

John 3:16 - Unplugged!

Osyio! (Greetings) partners and friends! This year, 2012 is already off to a great start. Great things are “suddenly” happening for the First Nations believers! What a great time to be alive. Think about it--you are here on earth for such a time as this! Doors are suddenly opening for Native American ministers and musicians to bring the Good News of our Lord!



Our Native American preachers are bringing the Word from a fresh approach, like a musician playing an instrument that is “unplugged.” When “plugged-in,” a guitar can be made to sound like anything but a guitar. When the guitar is “unplugged” from this distortion, the original warm tones are once again heard.

The word “distort” means to “twist out of the true meaning or proportion, or normal, or original shape or condition: to cause to be perceived unnaturally; to pervert.” To pervert? To pervert means to cause to turn aside or away from what is good or true or morally right.

John 3:16 is considered the most famous verse in the Bible, but it has been distorted to the point that believers and the world don’t “get” the point. Like a guitar, believers can “plug” into wrong teachings and wrong ways of thinking to the point that the Bible doesn’t sound like the Bible any more, especially the most famous verse!

John 3:16 says “*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*” Verse 17 goes on to say God did not send His Son to condemn the world but save them! And when does this everlasting life start? When we die? How about right now!

John 3:17 means He not only saved us from the wrath of God to come (Mt. 3:7; Rom. 5:9; 1 Th. 5:9; Rev. 6:17; 11:18), but **He also has delivered us from the present wrath or judgments** (Jn 3:36; Rom 4:15; 2 Cor 3:9; Gal 3:13).

Now this is the Good News - Unplugged!

The Gospel Makes More Sense in the Original Cherokee!

Excerpts from Brian Wilkes notes, Cherokee Language teacher and minister.

After a visit from a missionary who **would not** pray for Brother Wilkes' peace or healing, he felt something had been missing and went back to Christ's instructions for home visitation (page 2) in the Cherokee language. Brother Wilkes writes:

*1. First pronounce a blessing of grace on all who live in the house. The word in Cherokee is the compound 'nwwa+dohi+ya+da'. **Nww'** is the root for healing or medicine. **Dohi** is peace, harmony, health, stillness **Ya** is real, genuine, original; **Da** or **Dv** is an exclamation.



Therefore, the Cherokee blessing shown in red is "**Let there be Genuine Healing and Peace upon this residence and all who live here.**"

The messengers of Christ were to open with their best, a gift of healing and an assurance of salvation, a word which also means healing. Don't see anything there about asking which translation of scripture they favor or any other kind of "faith test." There's nothing about making people jump through hoops to earn their free gift. If there was even one 'son of peace,' someone who believed in salvation or at least gave you the benefit of the doubt in the house, the blessing would be accepted. If not, it would return to the giver. In either case, the messenger wasn't losing anything, so there was no reason to be stingy with the blessing.

*2. Second heal the sick, and assure the sick that the Provider's rule is near/within them. Chaos has not triumphed; Divine Order is still in effect, even in the sick. It doesn't say to PRAY FOR a healing, or to VISUALIZE a healing, it says the messenger of Christ WILL HEAL the sick.

The missionary made no effort at this. When I mentioned that the Native American Church is based on healing, not doctrine, he was uncomfortable. He wasn't sure if he believed in pastors healing the sick. HUH? I asked if he healed in the name of Christ. More discomfort. His theology was clearly about what happened after you die, not before. Even though I had mentioned my recent hospitalization, there was no attempt to relieve suffering, or even to pray with me for a more complete recovery. Around here, if you practice healing, you might be mistaken for a Pentecostal...

..... Don't know how it worked out that the Cherokee often makes more sense than the English, which should be closer to the original source, but for now I'll just accept that the Lord works in mysterious ways. *Nwadohiyada! Brian Wilkes*

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