

# The Gospel Briefly Explained

By Brooks A. Harris

The word “Gospel” means “Good News” and the good news of the Bible is that God loves us and God wants us to love Him and live forever with Him. John 3:16 has been called “The Gospel in a Nutshell.” It states **“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.”**

So let’s break down what this means:

**“So God ...”** – the Bible never tries to prove God’s existence. From the beginning at Genesis 1:1 God’s existence is understood and never explained. Romans 1:20 implies that when we study nature we can see that nature is so detailed, complex and organized that it had to have been created by a Creator – God.

**“...so loved the world...”** – God loves His creation more than we can imagine – especially mankind which was the climax of God’s creation.

**“...that He gave His only begotten Son...”** – since Jesus is God incarnate (God in human form) then God actually took our sin and died for us. There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. This was God’s plan all along.

**“...that whoever believes in Him...”** – believing in Jesus means more than just acknowledging His existence. It means that you accept Jesus as your living Lord and Savior (having died then arose from the dead), and you develop a personal relationship with Him and you try to live by His commandments, including His great commandment – to love God and to love other people.

**“...should not perish...”** – should not die to have their spirit spend eternity in agony and without the presence of God.

**“...but have everlasting life.”** – to have their spirit dwell with God in God’s kingdom throughout eternity.

Therefore, God loves you and me so much that God willingly and purposefully came to earth in human form in order to die for us, paying the penalty we deserve for our sin. Now, anyone who fully accepts Jesus and truly loves God, will live forever with God. Read Matthew, Mark, Luke & John to learn about Jesus’ love.