

Article for English Corner Discussion

1. Article 4-5: God so loved the world

"For **God so loved the world** (世人) that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes (信靠) in him may not perish (灭亡) but may have eternal life (永生). (John 3:16)

For God so loved, what proclamation (宣告) of the Gospel (好消息) has been so often on the lips (嘴上) of missionaries (宣教士) and preachers (传教士) in every age since it was first uttered (说出来)? What has sent such thrilling (使人兴奋) sensations (激动) through millions of mankind (人类)? What to kindle (点燃) in the cold and selfish breasts of (承认) mortals (必死的人) the fires of self-sacrificing love (自我牺牲的爱) to mankind, as these words of transparent simplicity (明显简明), yet overpowering majesty (确有极大的威严)? The picture embraces (包含) several distinct compartments (部份): "The World" ready "to perish"; the immense (无限) "Love of God" to that perishing world, measurable (可衡量的) only, and conceivable (可以想像) only, by the gift which it drew forth from God; The Gift itself "He so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son (独生子)," or, in the language of Paul, "spared not (不爱惜) His own Son" (Ro 8:32), the Fruit of this stupendous (令人惊叹的) gift not only deliverance (释放) from impending (即将来的) "perdition, (毁灭)" but the bestowal (授予) of everlasting life; all takes effect-by "believing" on the Son – Jesus Christ.

By our first natural birth we were corrupt (堕落的), deep in sin; when we consider the holiness (圣洁) of God, the depravity (堕落) of our nature (本性), and the happiness set before us. We must have a desire (愿望) to be reformed (改造), education can not change the nature of a man, therefore we must be remade (born anew). It is a great and most remarkable change of state and character. We must be reformed and entirely different from what we were before. We must have a new nature (本性), new principles (原则), new affections (喜爱), new world

perspective (世界观). To be born again, is to begin to live anew, This new birth is from heaven, It is a great change made in the heart of a sinner, by the power of the Holy Spirit (圣灵). It means that something is done in us, and for us, which we cannot do for ourselves. Such a new life begins as shall last for ever. The regenerating (革新) work of the Holy Spirit sends his influences (影响) on whom, and in what degree, as God pleases. Though the causes are hidden, the effects are plain, when the person is brought to mourn (悲痛) for his sin (罪). Jesus Christ came to save us by healing (医治) us, He has said, lift up the eyes of your faith to Christ crucified (钉在十字架上).

Here is the gospel, good news indeed. Here is God's love in giving his Son for the world. God so loved the world; so really, so richly, that the great God should love such a worthless sinners in the world! Here, also, is the great gospel duty, to believe in Jesus Christ –our savior. And here is the great gospel that "God so loved the world whoever believes in him shall not perish, but shall have everlasting life". God was in Christ reconciling (使和好) the world to him.

From all this is shown the happiness of true believers; he that believeth in Christ is not condemned (定罪). Though he has been a great sinner, yet he is not dealt with according to what his sins deserve. God sent One to save us, that was dearest to himself; How great is the misery (苦难) of the sinner! they are condemned already; It springs from the enmity (仇恨) of the heart of man to God, from love of sin in some form. A reformed man acts truly and sincerely (衷心) in all he does. He desires to know what the will of God is, and to do it, though against his own worldly interest. A change in his whole character and conduct has taken place!

2. Discussions:

1. In your own words, what is the good news (gospel) for mankind?
2. How can we receive this good gift from God?
3. How do we know that someone have received this gift from God?