



**Today is January 19, 2025**

## **Three Things About The Love Of God**

By Curtis Pugh (Now with the Lord)

**One thing God has made known to us is that He loves. But that is only one facet of His character. We also read, “For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God,” (Deuteronomy 4:24).**

The love of God is not infatuation. It is not based upon anything attractive or desirable in those He loves. God's love is His determination to do good to its object, regardless of what it costs Him. Because of this Paul wrote to one church: “But God commendeth his love toward us [His children], in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us,” (Romans 5:8). God did not wait until sinners repented or reformed or did anything to love them.

Three things need to be remembered about God's love. First: it is an everlasting love and that love causes God to draw lost sinners to Himself. Proof: “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,” (Jeremiah 31:3). This never-ending love results in men and women being drawn by God's power to Christ for 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). In other words, those whom God loves He saves by bringing them to Christ.

The second thing is that nothing can separate those He loves from that love. Paul wrote: “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 [God's children] from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord,” (Romans 8:38-39). God “...hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee,” (Hebrews 13:5). If God is always with you you cannot get away from Him!

The third thing about God's love is that it results in the rebuke and chastening of those whom He loves. The message of Jesus to one of His churches was, “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent,” (Revelation 3:19). Nothing here about God rebuking and chastening everyone. Nothing here about God loving everyone, but rather that those whom He loves He continues to deal with, rebuking and child-training them, even “spanking” them when they sin. The words of Hebrews 12:6-8 are plain: “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, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards [illegitimate children not cared for by their father], and not sons.” The people who are loved by God are continually dealt with by Him. God's children are ever His and He never ceases to deal with them as Sons.

## **WELCOME TO THE SOVEREIGN GRACE**

## **MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

*“Where the truths of God's word have been taught  
For sixty-three years.” Since October 21, 1961*

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### **Our Prayer List**

*“Pray without ceasing.”  
1 Thessalonians 5:17*

Sister Zee Mink Fuller and Family, Her son's Bryan Armstrong and Hunter Hackie, Johnnie Stephens, Alecia Stephens, and children, Frank & Sonya Trusty, Frank & Dawana Reigel, Diane & Smoke, Andrew Preston, Larry & Martha Mollette and Her Family Juanita her daughter, Lana Paul, Larry Mollette II & Family, Kerry Adcock, Kim Reich, Danny Mollette, 12-year-old Lucas, Joshua Kidd, Ronnie and Sarah Henderson, Ricky Henderson and Family, James and Luann Reynolds, Timothy Fails, Jerry Hughes, Shirly King - Son David - and family, Little Cam Works, Sister Ann McSwain, Brother Justin Bookout and family, Little Weslynn McClelland, Adrienne Lavina, Pastor Nathan Hille and Sister Cassie and his family, Baby Titus Massey, Shane and Brook Sims, Ricky Bennett, Nick, Madison, and Baby Emory Patty, and Russell York, Brother Medic, Sister Mhalyn Lavina and children, Brother Jerry Dodson, Brother Gary and Sister White, Brother David and Sister Jevonna O'Neal, Sister Rebecca Sidders, Mark and Kathy Johnson, Pray for a month old baby boy.

### **Pray For Our Church Supported Mission Works**

*“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” Act 1:8*

Missionary Dan and Sunny Sullivan in Thailand, and Elder Raul and the Printing work Romania

## **Pastor's thought for the week.**

*"Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;" 1 Peter 5:2*

### **"Let us never forget our duty and judgment."**

*"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." Ecclesiastes 12:13-14*

As a Pastor I am afraid that many Christians have lost their fear of God and His coming judgment. While many Christians work hard in their Reverence of God and in their need to be good servants of God, others lack both. As Solomon said, *"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter"* he is saying, of all I have written, this is what is most important for you all. As a Minister teaches, there is normally some conclusion to the end of our sermons. Something most important about the sermon or study that you need to carry with you in your mind. This is Solomons conclusion is, *"Fear God, and keep his commandments"* because *"this is the whole duty of man."* Not only Christians but the entire population of the earth. Now the lost will not fear God because God said on them, Rom. 3:18 *"There is no fear of God before their eyes."* Lost people do not serve God, and neither are they required to because they are condemned already. Therefore, David wrote in Ps. 36:1 *"...The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, that there is no fear of God before his eyes."* Therefore, their judgment will be at the Great White Throne at the end of the world, and their judgment will be condemnation *"because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."* John 3:18b However, all Christians will stand before Jesus for our judgment, and our judgment will not be with grace as our salvation was, it will be bold. God said through Solomon, *"...for this is the whole duty of man."* because we have been delivered by the grace of God and the sacrifice of Jesus and cleaned through His blood. God has done everything for us in our salvation, nothing was required on our part. However, after salvation there is an important and responsible requirement, *"If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."* Gal. 5:25 If you are a Christian, imagine a day when you are required to stand before Jesus and answer why you failed to fear God so much that you failed to walk in His grace. That you rejected His word so much that you did not Reverence Him enough in your life to walk in the Spirit. So, why is this judgment without grace, because after we were redeemed by God's grace we had many spiritual gifts, spiritual ears and eyes to see and hear God's commandments, the Holy Spirit to teach us His commandments, and yet we did not have enough reverence and love for God

## **Pastor's Thought Continue.**

to obey His word. God has already given us so much grace in making us His children, that our only responsibility as the recipients is to Reverence God, Love God, and to obey His commandments. This is why God said, *"For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."* I do not believe as many commentators have written that this is speaking to all people, The reason is because lost people are already condemned, and they have no good works to be judged for. Therefore, it is us, the Christian that God is speaking too. It is many of the receivers of God's mercy and grace and the very souls that God loved so much that He sent His own Son to die at the hand of wicked souls for our salvation. There are many that are saved that have shut their eyes and ears to God's word, and yes even some churches who no longer fear and love God enough to search the scriptures and walk as the Holy Spirit teaches us. Beloved, we are responsible to fear God and to walk in His word, as written and not as we think it is written. We are to remember the grace that brought us to salvation, and to look at this lost and dying world and remember that before grace and salvation, this is what we were delivered from. Therefore, here is my conclusion, *"this is the whole duty of man"* that we not only to fear God, but love God so much that we *"Fear God, and keep his commandments"* because if we fail, all our good works could be lost in the fire of judgment. And if so, we shall suffer loss, *"If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."* 1Cor. 3:15 What is your judgment day going to be like? Will you have any crowns and rewards from the Lord? Will you be a member of the Bride of Christ? Now is the time to answer those questions.

## **Church information and Happenings**

- Please be in much prayer for our dear brother in Christ Jerry Dodson as his time is limited.
- Please remember to be in much prayer for Brother Ronnie Henderson and Sister Sarah.

### **Psalms 33:18 - 22**

*"Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy; To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine. Our soul waiteth for the LORD: he is our help and our shield. For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name. Let thy mercy, O LORD, be upon us, according as we hope in thee."*