

Whoever Believes in Him

John 3.16

John 3.16 is the best-known verse in the world – so well-known, it almost seems unnecessary to preach on it! *After all, it's self-explanatory!* Oh that it were so! Some teachers go to great pains to show that John 3.16 *doesn't mean* what it says. What is “the world”? Who is “whoever”? Let's see...

Overview: *It's all about God's love!*

- God's love is UNIVERSAL.

Who is “the world”?

- God's love is SACRIFICIAL.

What did God give?

- God's love is PERSONAL.

Who can believe in Him?

- God's love is UNENDING.

What does every believer have?

The great Reformer Martin Luther called John 3.16 “the Bible in miniature.” More recently, a pastor wrote, “If all the other verses in the Bible were lost but this one, we would nonetheless still have them since all the rest of the verses of the Bible are contained in John 3.16.” While this may be a bit hyperbolic, it is true that John 3.16 provides a cursory corrective to many errors of belief or practice – both in the world, and in the church, today. Below are listed a few of these “isms” or notions that John 3.16 addresses. Reflect on what it says in response to these wrong ideas, then try to identify additional truths it contains.

John 3.16 Responds to...	
<i>For God...</i>	Atheism (there is no God)
<i>...so loved...</i>	Deism (God doesn't care about us)
<i>...the world...</i>	Calvinism (God only loves an elect few)
<i>...that He gave...</i>	Greed (it is better to receive than to give)
<i>...His only Son...</i>	Modalism (God not three coexisting eternal persons)
<i>...that whoever...</i>	Calvinism (Christ only died for the elect)
<i>...believes...</i>	Works Salvation (through faith, not works)
<i>...in Him...</i>	Pluralism (all religions are valid ways to God)
<i>...not perish...</i>	Universalism (everyone will be saved in the end)
<i>...eternal life.</i>	Annihilationism (there is no life after death)

My Additional Observations

