

John 3:16
Albert Tate
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Open in Prayer.

Pastor Albert began his sermon by reading John 3:16. This is a familiar passage for most believers, but take the time to read it aloud together as a group.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” – John 3:16.

Pastor Albert shared a story of buying a Tiffany’s bracelet for his wife and had an expected response.

- Have you ever been in a similar situation?
- When have you made a grand gesture for someone and expected a grand response? Why was a grand response expected?

Every great gift demands a great response.

- God gave his Son and it brought us from death to life.
- What is your response to this gift?

When we were stuck in our sin, God didn’t try to encourage us out or instruct us out or chastise us out. He gave His Son as a living sacrifice to set us free.

- What is your response now? How have you been set free?

“ . . . whoever believes in Him ”

Belief is more than coming to a cognitive conclusion about who He is. It’s not just a change in your behavior. Belief culminates in the reclining of the heart. It’s when your heart rests because it’s not about what you do, it’s about what He’s done.

- When you rest in what He’s done, what is the result? Does it make a difference in your life?
- Some of us say we are going to trust God, but end up being “backseat drivers” instead of just shutting our eyes and trusting Him to drive.
- Do you ever have a hard time truly trusting Him? Why do you think that is? What do you think would happen truly trusted Him?
- He created the heavens and earth. He is the Alpha and the Omega. He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Do you really want to second-guess Him?
- He, alone, is worthy to be trusted. What in your life do you need to trust God with?

“ . . . should not perish ”

- Perishing is a slow fade into darkness as you step outside of His light, presence, power, and purpose. The most dangerous thing about this is that slowly, but surely, your eyes get adjusted to the darkness. The enemy wants you to be comfortable in the darkness so that you end in destruction.
- But God designed us to live in the light. Is there any area of darkness in your life on which His light needs to shine?

“ . . . but have everlasting life.”

- Everlasting life is that we begin to look more and more like our Heavenly Father. How have you seen your life looking more and more like Him? “I’m not what I want to be, but I’m not what I used to be.” Celebrate the ways He is transforming you! For His glory we want to look like Him and be like Him.

Read John 3:16 together again.