

## 2012 Series “So Loved” (#01) “So Loved”

During the month of February, the theme of our studies is “So Loved.”

**(John 3:16)** “For God SO LOVED (agapao / a.a.ind.3ps) the world, that (hoste) [conjunction of actual results] He gave (didomi / a.a.ind.3ps) His Only Begotten Son, that (hina) [divine purpose] whosoever believes (ho pisteuo / p.a.ptc.nsm) in Him should not perish (me apollumi / a.m.subj 3ps) but (alla) [contrast] have (echo / p.a.subj) eternal life.”

Translation of this Greek phrase establishes our lesson - “For (gar) [connective conjunction of vs.1-15] God (ho Theos / nms) [subject] so (houstos) [demonstrative adverb of manner / in this way] loved (agapao / a.a.ind.3ps) the world” (ton kosmos / asm) [direct object].

The connective conjunction (gar) [for] reveals our lesson passage is a conversation between two theology teachers (John 3:1-15).

**Today’s lesson will study three aspects of this theological conversation between Nicodemus and Jesus Christ.**

### **1. What intrigued me as a theology teacher was the way Jesus used conversation evangelism with someone who thought that he was schooled well enough to hold a theological discussion with Jesus Christ, God!**

We will examine the passage of this conversation by the following four sections. Note three of the four sections have the special phrase used by Jesus to teach importance truths, “Truly, truly I say to you.”

- (1 Pet.3:1-3) Small talk to spiritual talk (1 Pet.3:3)
- (1 Pet.3:4-8) Natural mind to spiritual conversation (1 Pet.3:5)
- (1 Pet.3:9-18) Difficulty of overcoming false religious teaching to truth (1 Pet.3:11)
- (1 Pet.3:19-21) The criteria for judgment “And (de) [explanatory explanation of (1 Pet.3:16-18)] This (haute / nsf of houstos) [demonstrative pronoun as predicate nominative] is (eimi / p.a.ind.3ps) the judgment (he krisis / nsf).”

Two Spiritual classifications for the human race:

- Believers:
  - He who believes (ho pisteuo / p.a.ptc.nsm) in Him is not judged (ouk krino / p.p.ind.3ps);
- Unbelievers:
  - He who does not believe (ho pisteuo me / p.a.ptc.nsm) has been judged (krino / perf.p.ind.3ps) already (ede/ adv of time), because (hoti) he has not believed (pisteuo me/ perf.ind.3ps) in the name of the Only Begotten Son of God.” (John 3:18)

### **2. Since we understand the doctrinal significance of the phrase, “Truly, truly I say to you,” let us examine three doctrinal points Jesus made with this phrase (1 Pet.3:1-3; 4-8, 9-18).**

**Point 1:** (1 Pet.3:1-3) “Unless (ean me / 3cc) one (tis) [indefinite pronoun] is born again (gennao / a.p.subj.3ps / anothen) [above] he cannot (dunamai / p.a.ind.3ps / ouk) see (horao / a.a.infin) the kingdom of God.” (1 Pet.3:3; 1 Cor.2:14)

**Point 2:** (1 Pet.3:4-8) “Unless one is born (gennao / a.p.sub.3ps) of water and the Spirit he cannot (dunamai / p.a.ind.3ps / ouk) enter (eiserchomai / a.a.infin) the kingdom of God.” (1 Pet.3:5)

**Note:** No definite article emphasizes two births, (1) Physical (AOS) and (2) Spiritual. (Rom.5:12; 1 Cor.15:22) (Titus 3:5-7)

**Point 3:** (1 Pet.3:9-18) “We speak (laleo / p.a.ind.1pl) of what we know (oida of horao / perf.a.ind.1pl) and testify of what we have seen (horao / perf.a.ind.1pl), and you (all) do not accept (lambano / p.a.ind.2pl / ouk) our testimony.” (1 Pet.3:11) [Secondary Negative Volition] (Rom.3:10; 5:19-21; Luke 18:9-14; 19:10)

**Note:** Jesus dropped two messianic names on Nicodemus:

- Son of Man (1 Pet.3:13-15) [whoever believes]
- Only Begotten Son (1 Pet.3:16-18) [whoever believes]

Then Jesus introduced the Divine Judgment to come, later spoken of by Peter, for not believing in the name of the Only Begotten Son of God (1 Pet.3:18-21). It is interesting that (John 3:16) is the first mention of the love of God in the first three chapters

### 3. We will conclude with five important truths of the love of God regarding salvation.

- **SINNERS:**
  - “But God demonstrated His own love towards us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Rom.5:8; 1 John 4:9-10)
- **SACRIFICE:**
  - “We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.” (1 John 3:16; John 10:11, 15, 17-18)
- **SON:**
  - “For God So Loved the world that He gave His Only Begotten Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)
- **SPIRIT:**
  - “And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given us.” (Rom.5:5; Gal.3:2-3)
- **SECURITY:**
  - “For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor heights, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Rom.8:38-39; John 10:28-30)

#### **SO LOVED BENEDICTION:**

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.” (2 Cor.13:14)