

DOES GOD LOVE ALL MEN?

By Keith Greer

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." {John 3:16} This passage is one of the best known scriptures. At every major sporting event, someone hangs a banner that says "**John 3:16**". Do men really understand what the passage says?

One of the raging controversies of the day is the homosexual question. Many tell us that God will accept them in that lifestyle. Why? God loves all of mankind! Our Father is a God of love, compassion and mercy. To be sure I would agree with the basic concept of this statement, but we must clarify a few vital points.

How does God love all men? "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." {Romans 5:8} God sent His Son to die for the sins of the world, though we did not deserve such consideration!

"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." {2 Peter 3:9} Surely we understand God's desire that all men be saved. The **scheme of redemption** was given for that purpose. Does this in and of itself, give men full assurance of salvation? We must respond with a resounding NO! Let me explain how I reached my conclusion.

What do you see when you look at Christ on the cross? Most men will answer "love". Do you see anything else? Why did Christ have to come to this earth, live a perfect life, and then be nailed to that cruel cross of Calvary? "According to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord," {Ephesians 3: 11 } What made all of this necessary? SIN!!!

The cross is also an open display of God's hatred for sin. If not for sin, Christ's death could have been avoided. What does the Bible tell us about sin and how it affects one's relationship with God?

"But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear." {Isaiah 59:2}

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." {Romans 6:23}

"Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness; by whose stripes you were healed." {1 Peter 2:24}

Sin is the thing which God hates. The person, who is practicing homosexuality, is either in sin, or he is not. **What saith the Scriptures?**

"If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them. "{Leviticus 20:13}

"For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due." {Romans 1:26,27} Also read 1 Corinthians 6: 9-11. In those verses the Bible clearly informs us that the "practicing homosexual" (or the fornicator or adulterer too) cannot inherit the kingdom of heaven!

God loves men, but hates the sin! Can one come to Christ and remain in a condition that called sinful? Please read Romans 6:1,2. They must leave the sin! ***