

God loves us and our need to love others.

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Reading:

Exodus chapter 34 verses 5 through 7, "And the LORD descended in the cloud and stood there with him as he called upon the name of the LORD. ⁶ Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; ⁷ who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave *the guilty* unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations."

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In chapter 33 of Exodus, verse 18 reads "Then Moses said, "I pray You show me Your glory!" God's answer is found in verse 19, " And He said, "I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the LORD before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion."

In the reading and verse 19 of chapter 34 God showed Moses His lovingkindness, how gracious He is, His slowness to anger and how He forgives. In other words how He loves that which He created.

Webster's dictionary states of glory, "great honor and admiration; fame; renown; splendor" Is not His love part of His splendor and a reason He should receive our admiration and this is the reason we give Him great honor.

David In Psalm chapter 86 verse 15, speaks of God's great love for those He created in His own image " But Thou, O Lord, art a God merciful and gracious, Slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness and truth." This verse echoes verse 5 of the same chapter, "For Thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive, And abundant in lovingkindness to all who call upon Thee."

Mans problem with following God's commandment began with Adam and Eve and has not improved much sense then. God knew this would be a problem, let us read Ecclesiastes chapter 1 verse 9" "That which has been is that which will be, And that which has been done is that which will be done. So, there is nothing new under the sun." As with many today the Jews, God's chosen at that time followed God's way until things became so good they thought they knew better and became worldly and worshipped idols. Then God would arrange a lesson for them. They would cry and plead and God would forgive, He loved what He had created. People are humans, "there is nothing new under the sun"

Yet we know from the word how great God's love is for mankind, "

In John chapter 3 verse 16 we find how great His love was for those under the new covenant. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

There within that lovingkindness we find that greatest gift mankind received from the Father, His son and eternal life, if one follows His son. God paid dearly for this gift. He gave His only Son, He sacrificed His own Son! Are we willing to give that much for God, for Jesus Christ who followed His Fathers plan knowing what He had to go through. From 1 John chapter 3 verse 16 we learn how great Jesus' love was for us, " We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. "

This sacrifice is something man can only wonder on and never completely understand, let alone being able to ever consider, yet do

it. For if you have that much faith, my friends, you could truly move a mountain. From the word in Romans chapter 5 verse 7 we read, "For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die"

Think about Abraham in Genesis chapter 22 verses 1 and 2, "Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ² And He said, "Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah; and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you."

Abraham rose early in the morning and did as God said. In verse 7 through 13 we read, " And Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." And he said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" ⁸ And Abraham said, "God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together. ²² Then they came to the place of which God had told him; and Abraham built the altar there, and arranged the wood, and bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. ¹⁰ And Abraham stretched out his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ¹² And he said, "Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." ¹³ Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind *him* a ram caught in the thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son."

Here Abraham showed his great love, trust and faith in God.

Let us study more on this subject this morning from God's word. Let us look at 1 John chapter 4 verses 7 through 21, for the lesson

Let us read Verses 7 and 8 from the lesson, "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love."

We know from these two verses that, "God is love," - "love is born of God"- everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Christians are to love and to help others Fellow Christians, sinners, strangers, those we love and those who give us grief, rulers, the rich and the poor, the homeless, everyone. My friends, I have read the book from cover to cover many times and never found where God said it would be easy. He did promise Christians heaven if you follow His Son to the end of life.

If you read any newspaper or listen to or watch any news cast on radio or TV, you hear where Christians in some country are being killed for their beliefs. Here in the United States we do not have that fear. My friends there are some who would like to take Jesus Christ from us. If we allow them.

Hear the word of the Lord, Isaiah chapter 42 verses 6 and 7, "I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I will also hold you by the hand and watch over you, And I will appoint you as a covenant to the people, As a light to the nations, ⁷ To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the dungeon, And those who dwell in darkness from the prison."

"As a light to the nations" This tells that Christ would come to save the sinner. Sinners from all nations as we are told from Acts

chapter 26 verse 23, " that the Christ was to suffer, *and* that by reason of *His* resurrection from the dead He should be the first to proclaim light both to the *Jewish* people and to the Gentiles."

Paul states in Romans chapter 3 verse 29, 30, "Or is God *the God* of Jews only? Is He not *the God* of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, ³⁰ since indeed God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith is one."

From the lesson let us read verses 9 through 11, we read, " By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins." " Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."

We know from John chapter 3 verse 16, the extent of God's love, where He manifested His love of His creation by giving His Son for the sins of mankind , and mankind the opportunity of eternity with Him in heaven. This was because of God's love as verse 10 states, "not that we loved God, but that He loved us."

Some may wonder and question God's love as they face their daily trials. My friends, God is still there as we read in 2 Peter chapter 3 verse 9, "The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance." Makes you wonder why some are waiting to come to Him, and some make the mistake of waiting to long. God is patient, but Christ will come again. When? Only God knows and He is not telling anyone.

God loved us, not because of anything man did, He loved what He had created, should we not love in the same manner, showing our love to God and others. This is the meaning of verse 11. If you need some one to teach love, where is there one better to learn from than God. His book is the great textbook.

How much more did He love mankind, let us look at the word of God from Romans chapter 5 verses 8 through 11, " But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. ¹¹ And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation."

Let us look at verses 12 and 13 of the lesson, " No one has beheld God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit."

"He abides in us." He gives us the power to love. He has given us His Spirit. Let us read Romans chapter 8 verse 9 from God's word, " However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him." You will know He is within you when you act as Jesus Christ leads you and the book lays out for you to act.

Let us read from the word 2 Corinthians chapter 1 verses 21 and 22, " Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us

is God, ²² who also sealed us and gave *us* the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge."

Christians belong to God but they must follow His son. He give His Son who is our Savior and our King and He gave us the Spirit. This is a pledge of redemption from God, if we follow His Son to the end of life.

Hear the word of the Lord from Paul in Romans chapter 8 verses 38 and 39, "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Let us go on to verses 14 and 15 of the lesson, " And we have beheld and bear witness that the Father has sent the Son *to be* the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God."

We have the proof my friends right here in His book, this is His word, listen to Hebrews chapter 4 verse 12, " For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. "

Hear the word of the Lord from John chapter 4 verse 24, "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

The word is true as we read from the book in 2 Timothy chapter 2 verse 15, " Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a

workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth."

The word of God is "living and active" and is the "word of truth." As Christian my friends you confessed that "Jesus is the Son of God,

The word which is the truth bears witness God "sent the Son *to be* the Savior of the world." Listen to the word of God, that was given to the shepherds by an angel of the Lord in Luke chapter 2 verse 8 through 11, "And in the same region there were *some* shepherds staying out in the fields, and keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which shall be for all the people; ¹¹ for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Here we find the beginning of all that had been told of the savior.

This is where faith comes in. We as Christians believe the Bible is the word of God. I've said this before, as a Christian you must believe it all, not just that which conforms to your way of life, but all. All of God's word is what will lead one to salvation.

Let us move on to verse 16 through 19 of the lesson, "¹⁶And we have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him" ¹⁷ By this, love is perfected with us, that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear,

because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. ¹⁹ We love, because He first loved us."

This again stresses God's love and the need for Christians to follow by loving others. Verse 17 tells God's love is perfect and we can depend on His love as long as we follow His commandments. This should bring Christians comfort, looking forward to the day of judgement. He first loved us and perfect love should cast out fears. Read and study the word daily, love with knowledge will help cast out fears for you. You will gain faith with knowledge of the Lord's word. Then use that knowledge to gain wisdom to teach others, showing your love.

One may have some fear, God is all powerful, He can and does control everything. Keep in your heart verse 19 from the lesson, "He first loved us." Is that not great.

Let us look at the Lords word, Psalms 19, verses 7 through 11, "The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. ⁸ The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. ⁹ The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether. ¹⁰ They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb. ¹¹ Moreover, by them Thy servant is warned; In keeping them there is great reward.

Remembering the words of the Lord from the parable of the lost sheep in Luke chapter 15 verse 7, "I tell you that in the same way, there will be *more* joy in heaven over one sinner who repents, than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance."

Let us read verses 20 and 21 from the lesson, "If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.²¹ And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also".

Hear the word of the Lord from Hebrews chapter 11 verses 1 through 3, " Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.² For by it the men of old gained approval.³ By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible"

We can all say we love God. Do we show this love and how do we show this love. There is a cost to this love in time and energy and pain when its not returned. One can not love God and not love others for this is a commandment. A Christian can not truly love God and not love others, other Christians and sinner. Remember you should love the sinner, hate the sin, brother Rutherford said that to us often. This is like forgiveness, hard sometimes but must take place in a Christians life. Love like most important things in life take a little work but brings great joy.

Hear the word of the Lord from John chapter 13 verses 34 and 35, where Jesus is speaking to the disciples, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.³⁵ "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Let us look at the word from 1 John chapter 3 verse 14, "We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death"

I have given my little note as I do in each lesson on reading the Bible daily. Which leaves the basic note on salvation which you will find in the bulletin every week, and which I give every lesson because the world needs to hear them, time and time again because of their importance.

Hear the gospel, Romans 10:17. Believe in Jesus, John 3:16. Repent, change ones way of life,, Acts 2:38. Confess the name of Christ, Romans 10: 9 and 10. Be Baptized, Matthew 28:19 and 1 Peter 3:21. Live a righteous life, 1 Peter 2:24.

As we come to the end of our lesson, let us once more look at God's word, Proverbs chapter 10 verse 12, " Hatred stirs up strife, But love covers all transgressions."

One can see how great God's love is by what He has done even with the damage man has done. Look around you my friends, see the Lord in the trees, plants, animals and look up in to the sky. Look around and see what He has done for you and everyone. "He first loved us"

We have spoken on the love God has for all and how He wants all to come to repentance. He wants all Christians to return that love to others. If there is one here today who needs to return to God's love, let us pray with you for your return. If there is one who has the desire to be baptized, God is waiting, please let us help. let us know how we can help as we stand and sing.