



# Pastor's Niche

## March 2024

*"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him..."*  
*John 3:16-17*

### BOOK OF THE MONTH



**I AM A CHURCH MEMBER**  
*Discovering the Attitude that Makes the Difference*  
By: Thom S. Rainer  
ISBN13: 978-1-4336-7973-5

### SCRIPTURES: *Church Membership*

**MARCH 1-2**  
*Romans 12:4-5*  
**MARCH 3-9**  
*Hebrews 10:25*  
**MARCH 10-16**  
*Ephesians 2:19-22*  
**MARCH 17-23**  
*Hebrews 13:17*  
**MARCH 24-30**  
*1 Peter 2:5*  
**MARCH 31**

## God So Loved

*(Original publication - April 2021)*

How often have we asked God why He lets us go through so much hardship and pain? How is this called love? We only need to think about Jesus, God's one and only Son, to realize there is an eternal purpose to our suffering. Knowing that while we yet sinned, our Savior bore all – not some – but all of our sins upon Himself when He was crucified on the cross shows us how much God loves us. God loves us so much that He was willing to sacrifice His heart to save our souls. He gave His heart when He sent Jesus into the world and watched Him suffer the ultimate hardship and pain in order to redeem us from our sins.

Jesus didn't have to do it. He could have aborted God's plan to save us. Greater than His physical suffering was the aloneness of His separation from His Father. Separation from the ubiquitous love of God. Lord, have mercy! That is the worst feeling any of us could ever know – being completely separated from God. But it happens every day. Every time we sin – no matter what that sin is - we separate ourselves from God, because in God there is no sin. Imagine if God were to punish us the way we deserve to be punished each time we commit sin? We would think He is mean, but His chastisement would be to bring us back into alignment with Him and His love.

There is purpose in pain and suffering. Beyond it lies God's greatest good for His children. That's what mattered most to Jesus when He was crucified. Jesus endured a horrendous suffering on the cross because God so loved – *you and me*.

*Pastor Daniel Simmons*