

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> July

Reading: John 3: 16-18,36.

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In Genesis 1, we are introduced to the God of the Bible. He is a God of action and power. We see the personality of God. He can create and think. We have been created in God's image (Gen 1:26). We have differing personalities. We are active. We can think, do things, make things. In Romans 1, Paul tells us that the invisible attributes of God such as His power are seen in creation (Rom 1:20). In these verses, John tells us of three attributes. God loved, God gave and God sent. Love is active. It is often portrayed today as something mushy and emotional. If you love someone, you not only have to say it, you have to show it.

God loved to such an extent that He gave His only begotten Son so that the world might be saved. He shows the truth of the words, “[Thy mercies are renewed morning by morning. Great is Thy faithfulness](#)” (Lam 3:23). He cares for His creation in giving the weather and seasons.

To whom was his love directed? The verse tells us, it was the world. In Genesis 1, God saw that His creation was very good (Gen 1:31). We do not have to read much further to realise that something went wrong. God gave a commandment to the first man. He disobeyed and sin came into the world (Rom 5:12) and wrecked it. Ultimately, the problem with the world is sin.

In Genesis 6:6, we read, “It repented the Lord that He had made man on the earth”. He judged the world and sent the flood. Even today, God sees selfishness, pride, stubbornness, rebellion, foul-mouths, jealousy, envy, and petty squabbles. He sees many other things as well. He says, “There is none righteous” (Rom 3:10). Still He loves us even though we do not know why.

He gave His only begotten Son. The Son was with God from the beginning. They shared a deep love and fellowship with each other but “[He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things](#)” (Rom 8:32). John tells us that “He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not” (John 1:10). He came to be unrecognised, unreceived and unloved. God gave Him up to the death of the cross, the most shameful, wicked way devised by man. When He died on Calvary, he took upon Himself the sin of the world. God blotted out the sun for three hours while He laid all our sin and iniquity on Him.

In Genesis 19, God saw the wickedness of the cities and condemned them to destruction. The Lord Jesus was not sent to condemn. He did not just live a perfect and holy life. He showed that it is possible for man to live on this earth and not to sin but it is impossible for us to do what He did. He came to bear our sins so that the world might be saved through Him. He came to be a Saviour.

The gift of God is eternal life to those who believe. We receive it as soon as we believe. You can have it now and you will never lose it. It lasts forever. Those who believe will “not come into condemnation but is passed from death to life” (John 5:24). This is not simply in the mind. It must come from the will and the heart. You must make a conscious decision to trust Him, the Son of God. It is not enough to believe in God or come to a Gospel meeting. If we do not trust Him, there can only be one verdict – Guilty. The only way to change the verdict is to trust Him. The Gospel is a command to be obeyed. It is not a option. Unbelief is a sin which will keep you out of heaven.

There is a record of our lives. At the Great White Throne, the small and great will all be judged out of these books. If your name is not in the Lamb's Book of Life, you face eternal judgement. If you trust Christ, your transgressions are blotted out and you never face the judgement. He says, “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life” (John 14:6). What is keeping you back?