

# ***Bible Study***

## ***Gods Word in Focus***



**Week Seven**

**Gospel of John**

**3:16-36**

# "For God so loved the world that he gave us His only begotten Son" 3:16-21

True love doesn't count the cost; it gives liberally. A true lover gives the best he has to offer and everything he has for the beloved. God *proved* his love for us by giving us the best he had to offer -- his only begotten Son who freely gave himself as an offering to God for our sake and as the atoning sacrifice for our sin and the sin of the world.

Abraham's willing sacrifice of his only son, Isaac prefigures the perfect offering and sacrifice of God's beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

This passage in the gospel of John tells us of the great breadth and width of God's love. Not an excluding love for just a few or for a single nation, but a redemptive love that embraces the whole world, and a personal love for each and every individual whom God has created.

God is a loving Father who cannot rest until his wandering children have returned home to him

# **"This joy of mine is fulfilled"**

## **3:22-30**

When the associates of John the Baptist complain that all are now going to Jesus, John in his characteristic humility exclaimed that he was not the Messiah but only the messenger sent to prepare his way.

John describes the Messiah as the Bridegroom and himself as the friend of the Bridegroom. The image of marriage and the wedding feast is used throughout the scriptures to describe God's joy in his people, who are regarded as his bride. As the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you (Isaiah 62:5).

John acted as the best man in arranging the marriage and in making preparations for the marriage feast.

John and his disciples rejoice that the Bridegroom has come to make his bride, the church, ready for the marriage feast. We see this fulfilled in the New Jerusalem in the marriage feast of the Lamb and his Bride (see Revelations 21-22).

# "For God does not give the Spirit by measure" 3:31-36

The Jews understood that God gave a certain portion of his Spirit to his prophets. When Elijah was about to depart for heaven, his servant Elisha asked for a *double portion* of the Spirit (2 Kings 2:9).

Jesus tells his disciples that they can believe the words he speaks because God the Father has poured his Spirit on him in full measure, without keeping anything back.

The function of the Holy Spirit is to reveal God's truth to us. When we receive the Holy Spirit he enables us to recognize and understand God's truth. Jesus is the Word of God and he gives us his Holy Spirit so that we can recognize his truth and live according to it.

God's truth has consequences and he gives us the freedom to choose how we will respond. The choice he gives us has eternal consequences -- everlasting life or everlasting death.

God challenged his people in the Old Covenant: *See I have set before you this day life and good, death and evil. ...I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life, that you may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice, and cleaving to him" (Deuteronomy 30:15-20).* And he issues the same challenge to the people of the New Covenant today.