

## *Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

### **Sermon Notes for January 31-February 1, 2004**

#### **"For God So Loved the World"**

##### **John 3:16**

John 3:16-21 are the reflections of the Apostle John based on what Jesus shared with Nicodemus in John 3:1-15.

What were the reflections of the Apostle John in John 3:16-21 that were generated by Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus in John 3:1-15?

In response to John 3:1-15, the Apostle John first of all reflected on the love of God for the world (John 3:16).

Just as the new birth was grounded in the "lifting up" of the Son, which we have seen in John 3:14-15, the "lifting up" of the Son was grounded in the love of God for the world.

This reference to the love of God for the world in John 3:16 stands out from the many other references to love in the Gospel of John.

This reference to God's love for the world stands out from every other reference to love in John's Gospel because it stands alone.

The word "world" (KOSMOS) refers to the earth and by extension to the people who inhabit the earth. In the writings of John, the world is considered hostile to God.

The fact that the love of God for the world was not only being extended to Jews and Gentiles, but even to wicked Jews and Gentiles, would have been awe inspiring for John.

We can say that God loves the world even while His wrath abides on the world because the Scriptures tell us that it does (John 3:16, 36).

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The world is hostile toward God and judgment awaits them. But it is also true that because God so loved the world, He sent His Son on a rescue mission.

The love of man may come and go but the love that is available to us in Christ is eternal (Romans 5:8-10).