

The Truth About God's Love

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Date: 15 September 2021

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[0 : 00] Anybody know where that song finds its roots in the Bible? Where you find the term fly away? It's not an easy one.

No. It's not a... I mean, it's applied... We sing it like the rapture because of what Paul revealed to the church, but the passage comes, I believe it's out of Psalm 90 from, I want to say Moses, and it says about our life being three score and ten years, and it says it was soon cut off and we fly away. That's where that shows up, but anyway. That's actually talking about death, so... Sorry. But anyway, let's get into the Bible tonight. You better get your Bible ready. We're going to have some scripture to run on.

And a while back I told you that I reserved the right, on Wednesdays especially, anytime I want to, to run a rabbit trail. A rabbit trail from possibly the previous Sunday that I didn't have time to really get on.

And so I'm going to do that tonight. On Sunday, we were in Hosea chapter 11, and we studied those bands of love that God draws men to himself with, and we saw that he draws men to salvation and to transformation.

[1 : 21] He draws them to correction, and one day to our heavenly habitation. We'll be with the Lord. And we studied that in Hosea. And the one thing that we kind of...

I hit on, we ran a few verses on this doctrine about God's love being available to man at Calvary. And it's a doctrine that's...

It's necessary to understand this in more than one way, but the main way is so that folks don't get off or allow to teach this loving God, this great, big, wonderful, loving, smiley face in the sky that just made everybody the way they are and accepts everybody the way they are.

And they, you know, the world now has this, it's not my fault kind of card to play because they believe that that's who God is. And they don't know who God is. And so I want to kind of go back and address this a little more thoroughly about the love of God and how it's available at Calvary and where God's love is manifest and if...

what the Bible teaches on this thing. To do this, let's go to two places to start. So please find Hebrews chapter 12. Hebrews chapter 12 as well as 1 John chapter 4.

[2 : 41] Now tonight this is going to be a little deeper in concept, I guess a little more doctrinal than the practical messages that we've been covering in the book of 1 John these last five Wednesdays.

And I hope that this is something that is not over your head. It doesn't have to be. It's going to be Bible. And it's really a plain teaching but it's just been so...

it's just overlooked or just misconstrued and it needs to be... need to set the record straight sometimes so that we know the truth and we can stand on the truth. So 1 John 4 and Hebrews chapter 12.

And we'll start in 1 John 4 and notice two verses here. Just a statement that shows up in two verses that everybody loves this. Verse number 8. The Bible says, He that loveth not knoweth not God for God is love.

God is love. Now down in verse number 16. And we know, or we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love.

[3 : 46] And he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God and God in him. So there's a pretty definitive and a straightforward statement about God. And the Bible says God is love. And who doesn't love to hear that?

I mean, that's such a positive and a wonderful thing and concept and thought to think that, hey, God is love. The Bible says God is love. Now look back at Hebrews 12 and let's make sure that we are taking the Bible for what it says always.

And in the passage, he's dealing, he makes some comments about Moses in verse 18 at Mount Sinai. And he mentions that you're not come unto a mount that might be touched and that burned with fire nor unto blackness and darkness and tempest.

And he's talking about Mount Sinai when Moses was there and all the people were scared to death and God was going to kill them if they touched the mountain. And in verse 21, in the parentheses, it says, so terrible was the sight that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake.

Why? Because the presence of God. Now come to the end of this. Now he's likening that and saying that you're not come to Mount Zion in 22 to that mountain here on earth. You're coming to a heavenly Jerusalem to an innumerable company of angels.

[4 : 58] And he continues the thought all the way down to verse 28 and 9, the end of the chapter. Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

Why is that? For our God is a consuming fire. Now that's a little bit different than 1 John chapter 4. God is love.

And at the same time, our God deserves our reverence and our fear because he's a consuming fire. Now, the one hand, it kind of represents and we easily understand his mercy and his pardon and because he is love.

And that's an attribute of God. On the other hand, we hear and see his consuming fire, that wrath and his anger and his hatred. These are both attributes of God.

Both of them are equal attributes of God and God exists, these attributes exist in his person in complete harmony. Even though they seem like one's contrasting the other, how can you be a God of love and a God of wrath and fire and judgment and all of that?

[6 : 09] That's the God of the Bible, by the way. I mean, his name is jealous. There's so many, he's a man of war. You read so many things about the Lord revealing himself and who he is and his person and his personality in this book.

We can't, no dare we never just take the verse, God is love and park that and make that the staple for whatever, for life. When that's just one attribute of God.

When anyone overemphasizes any attribute, you end up with a perverted view of God. Any attribute.

If it's overemphasized, then you have a perverted view of God. If someone overemphasizes his wrath and judgment and that's all they see in God and they're afraid of him and that's all they know, that's not who he is because he's a God that is approachable through Jesus Christ.

He's a God of mercy. Mercy for our sins. The Bible says he's abundant in mercy and he delighteth in mercy. That's something that excites him is to be merciful toward a bunch of rotten rebels.

[7 : 15] So God is a good God. He's a balanced God is the word we need to know. We can't have a false view of him. We can't take one attribute and have an extreme thought and make that who we want our God to be.

We have to allow the word of God to reveal to us who God is. What did he say about himself? And to do that, you've got to go from cover to cover and get the whole picture.

So both attributes I'm introducing here, his love or his wrath, are both perfectly, they're pure, they're righteous, never one over the other.

It's completely balanced. Now, come, you're in Hebrews, look at Hebrews chapter 12 and go back a little bit before this and I want to carefully read something. Now we're going to focus a little bit more on the love of God tonight.

But we need to understand both sides and you'll see how it'll come into play. Hebrews chapter 12, let's read carefully a couple verses here, verses 6, 7, and 8 and consider God's love.

[8 : 19] Alright, verse 6, For whom the Lord loveth, he chasteneth. Now we're talking from verse 5, a quote from the Proverbs, we read this on Sunday, where it says, My son despised not the chastening of the Lord.

Okay, For whom the Lord loveth, he chasteneth and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons.

For what son is he whom the Father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, were of all our partakers, then are ye bastards and not sons.

Now, what do we got here? Number one, you're either a son or a bastard in the verses. Okay, you're either accepted and received by the Father, and if that's the case, whom the Lord loveth, he

chasteneth and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

So if he's received you as a son, then he loves you, verse number six, and he'll scourge you and chasten you when you're out of line like a father does.

[9 : 26] Because it says in verse seven, what son is he whom the Father chasteneth not? Verse number six says he scourgeth every son. And if you don't get the scourging or the chastisement from a loving father, then you're not a son.

Now, this is just kind of separating the son from the bastard or what we'll call the sinner. The son is loved by the father. It says every son is loved by the father.

And it shows us that all sons are partakers of his chastisement out of love. On the other hand, the bastard mentioned in verse eight is not a son. He does not receive chastisement from God.

And we can deduce that he is not loved of the father. Because verse six says, for whom the Lord loveth, he chasteneth. And if he doesn't chasten you, then he doesn't love you because you're not his son.

So I hope you see that. I'm not making something up here. I want you to see that's in the wording of this passage, the two distinctions. What I'm going to call these two is one, the sinner and two, then the son.

[10 : 32] Now the sinner. Let's look at a few verses about the sinner and see what God describes in this book about his wrath toward the wicked. Come back to Psalm five.

Psalm five. I'm going to kind of hit this hard enough to make the point, but the point is not what I'm really trying to drive after, but the point needs to be made here.

God's wrath toward the wicked. Psalm five, verse five. Ultimately, we want to understand the love of God, but to do that, let's establish some doctrine first.

Psalm five, verse five. The foolish shall not stand in thy sight. Notice, thou hatest all workers of iniquity. Who's thou?

God. And what does God do? He hates. And who does he hate? And notice, it is a who. It's people. Workers of iniquity. Look at Psalm 11.

[11 : 37] Psalm 11, and verse number five. The Lord trieth the righteous, but the wicked and him, that's a person, that loveth violence, his soul hateth.

Now, most people are afraid to read that verse out loud in church or would be afraid to comment on it because, but I thought God loved everybody.

But that verse says, his soul hateth the wicked and him that loveth violence. That's a person. God has a problem with some people. Look at Proverbs chapter six.

Now, again, this is not the point I'm trying to go after tonight, so just bear with me and just receive this. This is Bible. This is the scriptures teaching themselves, not me trying to wrestle them to make another doctrine up.

Proverbs six. Look at verse 16 through 19. You know this passage about the abominations here. Proverbs six, verse 16. These six things doth the Lord hate.

[12 : 48] The Lord hates some things. Yea, seven are an abomination unto him. One, a proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, and heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift and running to mischief.

19, a false witness, that's a person, that speaketh lies, and notice, he, a person, that soweth discord among brethren. God hates a person.

That's the third time we've seen it. And it's, every time, it's doth the Lord hate. It's not me making this up, oh, God doesn't like that. He hates it. No, this is the Bible saying that he hates it.

So there's, there's some things God hates. There's some people that God hates. Keep coming to your right. To Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Hosea chapter 9.

Hosea 9, and this is his people Israel, and I'll show you a contrast even in the book here, so that I'm not being too aggressive with this.

[13 : 56] Hosea 9, verse 15. All their wickedness is in Gilgal, for there I hated them, for the wickedness of their doings. I will drive them out of mine house, I will love them no more, all their princes are revolvers.

That's God hating his people for their wickedness. Now come to chapter 14 of the same book and notice that he's going to, he's going to love them later in the future.

In 14, verse 4, I will heal their backslidings, I will love them freely, for mine anger is turned away from him. I will be as the dew unto Israel.

So there's a, there's just the contrast of Israel. God, at that time, he says, I hate them. Right there, I hated them. That's a, that's part of God's nature, love and hate.

Those are attributes of a holy God. It's not sin, and not even close. This is God, and we might call it his righteous hatred or indignation. Keep coming to your right, one more place here in the Old Testament, Malachi, chapter 1.

[15:04] And here's a verse that the Apostle Paul quotes in Romans chapter 9. Malachi 1. We'll start at the beginning, the burden of the word of the Lord to Israel by Malachi.

I have loved you, saith the Lord, yet ye say, wherein hast thou loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother, saith the Lord, yet I loved Jacob, and I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness.

And judgment, judgment, judgment, coming forth to Edom. I hated him, he said. God said that.

Now, this is just emphasizing God's hatred, and specifically toward the sinner or the wicked.

All right, now moving to your right, come to the Gospel of John. And let's get some things from the mouth of Jesus Christ, the Gospel of John, and a little bit more about the wicked man.

man. In the Old Testament, he's called the wicked, in contrast to the righteous. In this age, it's going to be the unbeliever, or he that believeth not.

[16:11] And look what Jesus Christ says about he that believeth not, verse number 18 of John chapter 3. I'll back up to 17. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved.

He that believeth on him is not condemned, but he that believeth not is condemned already. Why? Because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

What is the present condition of a lost man? According to Jesus Christ, he is condemned of God.

He's declared guilty, and as a guilty man, as a sinner, he's under the wrath and the hatred of God.

Look at verse number 36. You don't believe it? Look at verse 36. He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life. Amen.

And he that believeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him. Present tense. Where he stands, where he walks, underneath God's atmosphere and creation as he lives and breathes the air that God has placed in him, the spirit in his body, he's abiding, the wrath of God is abiding on him.

[17:29] He doesn't know it, he is just a step from hell, from eternal damnation, he doesn't even know it. Maybe one breath, maybe one car going off the road, maybe one bolt of lightning.

That's how close he is to hell. The wrath of God abideth on him. It doesn't say that God loves him, it doesn't say that at all. It says he's condemned already, it doesn't say he's in hell already, he's declared guilty already is what condemned means, he's not damned already, he's condemned, that's different.

And then secondly, the wrath of God abideth on him, not the love of God abideth on him. So preachers today, all they talk about is the fluff of the love of God, they better be careful when they're preaching to the lost crowd who's not believing on Jesus Christ, because the Bible says God's wrath abides on him.

Alright, we'll move 7 verse 11 says that God's angry with the wicked every day. In Isaiah 55, God calls for the wicked to forsake his way and his thoughts and return to the Lord and he'll have mercy on him and he'll abundantly pardon.

Come to John chapter 5, God wants the sinner to turn, to repent, but the sinner does not know the love of God, he can't have it until he goes somewhere, we'll get there next.

[18:51] So John 5, look at verses 42 and 43, Jesus Christ says, but I know you that ye have not the love of God in you. And then he makes a prophetic reference, verse 43, I'm come in my father's name and you receive me not.

If another shall come in his own name, him you will receive. And there's a prophetic reference to the Antichrist coming and them falling for him and believing on him and receiving him after they rejected the Son of God, their true Messiah.

Christ said, I know you. You have not the love of God in you. You rejected God's offer of eternal life.

And then somebody's going to say, God loves you and he just wants you to be with him forever.

And something's wrong with that concept and that preaching. Now, first of all, we get this, God's wrath is on the wicked. It's on the sinner, present tense today.

God's love is manifested, and stay here in John, look at chapter 3 again, and it was manifested at Calvary. And this is something we ran some verses on Sunday, so I'm not going to run all the verses here again, but I'm kind of filling in the blanks before and after of what we did on Sunday. [20 : 13] John chapter 3, I did quote this, but I'll read it again here in John chapter 3 and verse 14, Christ says, and as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up.

What's that mean? Remember John chapter 12 and verse 32, and I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. This he said signifying what death he should die, John 12, 32 and 33. So Jesus Christ is referring to Calvary. And in John chapter 3, what he says, as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, what was that? That's in Numbers 21, he took a serpent and a brazen serpent on a pole and lifted it up, and all who would look upon that serpent were healed from the plague.

And those who did not, they died. And so what did God call for? He called them to exercise faith in his word and believe that if I'll get to see and go look by faith to that serpent on a pole, I can be healed of this.

And Christ says, that's me. That's a picture of me. I'm going to be lifted up from the earth, and I'm going to draw all men unto me. And he said in verse 14, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

[21 : 32] The context is Calvary. Verse 16, everybody knows this one, for God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son. So I taught a little bit of this one time, just a brief version of this thought about God's love being at Calvary and his love is not toward the sinner in this age.

And the person comes up, what about John 3, 16, God so loved the world? I'm like, did we not already cover that? Why can't you see that? Right there, it's Calvary, Calvary, Calvary. God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son.

So look at Romans 5, the point is that if a sinner who is condemned already and guilty, and the sinner that is the wrath of God abideth on him according to the scripture, if he wants to find and experience and know God and the love of God, he has to go to Calvary.

That's the only place he's going to get it. And so look at that in Romans chapter 5. And notice in verse number 8, but God commendeth his love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Notice verse 10, for if when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his son. Do you see that word, enemies?

[23 : 02] That's what God sees looking down at man. I'm pretending to look through binoculars. He sees enemies. Don't you tell me he just loves them to death.

The scripture never says that. It never gives us that. That's man's concept of God because he's overemphasized his love. The truth from the Bible is a sinner in this age is condemned. He's an enemy of God. He's ungodly in verse number 6 of this passage. He's a sinner in verse 8. And God commended his love toward us and it's Calvary.

Christ died for us. Now on Sunday I gave you the verses in 1 John chapter 3 and this was manifested to love of God that he laid down his life for us. In 1 John chapter 4 verses 9 and 10 the same thing.

He sent his son to be the propitiation for our sins. It talks about the love of God and it talks about Calvary. In Galatians 2 I quoted that Sunday as well. Paul says that he loved me and gave himself for me.

[24 : 08] In Ephesians 5 we read that one. I'm going to go there quickly because there's one I did not read. In Ephesians 5 verse 2 and walk in love as Christ also hath loved us and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God.

This is the past tense. Again it's Calvary. Later on in that chapter in verse 25 husbands love your wives even as Christ also loved the church and did what?

Gave himself for it. That's the offering and sacrifice to God. So in plainer words if a sinner if a bastard if the wicked man whom God hates in the Old Testament who is condemned in John 3 and the wrath of God abideth on him and he's an enemy of God in Romans 5 if that sinner wants to experience God's love he has to humble himself at the cross and when the sinner comes to Calvary and receives by faith the Lord Jesus Christ sacrifice for his sins when he receives that he experiences forgiveness he experiences or receives God's righteousness that he didn't earn he

gets grace all over and he becomes a new creature in Jesus Christ and now he's alive in Christ and now he can know God's love but not before that if a sinner tries to step around Calvary and says God loves me God loves me God loves me they tell me this it's in the Bible God is love and he tries to go around Calvary and says that's fine but no thanks because you love me he'll drop straight into hell and taste the eternal suffering and vengeance of a holy God against his sins because he deserves it just like me and of course Jesus Christ paid mine so he's letting me go free now you can know the love of God after Calvary but you never could before and now you can walk in it and now it can dwell inside of you with the new man so there's the sinner there's Calvary and then upon after Calvary there's the son now come to 1st John chapter 3 and we'll be quick here we're going to run a few verses on the son remember remember that's the word that we saw in Hebrews chapter 12 1st John chapter 3 and verse 1 behold what manner of love the father has bestowed upon us is it sinners no that we should be called the sons of God therefore the world knoweth us not because it knew him not beloved now are we the sons of God so this is sons these are believers and on the other end of Calvary we get this love of the father bestowed upon us he now loves us because we're his children we're his own

God's love toward his own Paul calls us that we are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus when you become a child of God the Bible we read this the other week about in Romans 8 that the spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God and as children of God now we have a father that loves us alright come back to oh let's see where do we want to go go to Romans 5 we were there a minute ago Romans 5 and while you're turning I'll read something from John 14 Jesus answered and said unto him if a man love me he will keep my words and my father will love him and we will come unto him and make our abode with him that's not the wicked that's not the sinner that's not the enemy of God that's the one that's the son and God's making his abode with him he says my father will love him that's the son alright

[28 : 28] Romans 5 and verse 5 after verse 1 being justified by faith we have peace with God now verse 10 we were enemies but being justified by faith we have peace and now we're loved verse 5 says and hope maketh not ashamed because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us no Holy Ghost no love of God shed abroad in your hearts it's absent it's not possible alright come to Romans chapter 8 look at this one if you're not sure yet look at this one Romans chapter 8 I'd love to read a lot of this but I don't have time I'll start in verse 35 though this is powerful who shall separate us from the love of Christ shall tribulation or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or sword or peril or sword as it is written for thy sake we are killed all the day long we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter nay in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us past tense for I am persuaded that neither death nor life nor angels nor principalities nor powers nor things present nor things to come nor height nor depth nor any other creature shall be able to separate us who's the us us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord our Lord

Christ Jesus that's believers only and that's who Paul's writing to this whole chapter that was the verse 16 where he talks about us being the children of God and if children then heirs heirs of God joint heirs with Christ and nothing can separate us now on this side of Calvary from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord we have something that we never had access to before and it's the love of God before we're enemies I hope I'm making the case strong enough for you to get it and to believe it come to 2 Corinthians chapter 13 one last verse here 2 Corinthians 13 this is something that you can have now that you're a child of God by faith in Christ Jesus you become a child of God verse 14 the last verse almost verse 13 all the saints salute you with a song apparently verse 14 the grace of our Lord

Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Ghost be with you all amen I'd like to comment though not with the sinner with the believer they get the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ they get the love of God and the communion of the Holy Ghost but I can't just say oh look the love of God let that be with you all I can't I can't stand up at one of these non-gospel preaching religious institutions and just close let us close with the words of our beloved brother Paul the love of God and the communion of the Holy Ghost be with you all and pretend like that really has application to unregenerate sinners that are just going off into their sinful worlds and never know God never know anything about Him and just hear God loves me Holy Ghost something about Him yeah that's nice and have no concept of this Bible doctrine

God's love is for the Son for the child of God that's who He loves and if anybody wants to get into that he's got to go to Calvary where He loved past tense where He manifest His love toward us toward sinners it's at Calvary so the teaching is it's about the truth about God's love that it's available to sinners at one single event in time at one place and we can't physically go there and receive and see this and witness it but we can by faith believe what the Word of God says and by faith be justified through our Lord Jesus Christ there's not some big blanket of God's love just covering the universe that we all just get in on because we're His children we've got to know our Bibles better than that and so this was a rabbit trail a bit more doctrinal a little deeper but it was something because I introduced the thought on Sunday about Him drawing us to salvation at Calvary and ran those verses

I wanted to kind of solidify the whole teaching the whole package about the truth about God's love that it's available to a sinner at Calvary only it's available to the Son because of the relationship after Calvary but before Calvary forget it it's too much negative it's hatred it's angry with the wicked it's the wrath of God abideth on Him and that's not a place I want to be and the world maybe not it doesn't even know it and He may not even sense it and you know why it's okay John chapter 3 it says that the wrath of God abideth on Him well it doesn't feel like it well when you trusted Christ do you feel eternal life abiding on you no this is something spiritual that's going to take place when you die and you better be on the right side of it and ready so that's the teaching tonight and it's a little little more than normal but I hope you can understand it and receive it and be able to point a sinner to Calvary to where they can know the love of God and once they get there

[34 : 34] He is good and He does love us and He does care for us I will be dismissed in prayer I want to encourage you to be praying for the folks that have been sick I forgot about I know brother Randy and even brother Brian both of them were kind of down recently and somebody else slipped my mind I forget that I didn't mention earlier okay well there's a lot of folks that have been down ah I feel like I should know and I just thought of it when I sat down there I don't think so alright well let's pray and then be ready for Saturday ladies and then Sunday let's have a great time this weekend Father thank you for tonight and thank you for the word of God and for the light that you give us within those covers help us to be diligent and faithful and to study the book and not just to receive something that somebody says Lord those Bereans studied that book and you were pretty pleased with them

I pray you'd see us and think the same way we'd go home and get our Bibles out run these references and seek to understand the truth that is revealed Lord thank you for being balanced thank you for all of your attributes Lord we are grateful most of all that you did send your son and that we don't have to taste that negative wrath and that hatred that you have and your anger towards sin and wickedness we're thankful that Christ has taken that for us and endured that cup and Lord I I can't say enough about it just eternally grateful for paying for my sins I'm a sinful man and you're a good God I'm so glad to be able to come before you thank you for Bible Baptist Church and for folks that love you and that love your words help us to be faithful to hold forth the word of life to reach out to the lost and to care about them and to point them to what Jesus Christ did for their sins Lord I pray that you give us an opportunity to invite somebody to church this weekend pray you'll give us a good time pray that you'll heal up the sick and that you'll just restore them to health that we'll be able to get together and just worship and edify one another we pray these things in our wonderful

Savior's name the Lord Jesus Christ Amen you are dismissed