

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

THE LOVE OF GOD**Lesson 9****return pages 6 & 7**

It is a marvelous thing to know that we have a God who is holy, righteous, true, just, and pure in everything that He does. We have seen that His every word, deed, and thought is absolute perfection. Yet, it was somewhat frightening as we carried our study one step farther and considered the judgment and justice of God. We have pondered the fact that only through the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ could we ever hope to pass the judgment of God, and this because One has been judged in our place.

It is time to discuss the motive behind that sacrifice; the love of God.

There are many fundamental teachers who believe the Bible, but almost entirely forsake the theme of the love of God. This is because there are so many liberal ministers who seem to speak of nothing else. While it is true that it is incorrect to speak of God's love, God's grace, and God's kindness while never mentioning His wrath, judgment, and hatred for sin. It is just as wrong to speak only of God's wrath, judgment and hatred for sin, while never finding the time to speak of His love.

I hope and pray that as we make our way through this series of lessons we will get a balanced view as we consider every aspect of the true and living God.

Love is a part of God's holy character. The love of God is not like human affection. Human affection is largely selfish; that is, one will be attracted to or affected toward another with the hope or with the idea of receiving something in return.

The love of God is entirely unselfish. God has nothing to gain from loving man. What could man add to God? What could man give to God? How would God be more complete should man love Him?

The love of God extends to all - whether they are lovable or not. Human affection does not do that. Not only does Jesus Christ the Saviour love all men, but God the Father, the same God of justice and judgment, loves all men. He continues to love sinning and rebellious men. Drawing them by His love He desires to see all men happy, and joyful, and blessed.

In 1 John 4:8 the Bible says. ***He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.*** The very essence of God's character, the very sense, the very reality of God's person, is love. God loves all men. Even His enemies have been the recipients of His love.

In John 3:16 we are told, ***For God so loved the world*** -Now, is it not the world that is sinful and wicked and wrong? Is it not the world that has rejected

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God, rebelled against Him, turned to its own way? And, yet, the Bible says, ***For God so***

loved the world that he gave (This is real, true love: giving. And what did He give?) ***his only begotten Son***, (He gave the very greatest of all His treasures. His only begotten Son. Why did He do that?) ***that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.***

This is love. God is love! God, in love, offered the greatest thing that He had, His only begotten Son, to sinful man, that any who would simply receive His Son as a gift might have everlasting life to spend with their Creator.

In Matthew 5:43-45, Jesus Christ says, ***Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.*** Then, in verse 48, He says. ***Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.***

God's perfect love is extended to all men, whether they be evil, good, just or unjust. Jesus told us not to be like men, who love those that love them and hate those that hate them. Rather we are to be like our Father in heaven, loving even our enemies. You are to love even those that hate you. This is God's marvelous love. In Ezekiel 33:11, we read: ***Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?***

Now, it is natural for a man to find some pleasure in the death of his most hated enemy. I did not say that this is right. I said it is natural. It is certainly understandable (though not acceptable) that a man finds some measure of happiness in the death of his greatest enemy. Yet, God said He finds no pleasure in such a death. Almighty God finds no pleasure at all in the death of the wicked. Rather, He finds pleasure when that wicked man turns from his evil way and lives. This is our God. God is Love.

Let us consider four ways in which God manifests His love.

First, God manifests His love by bestowing temporal blessings. Temporal simply means something that will not last forever. We learned that God sends the sunshine upon all men, evil and good. We learned that God sends the rain upon all men, the just and the unjust. In James 1:17 we find: ***Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the***

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Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Many men go through life assuming that they are God's child and that they are ready to meet God because they have been blessed and have prospered in life. If you have air to breathe, a sound mind, any measure of physical health, have eaten any food today, any clothes upon your back or any place to sleep, the Bible says you have all those things because - and only because - God has blessed you. The Bible further says that God has not blessed you because you are good. You may be evil. God has not blessed you because you are just. You may be unjust. God has blessed you because He is a loving God who manifests His love even to those who do not love Him. You see my friend, such is the goodness of God is leading you to repentance.

Second, God manifests His love by His longsuffering and mercy. We have example of this in God's dealing with the Jews during the centuries, as they rejected Him again and again. Such love is seen in the lives of many men who curse, mock, despise and reject the Lord Jesus Christ, while year after year, day after day. God is blessing them with life, health, and material things. The fact that God takes so much grief and abuse, hears so much cursing, and endures so much rejection from sinful fallen men, is a proof of His love.

The Bible says in 2 Peter 3:9, ***The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, (the context is God's promise to destroy the world) as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.***

Why has God not destroyed sinful man? It is not because His judgment does not demand such. It is not because He has not promised He would do so. It is not because He will not keep His word. But, beloved, it is because God is longsuffering. He does not want you to be lost and damned to hell. He wants you to be saved. He wants you to repent and to receive the everlasting life that He has for you. So God is patiently waiting.

In Isaiah we read a similar statement. ***Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon*** (Isaiah 55:7).

God's love is manifest in His grace and in His mercy. I do not know what sins you have committed. I do not know how far you have wandered from the path of truth and righteousness. But God knows and He is willing to forgive. He longs to cleanse and pardon if only you will come to Him.

Third, God manifested His love by sending Christ to die for us while we were terrible sinners. One of the greatest statements in all the Bible is found

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in the fifth chapter of the book of Romans *For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us* (Romans 5:6-8). Hallelujah.

It was not a good man, a great man, or a perfect man for whom Jesus Christ died. It was for every weak, sinful, fallen man like you and me. Those of us with no strength to save ourselves, no power to stop sinning, no ability to make ourselves fit for heaven, are the objects of His grace. We are sinners, and yet because of God's great love, Christ died for us. How can you possibly refuse such grace?

What God is teaching us in this passage is that in loving me He has loved the most unlovely, the one most undeserving of love.

This is the marvelous truth, not that we loved God but that God loved us. The love of God is manifest in the sending of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to die for us.

Many are striving, laboring with repentings, with fastings, with torturings, with keeping of laws and rules and regulations in hopes of purging themselves of sin. Many are trying their dead-level best to make themselves righteous before God, hoping to rid their lives of sin so that God will accept them. May I say to you, that this is a very noble thing, but it will never get one to heaven. God demands absolute sinless perfection from the day of our birth to the day of our death, and no one can accomplish that. That is why it is so wonderful to see what the Bible says about God's great love. God sent His Son the Lord Jesus Christ to die for you - not after you had rid yourself of all sin but while you were yet a sinner. Christ died for sinners. He died to pay for sins. He forgives sins. He saves sinners.

Fourth, God's love is manifest by His loving with exceeding love those who respond to His love. Those who will respond to God's love and love Him in return freely receive from Him every provision in time and in eternity. *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* (1 John 3:1). Oh, what greater manifestation of love could a mortal know than to be called a son of God? In 1 John 2:1 the Bible says. *My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.*

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As a saved, born-again child of God I have the Lord Jesus Christ Himself at the right hand of the Father as my advocate, pleading my cause before the throne of God.

In Ephesians 2:4-7 the Bible has this to say, ***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;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.***

Oh, think of this, not only now, but for all eternity. God's love will be manifest by the fact that He has saved the souls of every man and every woman who received His love and trusted Him. There is no partiality in God's love any more than in His judgments. There is, however, difference in degree. His only begotten Son is the special object of His love. Those who become sons of God by putting their faith and trust in Jesus Christ also become special objects of His love.

Jesus said in John 14:23, ***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,*** God is love. He loves you. He has proved His love by giving you temporal blessings, by His longsuffering and mercy, by sending Jesus Christ His Son to die for your sins. If you will respond to His love and receive His Son as your Saviour He will love you with exceeding love for all eternity. God's love is compelled to choose finally between those who love Him and those who do not. He has promised to bring those who love Him to perfect happiness. He can do this only by separating them from those who do not love Him. This separation is the utter undoing of those who do not love God.

Notes

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THE LOVE OF GOD**Lesson 9**

Name _____

1. Who allows us to escape the judgment of GOD?
2. What do liberal Ministers usually speak on as the main part of there message?
3. God is two sided, explain.
 - a.
 - b.
4. Explain human love.
5. Explain God's love.
6. What was the purpose of this lesson?
7. What is the key verse in this lesson?
8. What is real true love?
9. Why did God give His only Begotten Son?
10. What did JESUS say about our enemies, how should we treat them?
11. What are four ways GOD manifests His love?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.

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12. Why has God not destroyed sinful man?
13. He who rejects GOD offer of love will spend eternity where?
14. Where does JESUS come to stay, once you ask Him to be your saviour?

True/False

- GOD was happy when Adolph Hitler died.
- Since there are degrees of sin, then there is degrees in hell, some people that committed smaller sins will go to a less hot hell.
- Since GOD is love, He will never send anyone to Hell.



Scripture memorization John 14:23; 1 John 4:8; Ephesians 2:4-7
(write out these verses on the back of this page) must be in KJV

God loves you. Do you love Him? If you love Him you will want to be with Him today, tomorrow, the next day, and for all of eternity. There is only one way that you can do that. God made the way. He is not asking you to make the way. He sent His Son the Lord Jesus Christ to suffer, to bleed, to die, to bear your sins, to pay your penalty on the cross at Calvary. He died and was buried, but three days and three nights later, in conquest over death and in triumph over sin, Jesus Christ the Lord rose from the dead. He is alive today. He is seated at the right hand of His Father in the glory of heaven. He is listening just now to hear your call. He is waiting for you to ask Him to forgive your sins, to save your soul, and to become your Lord for all eternity. That is the most important thing you will ever do. What you do with the God that loves you determines what the God that loves you will do with you. Will He let you into heaven, or will He cast you into hell?

Any questions?