

Sermon ~ Sunday, September 13, 2020

Text: John 3: 16

KJV – “For **GOD** so loved the world, that **HE** gave **HIS** only begotten **SON**, that whosoever believed in **HIM** should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Title: “The Burden of The LORD!”

This word ‘*Burden*,’ in the Hebrew is ‘*massa*’ ... In the Book of Jeremiah, chapter 23, verse 33, it is used. In the context of this verse, it means ‘the message that **The LORD** places on **HIS** prophets.’ You read it in...

The Book of Nahum, 1: 1, “The burden of Nineveh.”

The Book of Habakkuk, 1: 1, “The burden which Habakkuk the prophet did see.”

The Book of Malachi, 1: 1, “The burden of **The WORD** of **The LORD** to Israel by Malachi.”

With all that we’ve endured thus far this year 2020, (by **The G.R.A.C.E. of GOD**), I hear **The LORD** saying, “What about my *Burden*?”

“The Burden of The LORD!”

The LORD GOD has a *Burden*? What *Burden* does **The LORD** have that **HE HIMSELF** is not the answer to?

Note the *world’s society*... Note *us*...

--We want **GOD** to be concern about our *Burdens*.

--We want **GOD’S** attention and **GOD’S** involvement in what we want, we need, our *Burdens*, our problems.

--We want **GOD** to get involved in what we are involved in.

But could it be, that our cries are so many because we are not considering,

“What is **The Burden of The LORD**?”

I know we all have *Burdens*: something we are tired of carrying; a load which is too heavy for us to carry any longer; some oppressive, worrisome, weight; a huge financial debt...

Burden, phortion, (for-tee’-on) in the Greek language, is that which *must* be carried by an individual, i.e., as something *personal* and hence is not *transferrable*, i.e., it cannot ‘be shift’ to someone else.

What’s your *Burden*?

--*Personal Illness*; we have the liberty to call on, **JEHOVAH-RAPHA**, ‘**The LORD** that *healeth* thee!’

--*All Alone*; we have the liberty to call on, **JEHOVAH-SHAMMAH**, ‘**The LORD** is *Presence*!’

--*Tried of all the violence, fussing, fighting*; ‘an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth; we have the liberty to call on, **JEHOVAH-SHALOM**, ‘**The LORD** our *Peace*.’

--Racial disparities, Black/White, Latinos, Hispanics, Baddish, Muslims; we have the liberty to call on, JEHOVAH-NISSI, 'The LORD our Banner!'

--Because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Jobs decline, the state of the Economy, evicted because you can't pay your rent. . . now, Hurricane Laura. But we have the liberty to call on, JEHOVAH-RAAH, 'The LORD my Shepherd!'

--The upcoming November 2020 Presidential Election. The fears of election fraud, mail fraud, will my Vote count (YES! YES! And YES again!) But we have the liberty to call on, JEHOVAH-TSIDKENU, 'The LORD our RIGHTeousness!'

If we don't watch ourselves, our interest in 'What's The Burden of our LORD?', will be wrapped up only in 'What can GOD do with my Burden?'

This is not the CHRISTian journey... It's not about what GOD can provide for us? (Has HE not already proven THAT?) It's never been about what we can do for GOD— "The earth is The LORD'S, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." (Psalm 24: 1) Nor, GOD blessing us. (If The LORD sends you a blessing, you can be certain, HE did not have you in mind, as the end result.)

What disturbs The LORD is that, HE can't get HIS Church (the believe, you and me), 'Burdened with HIS Burden!'

"The Burden of The LORD!"

It is not getting a job or a better one... JESUS did not come from Heaven for job provision... to pass out blessings: a car, a house, money, clothes, a healing, a position... JESUS did not go to Calvary and sacrifice HIS Life, to die, be buried in the grave and be raised from the dead, for us to get what we want...

The Burden of The LORD is the lostness of mankind. John 3: 16, "For GOD so loved the world, that HE gave HIS only begotten SON, that whosoever believed in HIM should not perish, but have everlasting life."

"The Burden of The LORD!"

Is showing GOD'S Great LOVE... The LOVE of GOD... JESUS revealing GOD'S LOVE through us! "For GOD so LOVED the world." In the context of John 3: 16, The Jews believed GOD loved the religious (the true Jew) and hated the non-religious (the Gentiles). These same thoughts are prevalent today—GOD loves me but not you... How can my GOD possibly Love that races murderer, immoral person, wife beater, child abuser, homosexual, alcoholic, thug, enslaver, oppressor???

GOD LOVES every one! Not just the religious and the good. HE does not LOVE only the people who Love HIM. HE LOVES everyone, even the unlovely and the unloving, the unbelieving and the obstinate, the selfish and the greedy, the spiteful and the vengeful.

"There is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same LORD over all is rich unto all that call upon HIM. For whosoever shall call upon The Name of The LORD shall be saved."

(Romans 10: 12-13)

“GOD so LOVED” ... past tense, proven TRUTH. **GOD LOVED—Height! GOD so LOVED—Depth! GOD GAVE—Length! Whosoever—Breadth!**

“GOD gave HIS only begotten SON!”

*The most perfect way possible **HE** expresses **HIS LOVE**: **HE gave HIS only begotten SON** to the world. **HE LOVES** to perfection, **LOVES** to the ultimate degree. The greatest act of **LOVE** is the sacrifice of a man’s own life; therefore, **GOD** sacrificed the life of **HIS only begotten SON** to save man (you and me).

“GOD gave” ... *Gave, edoken*, in the Greek language has two meanings. **GOD gave HIS SON** to the world, and **HE gave HIS SON** to die. The idea of *sacrifice*, of great *cost*, is in both acts. It *cost* **GOD** dearly to *give HIS SON up to the world and up to The Cross*.

- a. **HE gave up HIS SON** to be separated from **HIM**, allowing **JESUS** to leave **HIS Presence**, to leave the *Majesty and Glory, Worship and Honor* of Heaven.
- b. **HE gave up HIS SON** to be separated from **HIM**, allowing **JESUS** to come to earth...

Our *world*: fallen, depraved, wicked, rebellious, revolting, apostate... This *world* full of: darkness, hostility, bitterness, wrath, anger, war, selfishness, greed, immorality, barriers, *sin*, shame... **GOD gave up HIS SON** to be separated from **HIM**, allowing **JESUS** to die for the *sin(s)* of mankind.

The most glorious evident of **GOD’S LOVE** is that **HE** took the *initiative* to save man (us)! Man (we) did not *seek* to save ourselves; **GOD sought** to save us! **GOD gave HIS SON** so that we might be forgiven and *saved*. **GOD is the seeking SAVIOR!** **GOD is not anger, unloving, unforgiving!** **GOD** does not hate us; have to be persuaded to love us; have to be convinced to forgive us! “But **GOD, WHO** is rich in mercy, for **HIS** great **LOVE** wherewith **HE LOVED** us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with **CHRIST**, (by grace ye are saved) (Ephesian 2: 4-5)

“The Burden of The LORD!”

Is to *save mankind*...

From “*perishing*”, *apoletai*: being lost; destroyed utterly; lose eternally; spiritually destitute; cut off...

To *Eternal Life*... **GOD kind of Life**... *Everlasting JOY*...

Through “*Belief*,” *pistis*, *confidence* or *trust* in **GOD** and **HIS WORD**. *Convinced of the Truth*... *Belief* says that *salvation is conditional*... “Whosoever believe-eth: *continue to believe*...”

Amazing **GRACE**

Amazing **GRACE** how sweet the sound—That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind, but now I see!

'Twas **GRACE** that taught my heart to fear, And **GRACE** my fears relieved;
How precious did that **GRACE** appear, The hour I first believed!

Thro' many dangers, toils and snares I have already come;
'Tis **GRACE** hath brought me safe thus far, And **GRACE** will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing **GOD'S** praise, than when we'd first begun.

The LORD has promised good to me, **HIS WORD** my hopes secures;
HE will my Shield and Portion be, as long as life endures.

Tis, when this flesh and heart shall fail, and mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess within The Veil, a life of Joy and Peace.

My chains are gone, I've been, made free, My **GOD**, my **SAVOIR** has ransomed me.
And like a flood **HIS Mercy** reigns, unending **LOVE**, Amazing **GRACE!**

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine,
But **GOD, WHO** called me here below,
Will be forever mine.
Will be forever mine.
You are forever mine.