

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Review Republican
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GOD LOVES YOU AND WANTS TO HELP YOU

Shortly after the Korean War, a hungry waif wandered the darkened street trying to find shelter from the bitter cold of winter. A night watchman noticed his plight and said, "GoMa (child), go to yonder house and say to the one who answers the gate, 'John 3:16'." "But I do not know what John 3:16 is," replied the lad.

Nevertheless, desperation took him to the gate and brought that strange expression to his lips. He did not understand, but he whispered, "John 3:16." The lady smiled and took him into her warm home. The lad was puzzled as he thought, "I do not know what this John 3:16 is, but it sure makes a cold Korean boy warm."

Seeing his gaunt cheeks, the lady soon had him seated before a steaming bowl of soup. As he ate, the lad thought again, "I do not know what this John 3:16 is, but it sure makes a hungry Korean boy full."

After a bath, he lay there on the warm bed with tears flowing down his cheeks, "I do not know that this John 3:16 is," he thought, "but it must be the most wonderful thing in the whole world. It makes a strange lady love a lonely Korean boy."

John 3:16-21 (NASB)

16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. 17 "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him. 18 "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 "And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their deeds were evil. 20 "For everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 "But he who practices the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

Did you know that you, too, need help? God is offering freedom from your sins and eternal life in the coming kingdom of God. That Kingdom will be established on planet earth at the return to Jesus Christ at the end of this age. To enter into that Kingdom you will need to be saved by the blood of Jesus Christ which will make you worthy of a place in that Kingdom

The young Korean boy had never seen John 3:16. He didn't know what it was or what it was about. That cold night he was touched by that love. A Christian woman took the time to open her home to him, feed him, and offer him a bath and a warm bed. He was experiencing the love of God through that woman and it touched his heart in just the right spot. Love, true love, is like that, isn't it?

Have you experienced God's love through a Christian in your lifetime? What did they do to let you know you were cared for? Some of the most influential people in my life have been Christians. They took the time to listen to me, teach me about God and His love, and make me feel wanted and appreciated. The most influential of any of these folks that loved me were my Mom and Dad. They were more than parents; they showed me the way to live for others and not just myself. They took me to church so that I could worship God and learn that others also loved God and wanted to serve Him. It was good to know these folks and I learned much from them about how to worship, pray, study, learn and to express my faith.

I wonder what happened to the young Korean boy. Did he learn what John 3:16 meant? Do you know what it means?

In the Garden of Eden, Adam, the first man, tried to be like God and grabbed the fruit of the tree of knowledge and ate it. This was forbidden, but he wanted to be equal with God and believed this fruit would make him equal with God.

The second Adam, Jesus of Nazareth, took just the opposite view. Being the Son of God, he had no desire to be equal with God, but chose rather to submit to God even to the point of death on the cross for the sins of mankind. It was his choice to die for your sins and mine. This is what God wanted and Jesus was in the business of pleasing His Heavenly Father.

If Jesus didn't love us enough to die for our sins we wouldn't have an opportunity to enter the coming kingdom of God. Jesus followed God's plan for which he had been anointed. Did you know that Christ means Anointed? That's right, Jesus was anointed of His Father to die for us and he accepted the assignment. Thank you Jesus!

So What Should We Do Because Of This? Your first step is to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior. Admit your need for him and put him on in baptism and then live for him.

That lady in Korea was living for God and showed it by loving that young boy and caring for him. Will we care for and love others because God loves us? He showed us His love for us through His Son, Christ Jesus the Lord. I believe that is our challenge and we need to address that challenge in our lives every day. Will you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior and serve others today?

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