

Reference in this leaflet is from the Bible:

* 1John chapter 4 verse 10

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GOOD
NEWS

IN



SECONDS

In an age of soundbites, is it possible to summarise in thirty seconds what God wants to say to us?

A story is told of a child in Martin Luther's time who only thought about God with dread and as a terrible Judge. In the stern house where she grew up, this was the only way God was presented to her. She never heard about God's gentleness or His affection. But one day in her father's printing office, she picked up a scrap of paper, and found written on it these words: "For God so loved the world that he gave..." These were the only words that were on the torn-off piece of paper, but even this little fragment was a revelation to her. God loved! Loved the world - and loved it well enough to give something! She didn't know what He gave, but it was enough for her to know that God loved as much as that. This new thought changed her view of God. What a comfort to her now to think of God as one who loved her.

She only had a part - but we have the complete verse!

"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 verse contains the best news ever in even less than 30 seconds!

But let's take a closer look. You'll find this verse in the New Testament of the Bible. It's John chapter 3 verse 16.

"For God..." This shows us the source of this gift that's on offer. It begins with God - not us.

"so loved the world..." and this shows us the depth of God's divine love. "Not that we loved God, but He loved us..."*

"that he gave..." is the measurement - what His love prompted Him to do; how far He would go.

"His one and only Son," the Lord Jesus Christ. In giving up His own Son there must be an important purpose for doing this.

"that whoever believes..." What God is offering you here and now is available to everybody - but it's only given to and received by those who believe. You cannot work or pay for this - its all been done by the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus on the cross.

"shall not perish..." This indicates an escape from perishing or dying. God's justice says we certainly deserve to die. When God says, "do this" we say "I will not." And when He says "don't do this" we say, "I will." However, because God's punishment for this disobedience fell on Jesus instead of you and me, we can escape what we rightly deserve!

"but have eternal life" It's the free gift of God. **Take it!** "You can't get it any other way than by simply believing.

D. L. Richardson