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What You Need to Know About The Love of God: Part 1

Harold Willmington

Liberty University, hwillmington@liberty.edu

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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE LOVE OF GOD (Part One)

Who and what does God love?

He loves the world.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life"(John 3:16).

"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth"(1 Tim. 2:3, 4).

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance"(2 Peter 3:9). (Note: See information under question 59, point 2)

He loves His Son (John 3:35; 10:17; 15:9).

Note: (See information under question 59, point 4)

He loves Israel. A cynic once remarked:

"How odd of God to choose the Jews." Be that what it may, God once loved, now loves and evermore will love Israel!

"The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt"(Deut. 7:7, 8).

"Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee"(Isa. 49:15).

"I will mention the lovingkindnesses of the LORD, and the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD hath bestowed on us, and the great goodness toward the house of Israel, which he hath bestowed on them according to his mercies, and according to the multitude of his lovingkindnesses"(Isa. 63:7).

"The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee" (Jer. 31:3).

"As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the father's sakes"(Rom. 11:28).

He loves the city of Jerusalem.

"Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King. God is known in her palaces for a refuge ... We have thought of thy lovingkindness, O God, in the midst of thy temple" (Psa. 48:2, 3, 9).

"The LORD loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. Glorious things

are spoken of thee, O city of God. Selah"(Psa. 87:2, 3).

"Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem: for the LORD hath comforted his people, he hath redeemed Jerusalem"(Isa. 52:9).

"For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth"(Isa. 62:1).

He loves the church.

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish"(Eph. 5:25-27).

He loves sinners.

"Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me"(Mark 10:21).

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"(Rom. 5:8).

He loves all believers.

Corporately:

"Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end ... A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another"(John 13:1, 34).

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, 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. 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 from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord"(Rom. 8:35-39).

"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 ... Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren"(1 John 3:1, 16).

Individually. Here are but a few examples:

David (Psa. 89:20, 32)

Solomon (2 Sam. 12:24)

Daniel (Dan. 9:23; 10:11, 19)

John the apostle (John 20:2).

Mary, Martha, and Lazarus (John 11:5)

Paul (Gal. 2:20)

Each cheerful giver (2 Cor. 9:7)

The following testimony perhaps says it best:

Probably the most qualified Old Testament linguist of all time was Robert Dick Wilson. His skill along this line staggers the imagination. Dr. Wilson was born in 1856 and took his undergraduate work at Princeton University, graduating in 1876. He then completed both the M.A. and the Ph.D. After this, two years was spent at the University of Berlin in further postgraduate studies. Wilson taught Old Testament courses at Western Theological Seminary in Pittsburgh and returned to Princeton where he received international fame as a Hebrew scholar without peer. He was perfectly at home in over forty ancient Semitic languages!

One of the stirring moments in the experience of his students occurred when, after a dissertation on the complete trustworthiness of Scripture, the renowned scholar said with tears:

“Young men, there are many mysteries in this life I do not pretend to understand, many things hard to explain. But I can tell you this morning with the fullest assurance that—

*Jesus loves me, this I know
For the Bible tells me so.*

--Prepared by Dr. H. L. Willmington, Dean
Willmington School of the Bible
Liberty University

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