

KINGDOM INVITATION

THE VERSE FOR THE UNIVERSE

Christmas is a great time to reflect on the message of the Bible's best known verse. One simple sentence reveals deep truth for all mankind.....**John 3:16.**

GOD

Not some impersonal force or outdated being, but a loving Father who is an eternal spirit, creator, unchanging, all powerful, all knowing, holy, pure, just, faithful promise keeper, personal, merciful, gracious, good, generous and bigger than the universe. - John 1:1-3, Exodus 34:5-7, Isaiah 40:9-31, Psalms 113:6

SO LOVED

Not some mere emotion or changeable feeling. God's love is a deep, constant interest of a perfect being towards unworthy objects. It is sacrificial, powerful and persistent, despite indifference and rejection to its awesome display - Psalm 108:4, John 3:17-21, 1 John 4:8-19

THE WORLD

All of mankind from every race, tribe, nation and time period.....who have all turned this former paradise, with God at the center, into a world filled with death, disease, despair, divorce, debt, addiction, anxiety, fear, guilt, greed, lies, loneliness, poverty, pain, sin, selfishness, separation and shame. - Romans 1:18-32, 3:9-20, 5:12

THAT HE GAVE

God could have taken this wicked planet and its rebellious people and blasted them away with a final goodbye. Instead, he demonstrated his love by giving us another chance to respond to his love. He did not take the easy way out of withdrawal. God believed in us and loved us so much that he did something more awesome than creation. God is a giver.....a generous one. He filled this earth with beauty and wanted us to enjoy his creation. However, his greatest gift was when he gave us himself. It was in someone called 'The Word', for what are words but the vocal expression of what is in one's heart. God is love and his best revelation would come to earth nearly 2000 years ago. - 1 Timothy 2:3-6, Romans 5:6-8

HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON

Not some created being or angel, but the eternal begotten (**unique**) Son (begotten in the Greek language means: unique, only member of a particular kind). Jesus is unique in his earthly birth from a virgin and miraculous, Unique in his life.....sinless! Unique in his death.....priceless!

Unique in his resurrection.....victorious! Unique in his ascension.....glorious! Jesus took the sins of all humanity so that they could have his righteousness for all eternity. Matthew 14:22-23, Matt.16:13-16, John 1:1-5,10-18; 3:31-36, 2 Corinth. 5:21, Colossians 1:13-20, 1 John 1:1-2

THAT WHOSOEVER

No one is excluded. Jesus died so that people from every walk of life, race, religion, country and century could have access to his kingdom of righteousness, peace, joy and love etc. Romans 10:8-13, Revelation 7:9-10; 22:17

BELIEVES IN HIM

Belief is not just mental assent to a creed or facts but a firm reliance and trust in Jesus Christ as prophet, priest and king. In the Greek language it means to believe and keep on believing. As **prophet**...because all his teachings and proclamations are true. As **priest**.....because his blood sacrifice at the cross is sufficient payment for all of our sins. As **king**...because he is victor over death and all the forces of darkness through his resurrection and is now seated on the throne of the universe. No one can make him king for he is one, but they can acknowledge that he is king and bow before him in submission. He alone deserves exalted honor, worship and obedience because he is a loving Lord and King. His story and presence can be seen throughout all the scriptures! - Luke 24:44.

To enter his eternal kingdom, one must believe in Jesus enough to follow him. You may believe a car can take you where you want to go, but it will not get you anywhere unless you get in it. In the same way, we must get in Christ by asking Him into our life, for he alone is The Way. - Matthew 16:21-27; John 1:12, John 6:35-40, 63-69; 12:23-26; 14:6, Acts 4:12; Romans 10:9-10, 2 Timothy 2:19, Philippians 2:5-11

SHOULD NOT PERISH

When man left God's way and went his own way, the result was a death spiral.....first spiritual and later physical. Paradise was lost forever, or so it seemed, but God had a restoration plan. Jesus came to save us from sin and its eternal consequence of separation from God. This was the first part of the plan, to eliminate the negative.

The word perish here means: 'To be utterly destroyed. It is not extinction, but ruin and loss, not of being but of well being'. - Vines Expository Dictionary. Take a soda can and crush it flat. Even though it still exists, it is destroyed or ruined for its original purpose. Without God, man cannot fulfill his ultimate purpose either. He was meant to glorify God and enjoy him forever.

Unfortunately, most people do not give God much time in this life, so they will have to live without God in the next one. A world without God is hell, a place without light, love, life, refreshing water, beauty and comfort etc. Instead it is a place of utter darkness, fear, thirst, despair and torment. Jesus suffered hell so that we could escape it. God sent his Son into this world so that no one should perish for all eternity. How long is that? Imagine if a bird had to

remove all the grains of sand from every beach in the world and transport them one by one to the moon. When the bird had finally delivered the last grain, eternity would have just begun.

BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

At the cross, Jesus bore the curse of sin but after the cross he made available the greatest of all gifts.....eternal life.

The Greeks had a word for life, **zoe**, which applied to all animate beings. However in the Greek New Testament it had a special meaning. It referred to the **divine life** of God that is **eternal, incorruptible and indestructible**. Jesus spoke of this life many times as did the apostle John.

For as the Father has **life** in himself, so he has granted the Son to have **life** in himself.- John 5:26

Just as the **living** Father sent me and I **live** because of the Father. so the one who feeds on me will **live** because of me. - John 6:57

The thief (Satan) comes to steal, kill and destroy but I have come that you might have **life** and have it abundantly. - John 10:10

The **life** appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal **life** that was with the Father and has appeared to us.
- 1 John 1:2

Jesus is the hope of eternal **life** that God promised before the beginning of time. - Titus 1:2

That word abundant life means **superabundant in quantity and superior in quality**. Eternal life is not a something but a someone. To truly know Jesus is to know eternal life.

Now this is eternal **life**, that they may know you, the only true God and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. - John 17:3 (to know is not just mental assent but an experiential knowing)

I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal **life** and will not be condemned; he has **crossed over** from death to **life** - John 5:24

Jesus came not only to secure our entrance into heaven, but also to get heaven into us now. Jesus was born of the Holy Spirit when he entered this earthly world. We must be born of the Holy Spirit in order to enter God's spiritual world called the kingdom heaven. **Receive Jesus into your life today. Just ask. He will come.**

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