

"Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord..." - 1 Cor 15:58

NORTHSIDE EXHORTER

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"The Truth About John 3:16"

John 3:16 is considered by many to be the "golden text" of the Bible. Although this text is golden, it is unfortunately the most abused text in the Bible. Individuals often insert the word "alone" as if it were in the text & accuse sincere Bible students of not believing **John 3:16** because we disagree with their misguided conclusion of the text.

- Many say, "All I need is **John 3:16!**"
- They will say, "Don't talk to me about water baptism. **John 3:16** doesn't say anything about being baptized in order to be saved."

Well, neither does **John 3:16** say anything about repentance of sin or confession of faith in Jesus Christ, yet this does not mean that repentance & confession are unnecessary.

We must understand that every word in **John 3:16** is true, but not all of the truth on being saved is found in **John 3:16**. Every word in the Bible is true. However, if we must set aside part of God's word because of what we believe a certain passage teaches, then something is wrong with what we believe. We can never do less than what any one passage requires, but one may have to do more than what any one passage requires. We must accept all that the Bible teaches on the subject under consideration, not just what is taught in any one passage on the subject. This is true of **John 3:16** where the subject of faith in Christ & salvation on the grounds of that faith is the subject. When we learn all that the Bible teaches on the matter of salvation by faith in Jesus Christ, we are then in a position to understand & accept what **John 3:16** teaches, & to know what it means to believe in Jesus Christ unto salvation from past sins.

Salvation Is Through Faith

By faith, we have everlasting life (**John 3:14-17**). We are also justified by faith (**Romans 5:1**). Salvation is by faith (**Ephesians 2:8-9**). By faith, we are born again (**1 John 5:1-4**). By faith, remission of sins is obtained (**Acts 10:42-43**). All of these passages teach salvation by faith, but do they teach salvation by faith only? The answer is NO! There is a difference. Again, all the words in **John 3:16** are true, but not all the truth is found in **John 3:16**. So it is with these passages & the subject of salvation; we must accept ALL that the Bible teaches on this subject.

Salvation Is Through Obedience

Salvation is through obedience (**Hebrews 5:9**). Righteousness is through obedience (**Romans 6:16-18**). A pure heart is produced & being born again is the result of obedience (**1 Peter 1:22-23**). The Bible plainly teaches that faith is essential to salvation, but faith alone cannot save. Faith is a noun that describes the action of believing & that action is obedience to the truth. By the way, the only time we see the phrase "faith only" in the Bible, it tells us we are not saved by faith only (**James 2:24**).

Whosoever believes on Jesus Christ unto eternal life, as **John 3:16** teaches, is the one whose faith moves him to obey his Lord in baptism for the remission of his sins & to faithfully serve him as a Christian (**Acts 2:38**).

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