

This email is the *first in a series of articles* that I've titled "GOD WANTS YOU TO KNOW". Each future article builds upon previous articles, so I would suggest that you print each article for future reference or save it on your computer. It is my hope that these articles will be beneficial to everyone who receives them. Please share them with your family members and feel free to email any questions or comments to me.

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## **GOD WANTS YOU TO KNOW!**

God wants you to know that he loves you personally. One of the most well known verses in the Bible very effectively points out how much God loves each of us: "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" (John 3:16 KJV). The term "whosoever" includes each one of us as individuals. Because God gave his only begotten Son as a sacrifice for the sins that we personally commit, none of us should perish. Although it is spoken of as a gift because we don't deserve it and cannot earn it, God's forgiveness is conditional. It may be that someone reading this article would contend that forgiveness is not conditional. If so, your contention is with Jesus and not with me, because according to Jesus everlasting life is reserved for "whosoever believeth in him."

The Biblical concept of conditional salvation should not adversely affect our view of God's love in any way. Even God's part of his redemptive plan was conditional, because according to Hebrews 9:22 (KJV), "without shedding of blood is no remission." In order for God to forgive you of your sins, the condition that had to be met on his part was to allow the shedding of Jesus' blood. In order for you to be forgiven of your sins, you must meet the condition mentioned in John 3:16 by being one of the "whosoever believeth in him". Why would a loving God make the forgiveness of sin conditional? Because in addition to being a God of love, he is a just God who desires that we spend eternity with him in heaven: "For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23 KJV). Because of our sins we deserve spiritual death (Rev. 21:8), but God devised a way of forgiveness that not only expresses his love for us, but also satisfies his sense of justice.

Our loving and just God was willing to fulfill his part (allow Jesus to give himself to be crucified) in your redemption. Are you willing to fulfill your part (being one of the "whosoever believeth in him") in order to be forgiven of your sins? God loved us so much that he allowed his only begotten Son to be crucified. 1 John 4:19 (KJV) states: "We love him because he first loved us." In light of how God manifested his love toward us, what does God want you to know about manifesting your love toward him? This question will be discussed in article # 2.

"Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath." (James 1:19 KJV)