The Golden Text Of The Bible

Intro: John 3:16 “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.” Probably everyone present can quote this verse and give its location. In fact, most of the religious world could quote it and give its location and probably many outside the religious world. It is one of the greatest verses in the Bible, and has often been called the golden text of the Bible.

I. Reason For This Designation.
   A. Because it contains so many great and marvelous truths.
      1. “For God”—the greatest being, creator of life, this earth, and the heavens.
      2. “So loved”—the greatest word; 1 Cor. 13:13 “And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.”
         a. Is there life on any other planet? No!
         b. Gen. 3:20 “And Adam called his wife’s name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.”
         c. Col. 1:23 “If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;”
         d. If there is life on other planets it would have come from earth.
      4. “That he gave”—the greatest gift. Is there anything greater than the Son of God.
      5. “His only begotten Son”—the greatest personage.
      7. “Believeth in Him”—the greatest faith.
      8. “Should not perish”—the greatest human tragedy.
      9. “But have everlasting life”—the greatest attainment.
   B. Because it contains the whole gospel story in just one verse.
      1. In just 25 short words.
      2. Actually it could be reduced to just one 4 letter word—LOVE.

II. Other Lessons We Can Learn From This Verse.
   A. “For God so loved the world.”
      1. His love for the world prompted Him to give something to the world.
         a. “That he gave his only begotten Son.”
         b. Rom. 5:8 “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”
      2. True love always manifest itself—it gives.
         a. Two Greek words for love in the Bible.
            (1) φιλέω (phileo)—just an affection for someone.
            (2) ἀγάπη (agape)—an affection that serves.
            (3) John 21:15-17 “So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. 16He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. 17He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou
me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.”

b. John 14:15, 23 “If ye love me, keep my commandments.... 23Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.”

c. 1 John 5:3 “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”

B. “That whosoever” includes all mankind; red, yellow, black, while, outcast, cultured, poor, rich, small, great.

1. Rom. 10:12-13 “For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. 13For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

2. Heb. 2:9 “But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.”

3. 1 John 2:2 “And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”

4. Rev. 22:17 “And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And who sover will, let him take the water of life freely.”

5. Mat. 11:28-30 “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

C. “Believeth in him”

1. Faith is an absolute necessity.
   a. 2 Cor. 5:7 “(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)”
   b. Heb. 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

2. What do we mean by faith or belief.
   a. Obedience; Heb. 11.
   b. Confession; Acts 8:36-38 “And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. 38And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.”
   c. Baptism.
      (1) Acts 16:30-34 “And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? 31And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. 32And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. 33And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. 34And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.”
      (2) Acts 18:8 “And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.”

D. “Should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Conclusion: If you want everlasting life, then you must believe in all that belief means.