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EXAMINING THE GREAT THREE SIXTEENS OF THE NT

No, not the times-tables test for first school students or the mid-afternoon intercity from Paddington! We are of course talking Chapter and Verse from the most important and significant book ever written – the Holy Bible.



The Bible is the authoritative Word of God and contains everything that people of all ages need to know for their personal salvation. Through the power of the Holy Spirit God speaks to us through the Bible which is His divine Word.

Two surprisingly interlinked great “3:16’s” of the New Testament

Number One: John 3 v16 The Power of Love

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

John 3:16 is quite possibly the most famous verse in the Bible. It is the most read Bible verse on BibleGateway.com at the very least. It has been reproduced on everything from fast food cups to bookmarks and stickers, and you’ve probably received it in a greeting card.

NB: When you consider John 3:16 can you recall the full context in which it was delivered? It was of course spoken by Christ Jesus and it appears part way through the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus, a Pharisee who is one of the members of the Jewish ruling council. Jesus explains why God the Father sent Him to save humanity.

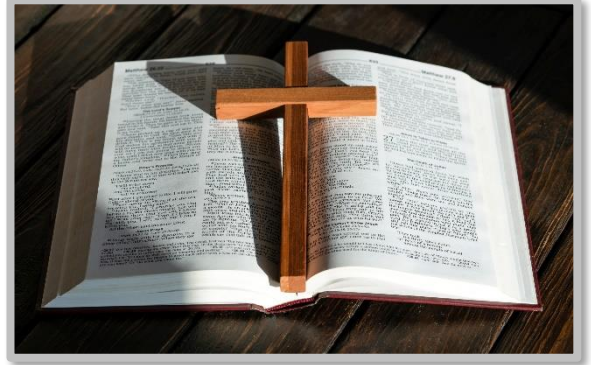
Number Two: 2 Timothy 3 v 16 The Divinity of the Scriptures

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

It’s profitable. What a word. There’s nothing more profitable in the world than God’s Word. It’s profitable for teaching us. Just think of all the ways the Bible teaches us who God is. The Bible teaches us the nature and character and attributes of God. Teaches us who we are. Teaches us what God is doing in the world, how to understand what is happening in our lives. It reproves us, corrects us and trains us in righteousness.

NB: The whole Bible is God's inspired Word. Because it is inspired and trustworthy we should read it and apply it to our lives. The Bible is our standard for testing everything else that claims to be true. It is our safeguard against false teaching and our source of guidance for how we should live. It is only source of knowledge about how we can be saved. God wants to show you what is true and equip you to live for him. How much time do you spend in God's Word?

The nature of our humanity means that we are all prone all day long to turn from God and his ways to ourselves and our own ways. This means we need the Word of God to reprove us, to correct us, to train us every day in righteousness, to live in a right relationship with God, to experience life to the full in right relationship with God so that you and I may be complete.



Now let's look at the surprising links between these two 'golden' 3:16 verses

As well as these two verses (John 3:16 and 2 Timothy 3:16) sharing the same "Biblical addresses" within their respective books they have more in common than might be immediately apparent.

- John 3:16 talks about '**the saviour**' and 2 Timothy 3:16 talks about '**the Scriptures**' these two entities comprise the two greatest gifts ever bestowed on humanity
- The **saviour** came to save us and the **Scriptures** were given to tell us how to be saved.
- Jesus the **saviour** was both fully divine **and** fully human. He came down from heaven yet made his appearance through the instrumentality of a human being who was overshadowed by the Holy Spirit. The **Scriptures** are both fully human and fully divine they came down from heaven yet were given through the instrumentality of human beings who were born along by the Holy Spirit.
- Just as the **saviour** without sin the **Scriptures** are without error.
- The Bible is Jesus in print and Jesus is the personification and fulfilment of the Scriptures.
- The **saviour** is the God man and the **Scriptures** are from both God & man.
- Both are called "the word", one is the living word and the other is the written word, both are utterly unique Jesus is like no other person the world has ever seen and the Bible is like no other book the world has ever read

FINALLY LET'S LOOK AT THE OTHER 3:16's AND THEIR KEY MESSAGES

Luke 3:16 The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

1 Corinthians 3:16 The Holy Spirit's indwelling

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

Ephesians 3:16 The Holy Spirit's Strengthening

that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being

Colossians 3:16 The Imbedded Word

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

2 Thessalonians 3:16 The All-Encompassing Peace of God

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.

1 Timothy 3:16 The Uniqueness of Christ

Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:

He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.

Revelation 3:16 The Danger of Lukewarm Love

So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.

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All scripture references are from the ESV translation.