

GOD'S LOVE: HE GAVE HIS SON

Rom.5:6-9

INTRODUCTION:

Beginning a series of lessons on LOVE ... and what's a more appropriate place to begin than with the LOVE OF GOD -- He Who IS love, and FROM WHOM all love is derived. The love of God is that part of His nature -- indeed His whole nature, for "God is love" -- which leads Him to express Himself in terms of endearment toward His creatures, and actively to manifest that interest and affection in acts of loving care and self-sacrifice in behalf of the objects of His love.

By definition: "an earnest and anxious desire for, and an active and beneficent interest in, the well-being of the one loved." **Also:** "A strong complex emotion or feeling causing one to appreciate, delight in, or crave presence or possession of the object loved, and to please or promote the welfare of that object; devoted affection, attachment."

Text: Rom 5:6-9 "For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. 8 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."

I. THE OBJECT OF GOD'S LOVE IN THIS PARTICULAR LESSON IS FOCUSED ON THOSE WHO WERE THE ENEMIES OF GOD!

- A. Specifically, His love was extended TO and manifested FOR those who are in the "WORLD", as opposed to those heavenly beings who had rebelled against God! **Jno.3:16; 2 Pet.3:9; 1 Tim.2:4-** "Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."
- B. The OBJECTS of this love manifestation was for those who NEEDED the benefits of it: the "weak", "ungodly", "without strength", and "sinners". (TEXT)
 1. In writing to the Ephesians, Paul further identifies them as those "dead in trespasses and sins"- **Eph.2:1.**
 2. We can also see further benefits in these who had been dead: **Eph.2:4-16**
- C. We're impressed that the **WHOLE WORLD** is encompassed in the gift of God's love!
 1. We must also be impressed that this love that's extended to **EVERY CREATURE, [EACH PERSON]** is both qualified and restricted by that word in **Jno.3:16:** "**WHOSOEVER**"!
 2. Jesus relates in **Luke 15** the parables of "the lost sheep" and "the lost coins" and then finally of the "Prodigal Son" --- showing the susceptibility of ALL, but also the possibility of the LOSS of some!
 3. We have to become DEAD to that old way of life in order to LIVE FOR GOD! **Gal.2:20-**"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me." **Rom.6:3-5** TELLS US HOW and WHEN we put the old man to death!

II. THE LOVE OF GOD HAD TO BE MANIFESTED IN AN UNDERSTANDABLE WAY FOR IT TO BE BENEFICIAL!

[How did God "express Himself in showing His love toward His creatures"? In what "acts of loving care and self-sacrifice" did God actively manifest that interest and affection ... in behalf of the objects of His Love?]

- A. **GRACE** [God's part] and **FAITH** [man's part] are both "emotions" or "feelings" or "attitudes"!
 1. God's love didn't do man a bit of good until it MANIFESTED itself openly and publicly!
 2. **LIKEWISE, faith doesn't do man a bit of Good until it manifests itself openly and publicly!**
- B. God manifested His love in the GIVING of His only begotten Son. **Jno.3:16; Rom.5:8-9; Titus 2:11; 1 Jno.4:9-10-**"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." **Titus 3:4-7**-*"But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, 5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 that being justified by His grace we might be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life."* **1 Jno.3:1-5**-*"See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. 4 Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness. 5 And you know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin."* **Eph.2:4-6**-*"But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus,"**

III. ALSO, MAN HAD TO KNOW HOW TO RECEIVE THIS OFFERING MADE IN HIS BEHALF, ELSE THERE'D BE NO BENEFIT FROM THE SACRIFICE!

- A. The **TEACHING of the Christian system** is called the "Message of Love" or the "Gospel of Grace"! **CF- Acts 14:3**-*"Therefore they spent a long time there speaking boldly with reliance upon the Lord, who was bearing witness to the word of His grace, granting that signs and wonders be done by their hands."* **Acts 20:24**-*"But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, in order that I may finish my course, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God."* **Acts 20:32**-*"And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified."*
- B. As one may think of **entering** the special "**AVENUE**" OR "**WAY**" afforded by God's LOVE, **continuing in it**, or **falling from it**, so one may speak of **ENTERING INTO** or **CONTINUING IN** or **FALLING FROM GRACE!** cf. **Rom.5:2**-*"through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God."* **Acts 13:43**-*"Now when the meeting of the synagogue had broken up, many of the Jews and of the God-fearing proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, were urging them to continue in the grace of God."* **Gal.5:4**-*"You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace."*
- C. Also compare passages found in **Jno.1:17**-*"For the Law was given through Moses; GRACE AND TRUTH WERE REALIZED THROUGH JESUS CHRIST."* **Rom.6:14-17**; **Titus 2:11-12**.
- D. **SO, THE CONCLUSION HAS TO BE THAT MAN MUST OBEY THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST IN ORDER TO AVAIL HIMSELF OF THE SAVING POWER OF THE SACRIFICE OF GOD'S LOVE, HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON!**

CONCLUSION:

"WE LOVE GOD BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US!" All man's love is founded upon the principles as manifested by God in His gift to man. Man is slow to comprehend just how great a love God had. We need to show that we're beginning to understand by DOING HIS WILL! [**B+R+C+B=Rof S.**]

The **love of God** +++ brought about the **gift of God** +++ which was revealed by the **grace of God** +++ which resulted in the manifestation of the **will of God** +++ which demands the **obedience of man** +++ to manifest **MAN'S FAITH and LOVE FOR GOD!**