

Sermon ~ Sunday, February 28, 2021 by Pastor D. Benoit

Text: Romans 5: 8

“But **GOD** commendeth **HIS LOVE** toward us, in that, while we were yet *sinner*s, **CHRIST** died for us.”

Title: **LOVE**

**LOVE** ~ is an act, a deed, not words...

**LOVE** ~ is going and doing, not yelling, and saying...

**LOVE** ~ is demonstrating and not delegating...

**LOVE** ~ is not boasting but a broken-heart pouring out healing streams, as **CHRIST** did.

**JESUS** said **LOVE** is, “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your **FATHER** which is in heaven.” (Matthew 5: 14-16)

**LOVE**

**LOVE** ~ *agape*, is a *godly* **LOVE**, a *sacrificial* **LOVE**, a **LOVE** that gives itself for those without *strength*: the weak, the worthless, the helpless, hopeless, powerless (Romans 5: 6).

For the *ungodly*: those not like **GOD**, profaned, different in their lifestyles, disobedient to **GOD’S WORD, Will and Way**, living selfishly, doing there won thing, full of pride (Romans 5: 6).

For *sinner*s: *hamartolos* (ham-ar-to-los), the *loss* from falling short of what **GOD** approves, i. e. what is wide of the mark; a blatant *sinner* (Romans 5: 8). For *enemies*, someone openly hostile; filled with deep-seated hatred (Romans 5: 10).

**LOVE** ~ **CHRIST** died “*for*” (*huper*)... *for* our benefit, *for* our sake, *in* our behalf, *in* our stead, *as our only* **SUBSTITUTE!**

**LOVE** ~ **CHRIST** died as our *Sacrifice*. The Apostle Paul urge us, “Live a life filled with **LOVE**, following the example of **CHRIST**. **HE** loved us and offered **HIMSELF** as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to **GOD**.” (Ephesians 5: 2)

“**HE** died for everyone so that those who receive **HIS** new life will longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for **CHRIST**, **WHO** died and was raised for them. For **GOD** made **CHRIST**, **WHO** never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with **GOD** through **CHRIST**.” (2 Corinthians 5: 15, 21)

**LOVE** ~ **CHRIST** died for our *Ransom*. The Apostle Paul declared this Truth and I agree, “For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of **GOD’S** for glorious standard. Yet **GOD**, with undeserved **LOVE**, declares that we are righteous. **HE** did this through **CHRIST JESUS** when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.” (Romans 3: 23, 24)

**LOVE** ~ **CHRIST** died as our *Propitiation*. The Apostle John declared, “My dear children, I’m writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an **ADOCATE WHO** pleads our case before **The FATHER**. **HE** is **JESUS CHRIST**, **The ONE WHO** is truly righteous. **HE HIMSELF** is the sacrifice (*propitiation*) that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.” (I John 2: 1-2)

**GOD** proved **HIS LOVE** by giving up **HIS** only **SON** to die for us...

- Out of The Spiritual and Eternal into the *physical* and *corruptible*
- Stripped **HIM** of **HIS Eternal Glory** and insisted **HE** be clothed with *corruptible flesh* and die as a man
- Walk through Life being *rejected, denied, cursed, abused arrested, tortured and murdered*
- **GOD** sat back when **HE** knew **HE** could deliver **HIM**. BUT **GOD** so loved us...
- **GOD** turned **HIS** back upon **CHRIST** on *The Cross*
- **GOD** cast **HIS** wrath against *sin* upon **CHRIST** on that *Cross*. “But **HE** was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. **HE** was beaten so we could be whole. **HE** was whipped so we could be healed.” (Isaiah 53: 5)

“And we know that **GOD** causes everything to work together for the good of those who **LOVE GOD** and are called according to **HIS** purpose for them.” (Romans 8: 28)

**LOVE** ~ is Absolute... **LOVE** ~ is Perfect... “If **GOD** be for us, who can be against us!”

There are *no* circumstances, *no* situations, *no* event, *no* matter how terrible or severe the situation, it cannot separate the true believer for **The LOVE of CHRIST**.

**CHRIST LOVES** us! *No*-thing can separate us...

--Tribulation: struggles, trials, temptations, sufferings, afflictions—*No*-thing,

--Distresses: anguish, trouble, agony, not knowing which was to turn or what to do—*No*-thing,

--Persecution: abuse, mocking, ridicule, shame, harassed, attack—*No*-thing,

--Famine, Nakedness,

--Peril: exposed to severe risks—*No*-thing,

--Sword: to be killed, to suffer martyrdom—*No*-thing,

Not death—**LOVE (JESUS)** died for us!

Not life—**LOVE (JESUS)** rose for us!

Not angles, principalities, powers, not anything present or anything to come.

*No*-thing from outer space or from the depth of the earth.

Not any other creature can separate us from **The LOVE of GOD**, which is in **CHRIST JESUS** our **LORD**.”

“There is no greater **LOVE**, no **LOVE** nowhere, no greater **LOVE**,  
than a man would lay down **HIS Life** for a friend.  
No **LOVE** nowhere, I’ve searched all over.

There is no greater **LOVE**, no greater **LOVE**, no greater **LOVE**.  
**JESUS** went to Calvary, to save a wretch like you and me, that’s **LOVE**.  
They hung **HIM** wide, **HE** hung **HIS** head, and then **HE** died, that’s **LOVE**, that’s **LOVE**.

That’s not how the story ends, three days later **HE** rose again,  
That’s **LOVE**, that’s **LOVE**!