

For God So Loved the World, That He Gave His Only Begotten Son

by John Calvin

God's love for humanity is the source of our salvation, and it is based on his unmerited and pure mercy.

Scripture: John 3:16, Romans 5:8, Ephesians 2:8, Titus 3:5, 1 John 4:10

Topics: "Gods Love", "Salvation Through Faith"

Description

John Calvin emphasizes the foundational truth of God's love for the world as the source of our salvation, highlighting the necessity of understanding this unmerited grace to find true peace. He clarifies that salvation is solely found in Christ, who was sent by God out of His love for humanity to offer eternal life through faith in Him. Calvin warns against the sinful tendency to attribute our salvation to our own merit, stressing the importance of recognizing God's mercy as the sole reason for our reconciliation with Him.

Transcript

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. --John 3:16

"For God so loved the world." Christ opens up the first cause, and, as it were, the source of our salvation; and he does so, that no doubt may remain; for our minds cannot find calm repose until we arrive at the unmerited grace of God. As the whole matter of our salvation must not be sought anywhere else than in Christ, so we must see whence Christ came to us, and why he was offered to be our Savior.

Both points are distinctly stated to us; namely, that faith in Christ brings life to all, and that Christ brought life, because the Heavenly Father loves the human race, and wishes that they should not perish.

And this order ought to be carefully observed; for such is the wicked ambition which belongs to our nature, that when the question relates to the origin of our salvation, we quickly form diabolical imaginations about our own merit.

Accordingly, we imagine that God is reconciled to us, because he has reckoned us worthy that he should look upon us. But Scripture everywhere extols his pure and unmingled mercy, which sets aside all merits. --Commentaries

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