

## THE ORIGINAL CHRISTMAS GIFT

*(God's Love leads us to believe in Jesus)*

**John 3:16 (CSBBible)** *For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.*

**James 1:17 (CSBBible)** *Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.*

1. It is important to read surrounding scripture and most ideal to read an entire book.
2. This verse tells of God's goodness and our need to believe in Jesus.
3. God is perfectly balanced in all His attributes.
4. God's righteousness convicts all mankind.
5. God's provision for us to not perish but have eternal life is provided through faith in Jesus.

# 1. God's love is validated by His action

1. In the Greek language (the New Testament was written in Greek) there are several words for love.
2. The most commonly used are eros, phileo, and agape.
  - a. eros—speaks of attraction                      Love of the Heart
  - b. phileo—speaks of affection or association  
Love of the Mind
  - c. agape—speaks of action                      love of action  
Love of the Will
3. The closest concept for agape is caring attention and action.
4. God acted on behalf of the world.
5. The world is not geographical but societal sinful, rebellious, fallen humanity
6. The word loved is in the past tense meaning once in the past. The act John is referring to is giving Jesus to die on the cross for our sins.

**2. God's love is fully applied only to those who believe in Jesus.**

1. The preference of human culture is to deny God but if pushed will allow a God of unconditional love who neither requires or expects transformation.
2. John writes that this provision of eternal life is only available to those who believe in Jesus.
3. The righteousness of God demands complete surrender and reliance on Jesus.
4. The proof of being in Jesus is complete trust and obedience.

### **3. God's love provides a way of escape from sins penalty**

1. Jesus goes back and references Moses in Number 21:4-9 when poisonous snakes were killing the Israelites because of their sin of ingratitude.
2. God provided an opportunity for the Israelites to escape death-by looking at the pole.
3. Jesus was hung up on a pole (Cross) and if we look to Him, we shall be saved.
4. The word for believe and have (eternal life) are in present continuous tense.

5. The matchless love of God was displayed initially and ultimately when Jesus died on the cross. The believing and having eternal life are repeated on an ongoing basis.

These verses come from the story of the encounter of Nicodemus. Nicodemus asked Jesus three things.

1. How can I have what you have as a teacher?
2. How can I (an old man) start over again?
3. How can I receive God's power in my life?

1. Go to the Cross    2. Believe in Jesus    3. Receive the power of the Holy Spirit