

For God So Loved

July 19th, 2026

Focus Scripture: John 3:16 NKJV

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.

Introduction: The most famous Scripture verse

- It is the most memorized Bible verse
- We see it on signs at sports stadiums and other venues.
- It is referred to as the Bible summed up in one verse.
- Has it become too familiar to us? Is it commonplace?

1. For “God so loved.”

- English language sells us short
- There are many variations of the word “love” in the Greek language
 - Phileō - friendship
 - Érōs - romantic
 - Storgē – familial
 - Xenía – hospitality
 - Agapē – unconditional compassion
- I John 4:8 NKJV - *He who does not love does not know God, for God is love [agapē].*
 - God is love! It’s one of His divine attributes (like holiness).
 - God doesn’t love because that’s what He does. He loves because that’s Who He Is!
- I John 4:9 NKJV - *In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.*
 - Manifested = phaneroō (to render apparent; appear)
- Romans 5:8 NKJV - *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
- John 15:13 NKJV - *Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.*

- Jeremiah 31:3 NKJV - *The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying: “Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.*
 - Loved = āhēb (affection, lover)
 - Everlasting **love** = ahăbâ (feminine form; affection, lover)
 - Think of Christ and His church

2. So loved the world

- Isaiah 45:22 NKJV - “Look to Me, and be saved, **All you ends of the earth!** For I am God, and there is no other.
- John 3:17 NKJV - *For God did not send His Son into the **world** to condemn the **world**, but that the **world** through Him might be saved.*
- John 8:12 NKJV - *Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world.”*
- Mark 16:15 NKJV - *And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”*
- Romans 3:23 NKJV - *For **all** have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

3. That He gave his only begotten Son

- Psalms 2:7 NKJV - *“I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.*
- What does only begotten Son mean?
 - Begotten not created
 - Monogenēs – monos (sole or single) and ginomai (to cause to be)
 - Isaiah 7:14 NKJV - *Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel (God with us).*
 - 2nd Person of the trinity
 - John 10:30 NKJV - *I and my Father are one.*
 - John 1:1-2 NKJV - *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.*
 - John 1:14 NKJV - *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

- Colossians 1:15 NKJV - *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.*
- I John 4:10 NKJV – *In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*
 - Propitiation = atoning sacrifice
 - Day of atonement came after the Passover
 - 2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJV - *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*
- This was the plan from the beginning.
 - Genesis 3:15 NKJV - *And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”*
- Imagine giving your own son.
 - Parable of the train switch operator
- What Jesus went through in His suffering
 - Isaiah 53:5 NKJV - *But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.*
 - Psalms 22:1 NKJV - *My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?*
 - He was forsaken so that we don’t have to be

4. Who is a “whoever?”

- John 1:12 NKJV - *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.*
- Matthew 11:28 NKJV - *Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*
 - Labor = weary
 - Heavy laden = burdened
- I Timothy 1:15 NKJV - *This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.*
- The thief (Luke 23:42-43)
- Romans 10:13 NKJV - *For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”*
- Put your name here.

5. What does it mean to believe in Him?

- *James 2:19 NKJV - You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!*
- *Genesis 15:6 NKJV - And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.*
- *Acts 16:30-31 NKJV - And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.”*
- What is a “saving faith?”
 - *Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved **through faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*
 - *Hebrews 11:1 NKJV - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*
 - *Hebrews 11:6 NKJV - But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*
 - *Jeremiah 29:13 NKJV - And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.*
 - *Matthew 6:33 NKJV - But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

6. Will not perish

- *Genesis 2:16-17 NKJV - And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”*
- Perish = apollymi (from apo = separation and ollymi = ruin; punishment)
- *Hebrews 9:27 NKJV - And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.*
 - *Revelation 20:11-15 -¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before  God, and books were opened. And*

another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

- *I Corinthians 15:22 NKJV - For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.*
- *I Corinthians 15:47-49 NKJV - The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.*
- *II Corinthians 5:17 NKJV - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*
- *John 11:25-26 NKJV - Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"*
- *I John 5:12 NKJV - He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

7. But have everlasting life

- Everlasting = aiōnios (perpetual, eternal, forever)
- *Romans 6:22-23 NKJV - But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
- *John 4:13-14 NKJV - Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."*

- I John 2:17 NKJV – *And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*
- I John 2:25 NKJV - *And this is the promise that He has promised us—eternal life.*
- I John 5:11 NKJV - *And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.*
- Revelation 21:1-4 NKJV - *Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”*

8. Conclusion –

- John 3:16 NKJV - *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.*
- Do you want to be part of this promise?
- Just like the thief, it’s as simple as “Remember me.”
- Romans 10:9-10 NKJV - *If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*