

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

John 3:16

Scripture Reading:

John 3:1-21

1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. 2 He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him."

3 In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

4 "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!"

5 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'

8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

9 “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

10 “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things?”

11 I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony.

12 I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things?

13 No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. 14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. 21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.”

Christmas is about Giving!

God Gave:

His Son

John 3:16

His Salvation

John 6:47

His Spirit

John 14:15-

Christmas is about Giving!

So, We Give:

Our Time

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Our Talents

Romans 12:1

Our Treasures

2 Corinthians 8:1-7

HCBC – A Giving Church!

\$100,000+ the past 15-20 years
short term missions.

\$250,000+ past four years
building improvements.

HCBC – A Giving Church!

2006 giving above the budget:

Ecuador 2006 & 2007	\$ 15,000
Short term missions	\$ 3,000
Youth-Raleigh	\$ 8,000
Various Ministries	\$ 22,000
Building Fund	<u>\$ 4,000</u>
Total	\$ 52,000

HCBC – A Giving Church!

Regular Offering Giving for 2006:

\$12,000 above 2005 giving.

Under budget by \$16,000.

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Offering short fall will be off set by:

- 1) expenses being kept under budget by \$6,000.
- 2) We are blessed as a church to have the needed cash reserve