

TAKING THE **WHOLE WORD** TO THE **WHOLE WORLD**

WHOEVER YOU ARE, WHEREVER YOU ARE,

God loves you.

HIS LOVE IS REVEALED IN CHRIST
ON THE CROSS. MY FRIEND,
YOU WILL FIND IT ONLY THERE.

J. VERNON MCGEE



THRU the BIBLE



WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD



GOD LOVES YOU SO MUCH ...

Dr. J. Vernon McGee

The words of John 3:16—arguably the most well-known verse in the Bible—are simple. In fact, most of the words you read in the Gospel of John are so simple a child can read them, but they are also so profound that I wonder if any one of us really knows what they mean.

In the original language, John 3:16 reads, “loved God the world.” Greek sentence structure places the important part of the sentence first—the love of God.

Jesus communicated this simple, profound truth in a conversation with a man named Nicodemus. But often missed are two verses that come before John 3:16, and they help us to more fully understand. Let’s go back and read them:

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. —John 3:14, 15

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



Learn more about John 3:16 in Dr. McGee’s digital booklet, “God So Loved.” Get yours [here](#).

Jesus calls Nicodemus’ attention to something he is very familiar with—an event in the Old Testament during Israel’s 40 years in the wilderness. (See Numbers 21:9). Jesus said that Moses lifted up the serpent, “Even so *must* the Son of Man be lifted up.” The “must” corresponds to the “must” our Lord said earlier to Nicodemus—“You must be born again.” Since Nicodemus *must* be born again, then the Son of Man *must* be lifted up. The necessity of being born again makes imperative the lifting up of Christ on the cross. It is a divine compulsion.

With this picture, our Lord threw open the doors of heaven for Nicodemus (and for us), and we see the King of Glory—not enthroned and crowned, but on a cross. Jesus Christ reveals His death on the cross to Nicodemus three years before He died. Clearly and definitively, this is why He came; He came to die.

Why? Why did He die? Because God loves you and me.

May I get personal? I am going to heaven someday. You may think, "Well, you must be very good." On the contrary, I am not very good. I am going to heaven someday because of this one truth: Christ died for me, and I trust Him.

We have not adequately scaled the heights, plumbed the depths, or grasped the width of the love of God. Paul was accurate when he said, "To know the love of Christ which passes knowledge" (Ephesians 3:19). We are not able to measure the vastness or the intensity or the overwhelming goodness of God. If you could, it would break your heart, just as it would mine. I can only say that God loves you.

These are days in which a great many people are called to go through dark nights and deep waters. When you face problems and face them alone, you need to know that God loves you. Whoever you are, wherever you are, God loves you, and His love is revealed in Christ on the cross. And, my friend, you will find it only there. It is not on the mountaintops or on the surging sea; it is not in babbling brooks or majestic redwood trees—you will not find it anywhere in nature. The Bible makes this crystal clear. "God so loved the world that He gave redwood trees and babbling brooks"? No! "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Will you believe?

Will you believe?

» MY TURN

**RIGHT NOW, THIS MINUTE,
TAKE THIS TO HEART:**

God loves you

He loves you so much

He gave His Son for you.

Because He loves you, He's made a way for you to have a relationship with Him through His Son, Jesus Christ, who lived a perfect life and died on your behalf to pay the punishment for your sin.

Without God's gift and Jesus' sacrifice for you, you can't ever know God. Your sin separates you from Him, and you can't do anything to bridge that gap. Your sin condemns you, and you can't do anything to help yourself.

But God has made a way for you through Jesus Christ. His death pardons you from being condemned. His sacrifice can give you life—and not just a better life here and now, but a life in God that goes on forever.

But you must decide for yourself. There's only one thing to do: Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Trust Him to forgive your sin and be your Savior.

To know Jesus Christ as your Savior is what life is meant to be. The peace and joy you can experience now is just a taste of what's ahead, after you breathe your last breath here. That's when real life begins.

**GOD LOVES YOU AND
INVITES YOU TO REAL LIFE WITH HIM.**

FIELD NOTES

TAKING THE WORD
TO THE WORLD

ON BEHALF OF MILLIONS ...



A thank you from
Gregg Harris, YTB president

I often wish I could come to your home, sit in your living room (hopefully while sharing a cup of coffee!), and share the things I witness happening at *Thru the Bible* on a regular basis. As a listener to the program, you know Steve and I try to offer a taste of that experience, but we are always limited to just a few minutes of sharing.

The first thing I would say to you is “thank you” on behalf of millions of people around the world who wait eagerly each day for the next program in their journey through the Word of God. Many of these people live in a kind of poverty that would stretch your imagination. Most have very little formal education, and some are illiterate. Others come from very dark backgrounds, like a listener I met in Nepal who used to be a witch doctor. Many are set free from bondage in idol worship and dark religious practices. Many listeners have turned to Christ from Muslim backgrounds. Numerous Imams (Muslim clerics) have secretly listened to *Thru the Bible* in their language and joyfully turned to Christ.

People suffering in horrific conditions in prisons around the world find comfort, hope, and strength by listening to *Thru the Bible*. One man I met in India who was a gang leader found Christ listening to *Thru the Bible* in prison. He was released for good behavior and now pastors a number of churches. A successful businessman in Saudi Arabia came to faith in Christ watching our Arabic satellite TV program and had everything taken from him. They confiscated his money, sentenced him to 100 lashes in public, and put him in prison. He began leading many to Christ in that prison and later escaped the country. He is ministering to hundreds he has led to Christ after his release.

A significant portion of our audiences suffer for their commitment to Jesus Christ. We hear accounts of people being disowned by their families, fired from their jobs, imprisoned, and questioned by the authorities. The most surprising thing we hear from those who are persecuted is that they do not ask us to pray for it to stop. They ask us to continue to give them the Word of God so they can be encouraged, strengthened, and honor Jesus Christ.

THANK YOU FOR *praying and giving*
SO WE CAN GIVE THESE THIRSTY SOULS THE
Living Water of Jesus Christ.

I promise you that if you met these listeners and saw the joy in their eyes and the smiles on their faces, you would long to do everything you could to offer the systematic teaching of God’s Word to them. In most of the world, our listeners have no other resources to study the Word of God from cover to cover. That is why I would say “thank you” on their behalf. Thank you for praying and giving so we can give these thirsty souls the Living Water of Jesus Christ. Thank you for caring about people you will never meet on this side of eternity, but because of God’s saving grace and your partnership in the gospel, you may stand beside when we all worship Jesus in glory (see Revelation 7:9).



MEET A SERVANT OF JESUS IN MYANMAR

"The C-virus"—that's what the military regime in Myanmar calls Christianity.

As we continue our prayer journey through Southeastern Asia, we stop and pray for our brothers and sisters who worship Jesus in this highly restrictive country.

While communities that aim to remain "Buddhist only" make life for Christian families impossible by not allowing them to use community water resources and the pressure from family and friends to abandon their faith can be great, God's people are growing in His grace and love. This recent email tells us more:

"Through your programs I have come to understand God's Word, and my life is much better. I feel satisfied because I now have a relationship with God and an eternal future. I try to live in God's will. I help my neighbors (all are non-believers) as much as I can, even though they often ridicule me. I never am unkind. As they mock me, I am gentle

and go about my ways. Some have become friendly simply because I do not react and continue to serve those in need. Please pray for them; they need God's peace, and they do not know it. And please continue to teach God's Word. I study and pray every day, hoping it will keep me close to Him."

Praise God today for this man and all those who choose to follow Jesus in Myanmar. As God's Word goes out, pray many more in Myanmar will discover the glorious hope and future found in a relationship with Him.

This is an example of the email our World Prayer Team receives every weekday. Together, we are traveling the world on our knees, interceding for one country at a time. We invite you to join us in covering the entire earth with prayer every year.

GO TO TTB.ORG/PRAY TO SIGN UP.

What's Happening at THRU the BIBLE



BOTT RADIO NETWORK'S

Special Summer Study for Kids and Parents

TRUST SUMMER STUDY



Bott Radio Network is helping parents study Genesis alongside their children as they participate in the National Bible Bee Trust Discovery Journal.

Parents study with *Thru the Bible* and kids study the same verses with the National Bible Bee. Everyone learns and grows as we study the book of Genesis together this summer.



Find out more bottradiationetwork.com/lp/bible-bee or download the free iOS/Android app.

Enjoying Summer Fruit

When we receive your messages and emails, we are so encouraged to hear how God is working. If Dr. McGee was here, he would call this time “fruit inspection”—i.e. looking at how God’s Word is bearing fruit in your lives.

Here’s some recent “fruit inspection:”

Fruit: “Back into the fold”

“You have truly opened my heart to the love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Your inspiring words from the Bible have brought me back into the fold.” –from Lakeland, Florida

Fruit: The truth of God’s Word

“I am confused by the teaching taught in our local church saying our ancestors’ traditions have influence over our lives even if we are saved. I have learned I am a new creature in Christ Jesus. The ancestors have no power over me.” –from Kinyarwanda speaker in Rwanda

Fruit: Fellowship in the body of Christ

“Through your program I have come to know Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord. It is not safe to have a church here, so I cannot thank you enough for your efforts in Iraq. Please also thank those who provide the finances and pray for us. When I feel lonely, I think about the brothers and sisters in Christ who make it possible for me to hear the gospel.” –from Margaret in Iraq

Thanks for your partnership in taking the whole Word to the whole world. It’s bearing fruit—in your life, too!

Gratefully,



Gregg Harris
President, Thru the Bible



WHY STUDY NAHUM & HABAKKUK?

Join in the studies on
Thru the Bible **AUGUST 20–**
SEPTEMBER 14 or anytime
online, by podcast, or by
mobile app.

NAHUM

Two prophets preached to Nineveh: Jonah and Nahum. When Jonah preached repentance (765 B.C.), the people repented and God spared them. 150 years later, Nahum preaches the same message, but the people reject it and are judged. The takeaway? God is slow to anger and gives grace—but He won’t tolerate sin.

“Nahum is a thrilling book to study because it reveals the other side of the attributes of God. God is love, but God is also holy and righteous and good. And God still moves in the lives of nations; therefore, this book speaks right into where we are today.” –J. Vernon McGee

Nahum reminds us of God’s active hand, working even in the darkest times to bring justice and hope throughout the world.

HABAKKUK

Habakkuk is a man with questions. Disturbed by God’s seeming indifference to the sinfulness of His own people, he asks Him, “Why don’t You do something?” But instead of running like Jonah, Habakkuk channels his frustration into prayers and eventually praise to God that reads like an ancient song.

■ FYI: The books of Romans, Galatians, and Hebrews all quote Habakkuk 2:4, **“The just shall live by his faith.”**

God may seem silent and uninvolved in our world, but He always has a plan to deal with evil and always works out justice ... eventually. Wait on the Lord. Expect Him to work all things out.



I Love to Tell *the Story*

“Living by God’s Word is really the easiest route to take in life ...”

Nancy from Ottawa, Canada | “Eighteen years ago, I ‘stumbled’ across this ministry, and I’ve been aboard the Bible Bus ever since. I learn something new every day, and I’m always surprised by that. I want to encourage our younger team members that the longer I live, the more I discover there is no true, tested, and lasting wisdom apart from that which God has given us through His Word. Wherever you go and whatever you do, don’t depart from it. Stay the course. Stay on the Bible Bus.

“I wish I had known this so much earlier. **Living by God’s Word is really the easiest route to take in life. Don’t waste your time taking detours or excursions that focus on the pleasures of the world. They only lead to dead ends filled with sorrows and heartache. Instead, use God’s Word as your roadmap, your guide through life, and you won’t be disappointed. I’ll be praying for you.**”

Carol | “I’ve been on the Bible Bus for many years, but it wasn’t until a recent medical diagnosis that I realized how much God’s Word has become a part of me. As the doctor spoke of what was to come, my mind raced, my heart sunk, I couldn’t catch my breath ... but from deep within God’s Word came flooding over me when I needed it most. And the best part is that it stayed with me through my subsequent treatment. I never once felt alone and the words of Isaiah 41:10 became the song my heart repeated over and over and over.

“Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to know God’s Word and grow closer to Him. I didn’t know how much I was learning until I was given a test and felt totally unprepared. In the end, I realized God was preparing me all along, and He was there to guide me through it.”



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