

## Exegetical Notes, John 3:16, Colossians 1:15, 2:9

### “Is Jesus God? - The Profile”

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#### John 3:16

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*

- This most familiar verse opens with the affirmation of God’s love. God’s love is the basis of and the motivation for everything that God has done.
- The object of God’s love is not one person or one person group. Neither Jews nor Christians can claim any special favor from God because he loves them better than he loves others. The object of God’s love is all the people of the world.
- God demonstrates his love by giving.
- What God gave was his “one and only Son.” All Christians are the children of God, but Jesus is the “one and only Son.” The phrase implies that the relationship between God the Father and Jesus Christ is unique and different from the relation that others have with God. The KJV translation of this word as “the only begotten son,” implies that Jesus had his beginning at birth. However John 1:1-18 declares that Jesus was the Word that existed with God and was part of God before time. The phrase means that Jesus was unique and beloved of the Father. His sonship is different from ours. His relationship with the Father is different from ours. He is God’s gift to us, an expression of God’s love.
- The purpose of this gift from God is to provide an alternative to death, eternal life. Death is the end of life. Eternal life is not so much a life that endures forever as it is a life which is abundant and full. A life which is not abundant and full but lasts forever would not be a blessing. The life God offers through Jesus is a blessing because it is full and meaningful and without end.

- This life is given to all who believe. To believe is to trust. The verse says that God gives this life to everyone who trusts Jesus to give it to them.

### **Colossian 1:15**

***He (Jesus) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.***

- Jesus said, “If you have seen me you have seen the Father” John 14:9. God is spirit. As such, he is not visible to the human eye. No one has ever seen God. However, in Jesus, we see all the attributes of the Father as if we were looking at God himself.
- In the ancient world the firstborn son inherited  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the Father’s estate. By right, he had authority over the estate. The word “firstborn” means that Jesus has the right to exercise authority over the Father’s estate. He rules over it all by right.

### **Colossians 2:9**

***For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form....”***

- The verse means that all of God was present within Jesus while Jesus was among us in human form.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon entitled *Is Jesus God? The Profile*. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen, Senior Pastor at Cornerstone Fellowship, Coatesville Pennsylvania. All rights are reserved by *Cornerstone Fellowship & The Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen*. They are used here by permission.)