

## John 3:16

**"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.**

As with many young Christian children, this was the first scripture verse that I ever memorized. At eight years of age, I asked Jesus Christ to be my Lord and Savior in a small Southern Baptist church in Florida. It was then that I discovered the wonderful gift that our Father God gave, to this sinful world. To truly appreciate what our Heavenly Father did, we need to put this verse in perspective. Our God gave the most treasured and priceless gift that He had, to the most undeserving place it could go. It was out of love and love alone that this gift was given; it had nothing to do with our earning it, deserving it, or our self-righteousness. Neither you nor I could have ever earned what Jesus gave freely from that cross. If we could have, then He died in vain! To anyone who has not looked at this since the days of our children's Sunday school class, this story is one of tremendous cost and sacrifice. Beloved, that's what makes this gift so priceless!! Jesus gave up for a season being in His Father's constant presence, as He had for all of eternity. He, who had never tasted sin, took on the "Full" measure of sin for our redemption. Jesus, the Son of the living God, was born, lived, and died, just so that we could have an alternative to an eternity in hell. He paid a price that belonged totally to you and me, so that we could be redeemed from the penalty of sin, eternal damnation!!

Beloved, that's what He did for us; my question is what are you doing for Him? Do you take this gift of eternal life for granted, as if it's something you deserve? Has it lost its place of value in your eyes? Is it something to be concerned with only on your deathbed? Truly for you and me as followers or believers in Jesus Christ, we must never allow anything to hold a higher value in our lives than Him! Church I am convinced that we need to get back to the standards by which our Savior lived out daily in His life. When I was in the military, I often heard that rank has its privileges. Yet, here we see the "Highest Ranking Life" that will ever walk this earth, serve the lowliest man, woman and child. What makes us think that we are above any of this today? We have a responsibility to take the Good News of Jesus Christ to a dying world. It's certainly not up to the other guy to fulfill this Great Commission; it's up to you and me. We must take a fresh new perspective into the calling that is upon each of our lives. For far too long only a small remnant has taken seriously the mandates that our Lord has laid out in His Word. We have become more concerned with our creature comforts, than with the salvation of our neighbors. If anything is asked of us that would require any cost, we quickly shrug it off as unnecessary. Often many people disclaim their involvement or responsibility in furthering the Kingdom of God, as the other guy's calling.

Church I exhort you today, to start living your life as a workman that needeth not be ashamed. To help the helpless, love the loveless, forgive the unforgiven, clothe the naked, and feed the hungry. Our Heavenly Father gave His best for you, what are you willing to give back for Him??