

Love

John 3:16

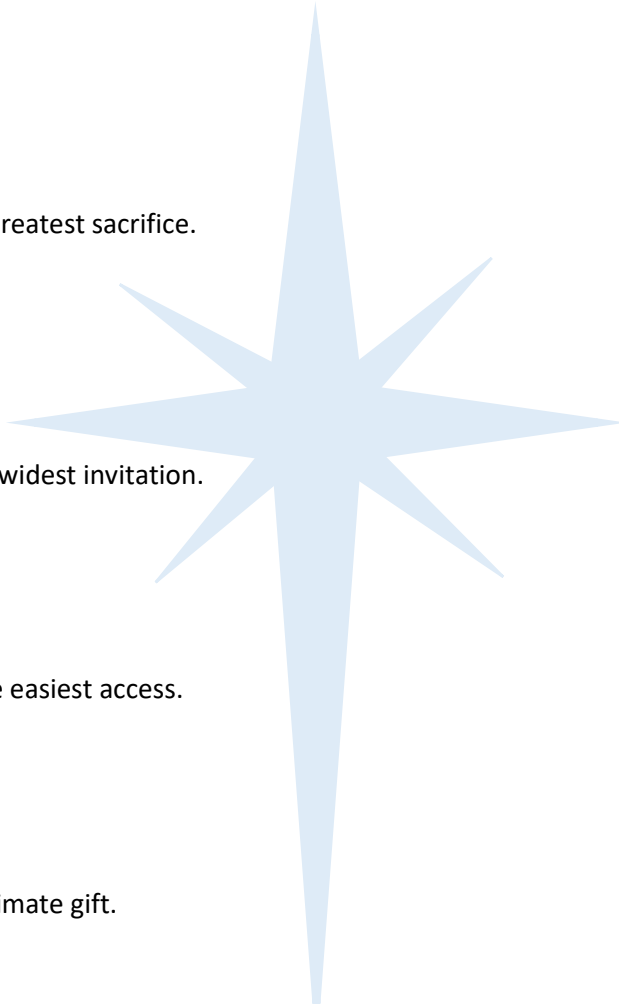
Love was His entire motivation.

Love caused the greatest sacrifice.

Love extends the widest invitation.

Love provided the easiest access.

Love gives the ultimate gift.



Considerations for the week

When challenged by someone about how God can love the world when there is so much violence and death here, how might we respond?

Take note of how John speaks of eternal life elsewhere (e.g., John 17:3, 14:6, 10:27-28, 20:30-31; 1 John 5:11-13). How does that deepen your understanding of this verse?

How is biblical belief different than mere intellectual agreement?

What is the difference between eternal life as a future promise and eternal life as a present reality?

In what ways might John 3:16 reshape the way we view people who are far from faith?

In your experience with matters of coming to Christ – either in your own salvation or in speaking with others of salvation – what verses of the gospel message have been prominent?

Plan now to take a moment each day this week to re-read John 3:16 with fresh eyes, as though you've never heard it. Each time, be sure to give yourself leave to allow it to challenge you personally.

Please use these considerations for personal reflection, small group discussions, and with friends and family.



For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. — John 3:16, ESV

Scripture read today during worship:

1 John 4:7-12

Romans 8:38-39

Prayer today Donald and Kelly Hodges will be praying for us during the service today. Please write your requests and praises on a card from the pew back and place it into the offering plate as it passes.

Rice Temple Baptist Church

Today's order of service

Prelude, *Christmas Time Is Here*

Lighting of Advent candle
Dima Chenchykov

Special music, *Somebody Build a Manger*

Hymn 131
Angels from the Realms of Glory

Confession and assurance, Clint Reiff

Hymn 151, *Good Christian Men Rejoice*

Hymn, *Holy Forever (Christmas)*

Offertory
Reading and prayer, Kay Hyde
Special music, *Labor of Love*

Message, Clint Reiff

Hymn of response 202, *Amazing Grace*

Benediction

Postlude, *O Come All Ye Faithful*

Weekly events

Today after benediction, Cookies & Coffee, in parlor

Young adults fellowship, Monday at 6:45pm. Dinner and discussion for those in college or starting careers. Next meets on January 5

Mom's Day Out, Tuesday and Friday, 9am – 2pm
pre-registration required

Wednesday

Kids' Music Class, 5-6 pm

Dinner, 5:30-6:30 pm. **Not this week or next.**

Prayer, 6:30 pm in the prayer room

BLAST! Children's Bible study and fun, 6:00 pm

Ladies' international Bible class (Zoom), 6:45 pm

Sermon discussion on Zoom, 7 pm

Choir rehearsal, 7:45 pm

Joy Program, Thursday, 9am-noon, conversational
English classes, Bible study, crafts, and handbells

Endurance men's Bible study, Thursday at 6pm
Focus: college-aged / young adult men

Young internationals Bible study, Saturday at 7 pm

Men's Bible study, every-other Saturday at 8 am.
Next meets on January 10

Sunday morning

Adult Bible study, 9:30 am

Worship, 10:45 am

Children's Church at sermon time

The church office has information on events.

Phone: 713.559.6875 Email: office@rtbchurch.org

The office is open Tuesday - Friday, 9am-3pm

Got the app? You can download our free mobile app by searching for "RTBC" in the Apple or Android store.

Our website is at <https://rtbc.faith>

rtbc
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Church Conference There will be a regular church conference held in person at the church on Sunday, January 11, 2025, at 12:45 pm. Please contact the church office for information.

Many of our regular activities will not meet this week or next.

All will resume in January.

Please be advised that our services are livestreamed to the internet. Your participation in the service serves as your consent to the broadcast of your image and voice and to the broadcast of the image and voice of your participating minor children.