

God so Loved the World

God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life

My son's first book was titled, 'Most of all Jesus loves you.' There is no lesson more important for him, and for his father, to learn and cherish.

It is amazing that God loves the world that has rebelled against him. Our first parents disobeyed their Maker, and we, their children, continue to do the same to this day. Every sin that we commit is, in effect, an act of disobedience and defiance to God. Yet the Bible tells us that 'God so loved the world!'

Even more amazing is the measure of God's love. God is so good to us, giving us breath, health, food, family and so many good gifts. But all that is nothing compared to the ultimate expression of his love. 'God so loved the world that *he gave his only Son!*' God could not have loved his people more than he did, for his Son is infinitely more precious than all of creation.

God gave his Son when he sent Jesus to the world, to become a human just like us, and to live and dwell among us. Even more, God gave his Son when he offered him up as a sacrifice for sin on the cross of Calvary.

We could never have satisfied God's righteous anger against our sins. We deserve his wrath and punishment in hell forever. Yet God, in his infinite love, provided someone to die in our place, to take upon himself our guilt and penalty, so that we can be freed from our guilt. That someone was none other than his beloved Son.

God gives his Son even today in the promise of the gospel - the good news that the world desperately needs, the message from heaven of love and life. 'Whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.'

One of two destinies awaits each one of us – to perish in hell or to enjoy life in communion with God forever.

All depends on our response to the gospel message. We can ignore, reject and disregard God's love, his Son, and his call to faith, to our detriment and doom. On the other hand, we can listen to the message of salvation, and believe in the Son of God, entrusting ourselves wholly in Jesus' loving arms. We will not be disappointed for God keeps his promises; he will surely give eternal life to whoever believes in Jesus.