



**Bible Study – March 13, 2024**

**A Study About Sharing Your Faith**

**Lesson Eleven | Oh, How He Loves You and Me**

**John 3:16-18, Romans 5:6-8 (NIV)**

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## Introduction

Rev. Richard Smallwood authored a song with the same title as our lesson. It is a straightforward melody that blesses the congregation when sung. It is a congregational song, and I'm sure that you have participated in singing this great tune. I believe the heart of the gospel message is GOD'S sacrificial love for humanity. Why? Because His love covers a multitude of sins ([1 Peter 4:8](#)), we see GOD sacrificing His only Son for our redemption. This study reveals the tremendous love and the reward for believing in the Son of GOD. Let us get it started.

## How Great GOD'S Love is For Us

**John 3:16-18**

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.*

*John 3:16* is the world's number one ranked Bible verse, making it the most memorized Scripture verse. What does it mean? How does it help when sharing your faith? When you examine the context of this Scripture passage, you see the heart and soul of the gospel expressed here. GOD, so loving the world does not mean that He approves of the conduct shown by sinners. But it shows His heart. It shows His compassion for humanity that broke fellowship with Him as the "Most High GOD." It shows that He desires to restore that fellowship and put in place a plan to accomplish it. GOD indeed hates sin, but He greatly loves the sinner. This is no different from the parents who love their child yet oppose the child's bad behavior.

The world is all people, tribes, nations, and languages. The awful scars that hurt humanity are sin, iniquity, transgression, and lawlessness found everywhere on earth. It confirms [Romans 3:23](#) which says, [for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God](#). GOD plans to rescue every person clothed in sin. So, He gave His only Son as an undeserved gift to complete His plan. This gift is free and unearned. It pleased GOD to grant His Son as a sacrifice of love and compassion to avoid the eternal separation of humanity. GOD did not send His Son to condemn the world by pronouncing judgment and sentencing everybody to eternal death. But GOD was willing to offer a pardon, delaying this sentence of condemnation. If you remember the words of Apostle Paul to Timothy, GOD desires that everyone be saved ([1 Timothy 2:4](#)).



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The person who believes in Jesus Christ as the Son of GOD for their salvation will not be judged. Again, GOD offered a means to be pardoned from sin and delivered from the deserving punishment for it. But everybody who does not believe in the Son is judged already because of being born into sinfulness. Whether by conscience, by law, or by the judgment of GOD, the result is condemnation. Consider these words in the following verse: *Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.* [Mark 16:16 NIV] Do you see the similarity in this particular point? There is only one way to receive eternal life: to believe in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Q. What requirement is offered for everyone to receive eternal life?**

**What level of love is GOD spreading to the world?** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Q. What does sin, iniquity, transgression, lawlessness, and trespass mean?** \_\_\_\_\_

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## **How Great GOD’S Love is When Described**

**Romans 5:6-8**

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person, someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

The Apostle Paul, in writing the Church in Rome, described the character of GOD’S great love. To begin, it encouraged the believers back then and now of hope. This hope is in the Son of GOD as proof that GOD would save us while we were sinners. Though we were GOD’S enemies because of sin, He was preparing the way for us to become His friends (John 15:14). This was at the right time, according to GOD’S will, which meant the proper time, the appointed time, and the favorable time to spread the good news. Why? The grip of sin made us weak and without spiritual strength. In other words, we had no power to devise a plan of righteousness, offer a sacrifice, or turn the anger of GOD from us. But GOD’S perfect plan secured our salvation through His Son.

Paul stated that it is rare and unusual for somebody to put their life on the line for a good and upright person. What is the apostle's point? He compared what man was willing to do because of



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human love and what GOD did through divine love. A person could put their life on the line through brotherly love and friendship because of a good relationship. However, if an evil person has bad intentions to harm, injure, defame, or destroy life and property, there is no willingness to die for that person. Again, this is a human love reaction. On the other hand, the divine love of GOD shown through Jesus Christ was willing to die for bitter enemies. Remember the Lord's words as He hung on the cross in the following: Jesus said, "*Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.*" [Luke 23:34(a) NIV] He forgave those who were hateful and hostile towards Him while giving His life for them. This is the difference that Paul was comparing.

Paul expressed that GOD'S love showed through His Son was a remarkable way of demonstrating love. The fact that Jesus willingly laid down His life as a sacrifice for all humanity is divine and glorious. All sinners are enemies of GOD because of their love for the world and the things in it. James, in writing the church, said this: *You adulterous (unfaithful) people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity (hatred) against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.* [James 4:4 NIV] He validated that this is what sinners do. However, the surpassing love of Jesus Christ revealed the highest love of GOD for the human creation. To preserve the noble creatures from death, Jesus became the propitiation (*atonement*) that died on the cross, bearing the burden of sin and rescuing us from eternal separation. Will you shout, "PRAISE GOD FOR JESUS!"

**Q. Tell of an occasion when you shared this great love of GOD with an unsaved person. What was that person's reaction?** \_\_\_\_\_

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#### **Endnotes**

1. Drs. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary New Testament* (Colorado Springs: Chariot Victor Publishing, 1983) 457.
2. Unless otherwise stated, all Scripture is taken from *The Holy Bible, New International Version®*, NIV®, Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.