

**Tuesday, September 8, 2020**  
**Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...**

**"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*

How do you feel about being a "whoever"? Nobody wants to just be a "whoever." We want to be a "somebody." Everybody wants to be somebody – somebody that matters. Wouldn't it be neat if John 3:16 read: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that if (insert your name here) believes in him, he/she should not perish but have eternal life." That would feel pretty special, I'm sure.

But it says, "whoever." That leaves it pretty wide open. What if you went to the hospital for surgery and you wanted to know who was going to be doing the surgery and the answer was, "Whoever wants to." Or, what if you boarded an airplane and they came over the speaker and said, "Whoever wants to fly the plane today, just raise your hand." Someone who has gone to 14 years of medical school to learn how to be a surgeon would likely take offense at the notion that "whoever" wanted to do surgery could do it. "Why did I waste all that time in medical school if I could have just walked in off the street and performed surgery?!" I know, that's an absurd thought. We know why a person needs to go through many years of medical school to become a surgeon. It's so that they would be qualified to do it! The "whoever" person would fail miserably at performing surgery on someone.

When it comes to receiving eternal life, however, you and I are on the same level as a serial killer, or a career bank robber. "Whoever believes in Jesus will not perish but will have eternal life." You are just as qualified as a murderer, and a murderer is just as qualified as you to receive eternal life. When it comes to eternal salvation, we're all the same. We all need Jesus! You're a "whoever." I'm a "whoever." A mass murderer is a "whoever." This is because nobody deserves to receive eternal life. So, "whoever" wants the gift can receive it through faith in Jesus Christ.

To God, every "whoever" is a "somebody"! Every "whoever" is "somebody" that God loves and who has an eternal soul. Jesus died on the cross for every "somebody." That's you! And that's me! You are "somebody" that God loves and that He wants to have with Him in heaven forever.

God's Peace!  
Pastor Jim