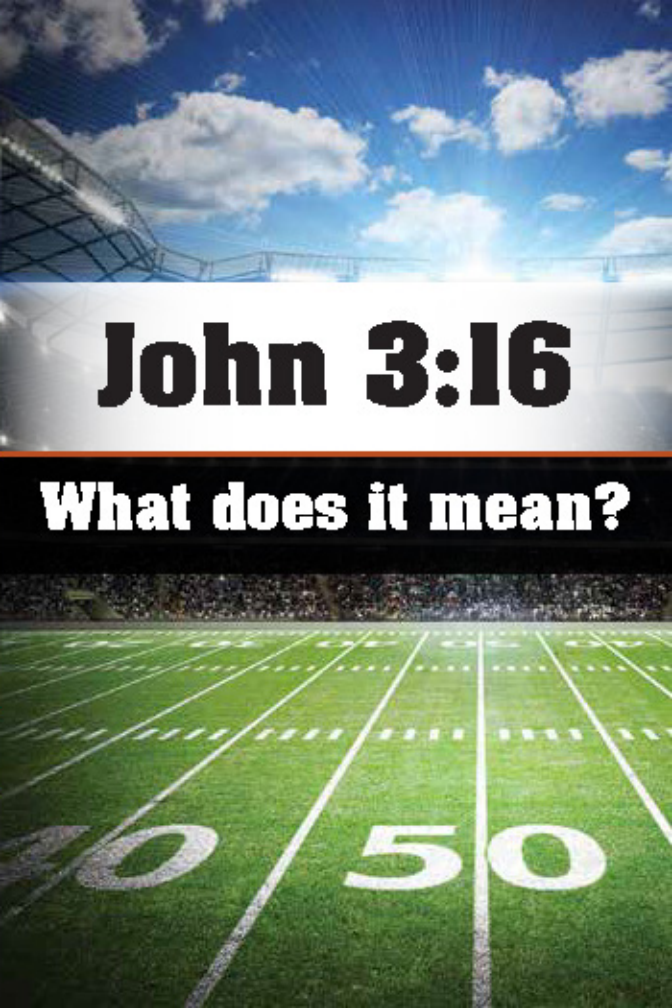

John 3:16
What does it mean?
50

You have probably seen it on your TV, just at the moment when a goal is scored at a football game or basketball game where thousands are gathered. The crowd is roaring, the announcer is screaming into the microphone. Then the camera moves over to show people unfurling a banner for millions to see: **JN 3:16** or **JOHN 3:16**. The folks with the banner always seem to have seats at the goal line or above the basket where they will be seen when the camera swings around to get the action.

So what are they trying to say? They are holding up the reference to a verse from the Bible. The words of this verse are probably the best known words out of the Old Book which is found in the New Testament book of John, chapter three and verse sixteen. Millions of people remember the words from their Sunday School days.



**For GOD so loved the world,
that He gave
His only begotten SON,
that whosoever believeth
in Him
should not perish,
but have everlasting life.
John 3:16**

That's it, only 25 words, but what words they are! These are life-changing words; they are life-giving words! They say something about God, something about you and me, and something about the far-reaching results of believing or not believing.

In John 3:16 we can see the expression of the love of God for all the people of the world. No one is left out; His love takes in every person. His love is a giving love. He gave His Son, the Lord Jesus to die on the cross for sinners – that's all the people of the world.

In the verse we can see human responsibility as well – ***"whosoever believeth in Him"***. We must accept by faith God's forgiveness. This is not joining a particular church, signing a

card, or giving money to any organization. It is accepting by faith that the death of Jesus Christ upon the cross is the answer to the sin question in your life. God is satisfied with the payment that Christ made for the lost and guilty human race. The Lord Jesus has paid a debt He did not owe, because He had no sin of His own.

At the end of the verse we see the glorious results – ***"everlasting life"***. This life begins here on earth. It is a life of peace and joy in knowing that all is well between God and my soul. It extends beyond death to a heavenly home for all eternity. Why not trust Christ now as your Saviour and Lord?

There is one ominous word in the verse; it is ***"perish"***. There are consequences if we turn away, refusing God's offer of mercy.

Don't refuse the best of gifts found in John 3:16.

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