



Daily Verse and Comment

[John 3:16-17](#)

(16) 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. (17) For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

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As the great and almighty Sovereign of the universe, the Father was positioned to dictate how He would work out the purpose He envisioned, bringing many sons and daughters into His Family. In His [love](#) for us, He chose to set the supreme example by sacrificing what He loved most "that [the world](#) through Him might be saved" (verse 17).

And His Son did the same. [Philippians 2:5-7](#) informs us that the One who became [Jesus Christ](#) did not cling possessively to His power, glory, and equality with [God](#), but readily consented to humble Himself to be incarnated as a lowly servant, a human being. Beyond that, "being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself [again] and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross" ([Philippians 2:8](#)). As He told the Jews in Capernaum, He would sacrifice His flesh, His precious life, "for the life of the world" ([John 6:51](#)). To cover the sins of those who would believe in Him and provide access to the Father—and thus a relationship with Him—Christ, in [faith](#), was willing to give up everything.

The Father and the Son have not been the only ones to sacrifice. In the long history of God's people, sacrifice has been a constant. Abel and Enoch both gave their lives for God's way and truth. Noah sacrificed many years and his reputation to build the ark, not to mention all the relationships with relatives and friends that were lost under the waters of the Flood. Abraham sacrificed his home in Ur to live in tents, and then God required him to slay his heir, [Isaac](#), the son of promise. In Abraham, we not only have a type of God the

Father's own sacrifice, but we also have the supreme example of sacrifice among God's people. He is "the father of all those who believe" ([Romans 4:11](#)), whose faith we follow.

Consider what [Moses](#) sacrificed to obey God. In his speech to the Sanhedrin, Stephen recounts that "Moses was learned in all the [wisdom](#) of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds" ([Acts 7:22](#)). He had education, experience, position, wealth, and all the advantages of life in Pharaoh's court. [Hebrews 11:24](#) suggests that, more than these other things, he was in line to become the next King of Egypt, as the title "son of Pharaoh's daughter" indicates. But the verse asserts that he refused the title, "choosing rather to suffer [affliction](#) with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of [sin](#), esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he looked to the reward" ([Hebrews 11:25-26](#)).

The Bible is full of similar examples of men and women of God who were called on to sacrifice their ways of life and their desires to follow God. Judges, kings, prophets, apostles, and lay members alike had to give up their carnal plans and aspirations in this world to walk a different path, one of the Spirit, following a purpose that others could not see. This life of sacrifice remains as the general course of Christian living.

— Richard T. Ritenbaugh

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