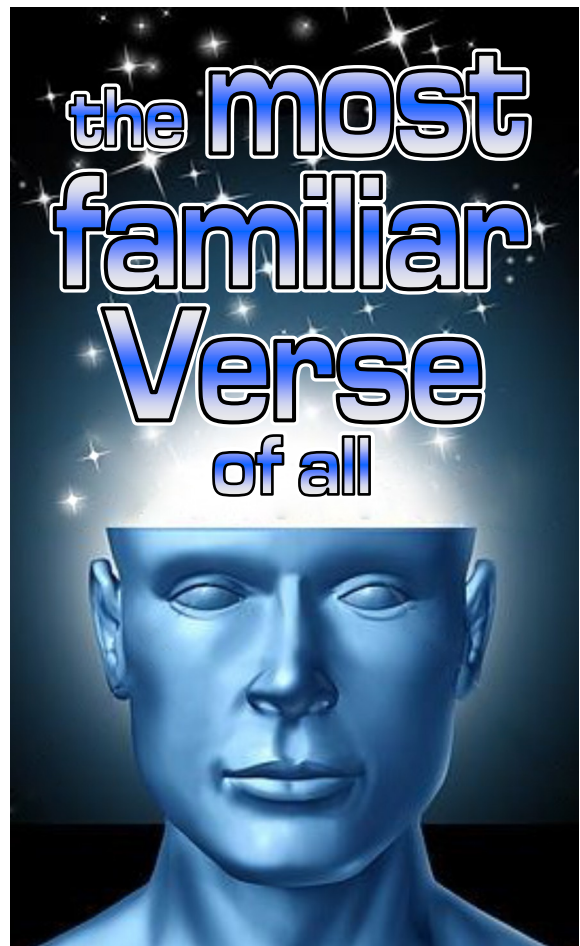


should not perish - God does not want you to perish. Without the forgiveness of sins that can only come by receiving the gift of His Son, there is only death and hell to look forward to. He loves you so much that He wants to rescue you from this awful fate.

but have everlasting life - we will all die physically as a result of being sinners, but those who have received forgiveness through Jesus Christ, will go to heaven to be with Him for all eternity. You have a choice to make. Will you choose life or death? Will you choose to receive the gift of God or reject His Son and perish in hell forever? There is enough spiritual truth in this one verse to show you God's way of salvation, enough love demonstrated to change your heart, and enough warning to make it clear what is at stake. If you never read another verse in the Bible, you have already read enough to be saved.

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The most familiar Verse is not from a song or a poem but from the Bible, God's Word. Little children are taught to memorize it and most adults can quote it. The Bible is God's love letter to mankind and the heart of His message can be summed up in this one verse. No other verse in the Bible is more familiar than John 3:16.

***"For God so loved the world,
that he gave his only begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in him
should not perish, but have
everlasting life."***

For God - God has always existed and is the Creator of all things. In a world which worships many different idols, He is the only true and living God. He is all powerful, all knowing, and present everywhere.

so loved - Love is one of God's greatest attributes. In fact the Bible states that God is love. This message is one of love that comes from the very heart of God.

the world - It's not this enormous dirt clod we call Earth that God loves, nor the beautiful mountains, rivers and plains that He decorated it with. It is the people whom He created to inhabit it, that He so loved.

that he gave - God loves us so much that He gave us a gift. There is nothing we can do to earn this gift. We are all sinners and do not deserve it. God's gift is given out of His great love. What was this gift that God gave us?

his only begotten Son - There is only one who holds this title and that is Jesus Christ. The Son of God came into this world over 2,000 years ago. He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life and died on the cross for the sins of all mankind. Three days later He was raised from the dead, defeating death, hell and the grave. He took the punishment that should have been ours. This was God's gift to us.

that whosoever - God gave His Son for everyone because He is no respecter of persons. It matters not what color you are, or how rich or poor you might be. It doesn't even matter what you have done in your life. There is no sin so wicked that the love of God cannot forgive. Whosoever surely means you and me!

believeth in him - The only condition God has placed upon receiving the gift of His Son is that you believe on Jesus. Do you believe by faith, that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, that He died for you, was buried, and arose again? Do you believe this with all your heart? Will you receive Him as Lord and Savior?