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THE LOVE OF GOD

JUNE 2022

Today, our Scripture text states, ***“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting (or eternal) life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn (to damn or punish) the world; but that the world through him might be saved” (John 3:16-17).***

One of the most profound bastions or vestiges concerning God’s love is that His love is immeasurable. The fact that Christ used the word world demonstrates His love is truly for everyone, meaning the entire cosmos or world.

His everlasting love is for an unknown length time, an immeasurable time, and involves eternity. Knowingly or unknowingly all men possess eternal life within themselves, whether they embrace or reject the love of God.

Everyone is an eternal being because God breathed into the nostrils of Adam. By that means, man became a living soul. Because Eve came from Adams rib, she also had immortality within her. When God’s breath filled Adam he became an immortal and eternal soul.

The wisest and most profound decision anyone could ever make is to embrace the love of God when manifested unto them.

I was in prayer recently and reminded, ***“The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn (or stretched out to) thee” (Jeremiah 31:3).***

This particular Word given to Jeremiah is a divine demonstration of nothing less than absolute grace.

It is Jehovah’s loving kindness that will pull at the hearts of everyone including the nation of Israel!

Jehovah’s eternal love for mankind is unsearchable and that unconditional love is for Israel as well. It is not because of our love or Israel’s love for Jehovah that He saves us but rather it is because of His love that He saves. His love will ensure Israel’s final blessing if they will embrace His loving kindness.

John the Beloved makes the love of God very real: ***“Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation (or atonement) for our sins” (1 John 4:10).***

Simply put, Jesus Christ paid everyone’s debt of sin when He hung on that old rugged cross. The cross was the glorious personification of His loving kindness toward all men.

When I ponder the prophet Jeremiah and how Jehovah spoke to him, declaring: ***“I have loved thee with an everlasting love”***, that is beyond precious to me. His love is eternal and everlasting to anyone who embraces His unfathomable and great love. Because of His everlasting love He will draw all men to Him. That does not mean everyone will reciprocate and embrace His immeasurable love and repent of their sins.

Jesus said, ***“Many are called, but few are chosen” (Matthew 22:14).*** It is through the love and grace of God that He calls all men to know Him; sadly only a few will cast their lot with Him. Far too many allow the devil to deceive them; coercing them into believing they have too much to forsake concerning this present world.

The truth is, most everything in this world is destroying their lives. No doubt, man’s love is flawed but God’s love is perfect and divine.

I often think of myself, when a teenager, rebelling and walking away from the Lord in the days of my youth. Yet, His everlasting love continued to pull at me daily until I turned and repented of my sins and came back to Him on June 6, 1978.

In my carnal, finite mind, I felt I had too much to forsake to be the minister He had called me to be when I was but a lad 12 years old.

Looking back, the asininity and worldly pleasures I embraced were only damning and destroying my soul. On the night of my godly repentance, I embraced the same state of mind as the man of God Moses. Paul declared Moses’ was ***“Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward” (Hebrews 11:25-26).***

Admittedly, as a young man, I embraced the pleasures of sin during that season of my life. In retrospect, I had to make a choice.

Had it not been for the love of God, I would be in a Devil’s Hell today: eternally lost and regretting every opportunity I forfeited when the Holy Spirit of God dealt with my soul concerning my sins, rebellion, and waywardness.

I personified the prodigal son. But because of God’s everlasting love He drew me intimately into His bosom and that unfathomable love smote my heart, convicted my soul,

and drew me back into a right and proper relationship with Him.

Many times there are those who question my sternness when decreeing the Word of our Lord, but I know what it means to come from the gutter most to the utter most!

After godly repentance I was once again hidden in His most holy bosom, restored to His unfathomable joy, and immeasurable love! We read, *“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not”* (1 John 3:1).

The world once knew me but now they don't. The word “knoweth” (#1097 in *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*), *ginosko* in Greek, means: *to come to know*. To come to know the love of God is the greatest experience one will ever encounter.

The apostle Paul described it thus, *“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us”* (Romans 5:8). The word “commendeth” (#4921 in *Strong's*), *synistemi* in Greek, means: *to introduce favorably*; thus everyone can be made to stand near the One introducing us to His loving kindness.

It is amazing how sinners or backsliders can be so far removed, alienated, and lost without God: but in just a moment's time they can suddenly be cleansed, redeemed, justified, and completely forgiven of their iniquitous life and lifestyle. That, my friend, is the embodiment of the love of God!

The love of God is overwhelming toward mankind. It physically constrained Christ Jesus to wholly submit His will to the Father in allowing God's perfect will to be wrought in His own flesh through death. Thus, He prayed in the garden of Gethsemane, *“not my will but thine be done”* (Luke 22:42).

Jesus said, *“No man can come to me, except the Father which hath*

sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day” (John 6:44).

The word “draw” (#1670 in *Strong's*), *helko* in Greek, means: *to drag one into the love of Christ*. Truly I am unable to express with words or share the depth of my rebellion and why it took such Holy Ghost force to drag me back to the Father's love and fellowship. How great is His loving kindness! However, if one allows, the power of sin does deceive, manipulate, and hold all who do not repent as eternal hostages damned for a Devil's Hell.

I am not some goody-two-shoes preacher who knows nothing of sin and has never experienced the dregs of sin. However, I am a preacher washed, cleansed, and redeemed by Christ's crimson royal blood and vicarious work accomplished on that old rugged cross.

Two of the greatest and most profound words I know of are repentance and redemption. We read: *“If thou, LORD, shouldest mark (or record) iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared”* (Psalm 130:3-4). Truly, everyone who has been forgiven much loveth much.

We also read: *“Let Israel hope in the LORD: for with the LORD there is mercy, and with him is plenteous (or multiplied) redemption”* (Psalm 130:7).

Let me remind you of these precious words: *“He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded (or treated) us according to our iniquities”* (Psalm 103:10).

And let me remind you of His vast mercy: *“But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children”* (Psalm 103:17).

If the Holy Spirit of God is tugging at your heart right now through His loving, affectionate, and benevolent kindness, I invite you right now to accept Jesus Christ and

make Him the Lord of your life. If you just did that your name is now in the Lambs Book of Life!

I encourage you to embrace His love quickly lest He withdraws His Holy Spirit from your presence: *“And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive (or contend) with man”* (Genesis 6:3).

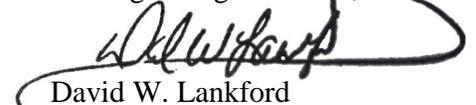
In closing, I am excited to announce, this coming **September 2-4, 2022**, we will have **“Revival in America”** We will meet at the *Hickory Metro Convention Center* in Hickory, N.C. Attending the meeting is **absolutely free** but we need every one to register so we can prepare the seating arrangement. Everyone is invited to come because we all need the fellowship along with a touch of His Holy Spirit.

Presently Jimmy D. Smith, Paul Jacobs, and I will be speaking. There will be live music both Friday and Saturday nights along with Sunday morning's worship service. We will sing many of the old hymns in our worship. We will also serve communion following the Sunday morning service. I encourage you to invite someone. Bring family and friends with you.

Thank you from the depth of my heart for your faithful love and support for this ministry. We are growing every month. Many lives are being changed. I admit it was very disappointing to know some Christian Networks do not want our TV programming. This demonstrates how God's Word is no longer embraced. We will not be deterred from proclaiming God's perfect Word.

The Lord will reward your faithfulness too. We encourage you to remain strong in your work and labor of love. Our Lord is eternally faithful in all things.

Serving Along Side You,



David W. Lankford
Pastor / Evangelist