

John's 3:16

(John 3:16; 1 John 3:16)

- Introduction:
1. John wrote four books in the Bible that bear his name.
 2. In 1217 A.D., Stephen Langton divided the Bible into chapters, then in 1555 A.D., Stephanus divided the Bible into verses.
 3. While these divisions are overwhelmingly helpful, there are a few divisions that aren't so helpful.
 4. But after these divisions were made, John wrote two complimentary truths that happen to both fall in chapter 3 and verse 16.
 5. In this lesson, let's examine John's 3:16.

I. John 3:16

- A. What this passage does not mean.
1. It does not mean that baptism is not a part of God's scheme of redemption.
 2. It is often argued, "Nowhere in John 3:16 is baptism mentioned."
 3. To show the fallaciousness of this line of reasoning, one need only point out that love for God and repentance of sins are also not mentioned.
- B. What this passage does mean.
1. It tells us the manner of God's love – "For God so loved..."
 - a. "So" – not an adverb of degree, but manner.
 - b. "In this manner" – (John 3:14-15).
 - c. God provided a remedy but required man to take initiative.
 2. It tells us the scope of God's love – "the world" and "whosoever."
 3. It tells us the nature of his salvation – "not perish" and "everlasting life."

II. 1 John 3:16

- A. God's love made tangible – "He laid down his life for us."
1. There is no greater love than for one to lay down his life for another (John 15:13).
 2. No one can successfully doubt his love in view of his actions.
- B. Our love for others made tangible – "We also ought to lay down our lives."
1. Do we love our brethren and the world to this degree?
 2. (John 13:34-35).
 3. How many church squabbles, egos, and selfish demands have demonstrated that we don't love as we should?
 4. If we are unwilling to do the lesser, we would never do the greater.

- Conclusion:
1. John's 3:16 contains both good news and a challenge for us.
 2. May we thank God for his love, and may we embrace his command to love like him.