

DEVOTIONAL

Why do we see so much violence in the world? Why do we hear more about hate than love? If you're like me, you've heard enough bad news to last a lifetime. If we were to only focus on the bad and terrible things happening we would soon lose all hope.

In the midst of the hustle of life and uncertainty about the future, we pause to remember the greatest thing we've ever heard - John 3:16: "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."

These words bring a calm to our anxious minds and hearts. We clearly understand from Scripture that God is holy, or without sin. He demands for His creation to be holy too. Every single person has fallen short of perfection. But God loves His creation, and sent Jesus to make His creation holy, by giving the world His own perfection. John 3:16 tells it all and John 3:17 is the cherry on top, "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world, through Him."

Bad news abounds, but God's good news is for you and for me. It reminds me that the troubles of this world will end, when God will grant me everlasting life, through faith in Jesus. This is true love, "not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. (I John 4:10)"

Knowing that God is love compels me to love my neighbor. Based in the love that God has for me, my love for others endures, continues, and deepens. Tell someone that you love them. Tell your wife, your husband, your son, your daughter, and yes, your neighbor. All true love is based in God's love for the world. Thank you for reading, "I love you."

Pastor B.E. Coleman
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Heavenly Father,

We confess that, as we look at the world around us, sometimes we find ourselves why. The images and events we see in the media, the hurt and the pain that we see there can cause this why to become louder until, in our minds, it becomes a roar. And, there are times when, because we're quick to forget, we also forget to look to you for hope.

Father, in the middle of these times, remind us that we do have hope, that we don't have to let ourselves be consumed by grief even though there will be times when we do feel it. Remind us in the middle of those times of Jesus' sacrifice so that, clinging to that Hope, we can look forward to the joy of Heaven. While we're here on Earth, let this Hope and joy move us to act in love and to let the light of the gospel shine even in those places where people are hurting.

In Jesus' Name, we pray, Amen.

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