.

Everlasting life. What a wonderful promise from God! Everlasting life and not just life, but life in heaven with him. A life without the temptations, and trials of this life. No sickness, pain, or death, just a life of joy and peace with our Lord. This is promised and we have it because God loves us and gave his son Jesus to deliver us from sin. Praise the Lord!

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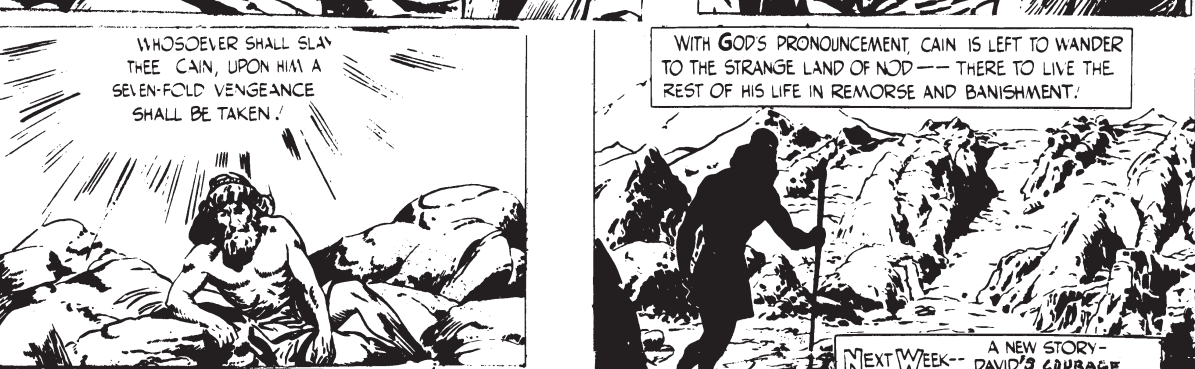
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SEIZED BY JEALOUSY AND ANGER, CAIN KILLS HIS BROTHER ABEL AND THEN RUNS AWAY... BUT HE CANNOT RUN AWAY FROM GOD--WHO CALLS TO CAIN AS HE FLEES....



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