

The Greatest Statement Ever Made

Compiled by Paul R. Blake

Introduction:

- A. John 3:16
- B. There are several profound verses in the Bible regarding God's love for man.
 - 1. 1John 4:8 - God is love
 - 2. Rom. 5:8 - God demonstrated His love for us while we were still sinners
 - 3. John 3:16 is the crown

I. GREATEST BECAUSE OF THE ONE WHO LOVES

- A. "GOD so loved." Eternal God, immutable, all knowing, omnipresent, and holy God who created all
- B. HE loved - Deut. 33:27; Heb. 6:17-18
 - 1. Job 34:21 - He sees all of our steps and loves us in spite of knowing that much about us
 - a. Psalm 139:1-12

II. GREATEST BECAUSE OF WHOM HE LOVES

- A. "For God so loved THE WORLD"
 - 1. The "world" (kosmos) is not the world John said to "love not," but mankind - 1John 2:15; John 17:21
 - 2. The greatness of God's love for man is seen in the unworthiness of man to receive God's love - Rom. 5:6-8

III. GREATEST BECAUSE OF HOW MUCH HE LOVES

- A. "For God SO LOVED..."
 - 1. 1John 3:1 - "Behold!"
- B. This does not mean that God approved the conduct of men, but that he had benevolent feelings toward them, or was earnestly desirous of their happiness. God hates wickedness, but he still desires the happiness of those who are sinful. He hates the sin, but loves the sinner. A parent may love his child and desire his welfare, and yet be strongly opposed to the conduct of that child. When we approve the conduct of another, this is the love of complacency; when we desire simply their happiness, this is the love of benevolence. (Barnes Notes)

IV. GREATEST BECAUSE OF THE EXTENT OF GOD'S LOVE

- A. "That He GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON..."
 - 1. Gen. 22:2
- B. The love (agapao) of John 3:16 is unselfish and seeks only the wellbeing of the one so loved.
 - 1. The Father loved so much that he gave his "only begotten Son."
 - 2. 1John 4:9
- C. Jesus is unique (only begotten is from monogenes, which means one of a kind only sinless Being in this world given for many non-unique sinners

V. GREATEST BECAUSE OF HOW MANY GOD LOVES

- A. The universality of God's love is seen in "that WHOSOEVER believeth..."
 - 1. The Pharisaic concept in John's day limited God's love to conservative Jews only - Matt. 5:43-48
 - 2. Rev. 3:20

VI. GREATEST BECAUSE OF THE CONSEQUENCES

- A. "...That whosoever believeth in him SHOULD NOT PERISH..."
 - 1. "Perish" is an antonym for "everlasting life." The negation "should not perish (meapoletai) is literally translated "may not perish" (Nestle's Interlinear Greek-English New Testament).
- B. The opposite of perish is "HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE."
 - 1. There are only two classes of individuals - Matt. 25:46
 - 2. Everlasting life indicates the glory and bliss awaiting the saved
 - a. 2Cor. 5:1-4; 1Peter 1:3-4; Titus 1:2

VII. GREATEST BECAUSE OF THE CONDITION FOR EVERLASTING LIFE IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD'S ETERNAL LOVE

- A. The condition is: "...that whosoever BELIEVETH IN HIM should not perish..."
 - 1. James 2:14-26
 - 2. Working faith in response to God's working love - Gal. 5:6; 1John 5:3
- B. "Believeth" is translated from pisteuon. The grammar of pisteuon ("believeth") is important: nominative case, singular in number, masculine in gender, participle, and present tense (The Analytical Greek Lexicon, pg. 326). The participle and present tense is describing on going, continuous action.
 - 1. True believers obey the gospel - Acts 2:38; Rom. 10:9-10
 - 2. The Lord adds them to his church - Acts 2:47; Gal. 3:26-27
 - 3. 2Peter 1:5-10; Heb. 3:12-19