

## BRIEF PERSPECTIVE ON EASTER

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him..... This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. John 3:16, 17,19*

The contrast here cannot be more stark. On one hand, the love of God for the world was so great that He gave His Son that the Son might redeem the world. On the other hand, the death grip that sin has on some people that these people would forgo their redemption and forfeit their reconciliation to God.

As I ponder these truths afresh, I am awestruck by the love of God. One, He decided to love us before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4). Two, it was a supreme expression of love in laying down His life (John 15:13). Third, it was a death-defying resurrection love (John 11:25). Finally, God's love is of the eternal, enduring type of love (Psalms 136). Amazing love, how can it be? That Thou my God should die for me?

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### WARMING UP

1. What is the greatest act of love that someone has shown you?
2. What is the greatest act of love that you have shown someone?

### INTO THE PASSAGES

#### **Read John 3:1-8, 2 Cor 5:17 - You must be born again**

3. According to Jesus, what is the precondition to entering the kingdom of God (verse 3)?
4. Practically, what does it mean 'the old has gone, the new is here'?

#### **Read John 3:9-17 - The love of God**

5. How did God demonstrate His love? What are the long lasting effects of His love?
6. Who do we need to do in order to appropriate God's love?

#### **Read John 3:18-21 - The piercing light of God's love**

7. What does the bible say about the reason why some people withdraw from God?
8. What is the character of God seen prominently through all these verses?

### MOVING FORWARD

*'He gave His life, what more could He give?'* So goes a verse from a popular Christmas song.

Spend some time meditating on the truth that God has done it all - He sent His only begotten (sinless) Son to die for the sins of the world.

Spend some time on knowing yourself. Have you only given mental assent to the truth that Christ has risen and no more. Or we have believed the message of Christ wholeheartedly and have reaped the benefits of love, joy and peace in our lives.

Behold, Christ stands and knocks on the door of our heart and beckons us to invite Him in (Rev 3:20). Invite Him into your heart today.

### LIFE TOGETHER

The Book of Hebrews (Heb 12:1-3) illustrated for us a wonderful picture that the heroes of faith in the past are watching us run our race of faith. They had finished their race because Jesus is faithful.

And we are encouraged to do like they did, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. Live your life along with other pilgrims of faith.

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These notes are primarily for the Into the Passage portion, and are to be used just as guidelines or commentary notes. Most of them are my own thoughts, so take that with a grain of salt. Let the Word of God lead you to truth, not these notes.

### INTO THE PASSAGES

#### Read John 3:1-8, 2 Cor 5:17 - You must be born again

3. According to Jesus, what is the precondition to entering the kingdom of God (verse 3)?

**A person must be born again of the Spirit of God. The scripture reveal the work of the Spirit to be this: conviction of sins, teaching the believers the truths from the Word of God, aiding the believers in prayer, and boldness in testifying about Jesus. Taken together, it constitutes power to live the Christian life.**

4. Practically, what does it mean 'the old has gone, the new is here'?

**In context, the old nature (the sinful nature) is done with. It was an old way of living according to our desires (which brings death). The new nature (our spirit birthed by the Spirit of God) desires fellowship with God and seeking to please Him. We now live in the reality that God is real.**

#### Read John 3:9-17 - The love of God

5. How did God demonstrate His love? What are the long lasting effects of His love?

**God sent His Son to die on our behalf. His Spirit indwells us (as a sign that we belong to God). We move from the kingdom of darkness into His kingdom of light. As long as we remain in His presence, we enjoy the love and protection of God.**

6. Who do we need to do in order to appropriate God's love?

**Just believe that Jesus dies for our sins. (Gk: pisteuō; to believe, put one's faith in, trust, with an implication that actions based on that trust may follow; (pass.) entrust)**

**There was a change in Nicodemus' life. True belief is accompanied by transformation because the Spirit's work in the lives of believers is Christ-likeness transformation (Rom 8:29, 2 Cor 3:18, Phil 3:21)**

#### Read John 3:18-21 - The piercing light of God's love

7. What does the bible say about the reason why some people withdraw from God?

**Sin. The Word of God states that there will be people who are in sin's grip that they will withdraw from God. We do not underestimate sin as it can still easily entangle us because we are still living in this flesh on this side of eternity (Rom 7, Heb 12:1, 1 John 2:1,2)**

8. What is the character of God seen prominently through all these verses?

**God's love.**