

Beloved

No. 176

Introduction.

- I. One of the most tender words in the English language is the word “beloved.”
- II. This word meaning “one who is dearly loved” is used several times in the Bible to express some of the glorious truths of God.
 - I. **False Teachers** - The word “beloved” is used to warn against false teachers. (1 Jn. 4:1).
 - A. John warned the brethren of the first century that they must be on guard against false teachers who would lead them astray. He admonished them to test or prove the teachers. This admonition was greatly needed in the first century because there were many false teachers who denied the Sonship of Christ and other important doctrines.
 - B. **This admonition is greatly needed today.**
 1. We must constantly guard against the many false teachers who are under the influence of Satan. We must not accept what any teacher has to say without examining the holy scriptures to see if the thing spoken is true.
 2. This is the only way we can make our salvation sure.
 - a. Jesus said. (Jn. 8:32; 17:17).
 - b. Jesus also said. (Matt. 7:15; 15:14; 24:4).
 - c. Paul said. (Acts 20:28-30; Gal. 1:8; Tit. 1:9).
 - II. **Revenge Is Wrong** - The word “beloved” is used to emphasize that revenge is wrong. (Rom. 12:19-21).
 - A. Christians must not revenge themselves, but vengeance must be left to God who is the judge of all men and who will render to every man according to his works in the judgment. The Christian is to return good for evil thereby showing he is a child of God. Only the carnal live by the “eye for eye” rule and return “evil for evil.”
 - B. **At the close of World War II some children gathered in a little chapel in Guam.** They were all old enough to remember how the Japanese had come and killed their fathers and mothers and many of their playmates. One would think that they would be filled with hate and a spirit of revenge, but this was not the case. The children were happy and free from hatred. These children took up a collection, from the money they had earned selling coconuts and bananas, to be used for the little homeless children of Japan. These children had the attitude that every child of God must possess to be acceptable to God. (Rom. 12:21).
- III. **Love One Another** - The word “beloved” is used to emphasize we should love one another. (1 Jn. 4:7, 8).

A. John here stresses that everyone who truly knows God and has been begotten of God loves his brother.

1. Listen to what John says elsewhere in his epistle about love of brethren.

1JO 2:9 The one who says he is in the light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now.

1JO 2:10 The one who loves his brother abides in the light and there is no cause for stumbling in him.

1JO 2:11 But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

1JO 3:11 For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another;

12 not as Cain, who was of the evil one, and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous. 13 ¶ Do not marvel, brethren, if the world hates you.

14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love

abides in death. 15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. 16 We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our

lives for the brethren. 17 But whoever has the world's goods, and beholds his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

1JO 3:23 And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.

1JO 4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has beheld God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.

1JO 4:19 We love, because He first loved us. 20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.

21 And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

2. It is utterly impossible to read this epistle of John without being deeply impressed with the necessity of loving one another. If we want a home with God, we must learn to love another from the heart fervently.

B. Failure to love shows we have not been born of God.

1. Jesus taught that love is the badge of discipleship. (Jn. 13:35).
2. Someone has written this excellent description of the "Perfect Love" Christians are to have for one another.

Perfect Love

Slow to suspect - quick to trust, Slow to condemn - quick to justify, Slow to offend - quick to defend, Slow to expose - quick to shield, Slow to reprimand - quick to forbear,	Slow to belittle - quick to appreciate, Slow to demand - quick to give, Slow to provoke - quick to conciliate, Slow to hinder - quick to help, Slow to resent - quick to forgive.
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IV. **Earth Not Our Home** - The term “beloved” is used to teach the earth is not our home. (1 Pet. 2:11).

- A. We sometimes sing, “This world is not my home. I am just passing through.” Peter states that Christians are “aliens” and “strangers” on the earth. Peter is clearly affirming this world is not our home.
- B. This verse refutes the concept that many people have that the earth will be the home of the righteous for a 1,000 years.
 - 1. This doctrine is not set forth here nor is it taught elsewhere in the Bible.
 - 2. The Bible clearly teaches that heaven will be the home of the Christian. (2 Pet. 3:10; Lk. 10:20; Phil. 3:20; Matt. 5:8, 10-12; Heb. 11:13-16; 1 Thess. 4:17; Jn. 14:1-3).

V. **Receive A Glorious Body** - The word “beloved” is used to emphasize that the sons of God will receive a glorious body in the resurrection. (1 Jn. 3:2).

- A. There is a **story told of a group of heathen converts** who, when they came to this verse in translating into their language, were unable to believe that such a promise could be in store for sinful man. They stopped and exclaimed, “No! It is too much. Let us write that we shall be permitted to kiss his feet.”
- B. Some have **misunderstood this great promise**.

- 1. Some think we can become **Deity in this life**. This is absolute impossibility. We are mere men and can never be Deity. We are taught to try to emulate Christ, but we can never reach His perfection. The best of men are sinners and must cry out. (Isa. 6:5). We will never have the power, knowledge, or holiness of Jesus.
- 2. Some think we can become **Deity in the life to come**. This is an absolute impossibility. In heaven we will enjoy great blessings, but we will still be servants. We will worship the Father and the Son. We shall serve them. (Rev. 22:3).
- 3. This glorious promise **relates to our resurrected body**. John is teaching our resurrected body will be like that of Christ’s.

C. There are **many great and precious promises** in the Bible, but none are greater than this one that assures us that we shall be like Jesus.

- 1. Paul wrote. (1 Cor. 15:49).
- 2. In Philippians 3:20 Paul informs that Jesus will fashion anew our humble bodies that they may conform to His glorious body. This new body will be eternal and free from every human imperfection.
- 3. Think of having a body that will never grow old! Think of having a body that will be free from tears

and sorrow! Think of having a body that will be free of pain and disease!

4. This glorious anticipation should thrill us and give us renewed determination to serve Jesus and abound in His work all the days of our lives! Paul wrote. (1 Cor. 15:53-58).

VI. Encourage Christians God Has Not Forgotten His Promise - The word “beloved” is also used to encourage Christians that God has not forgotten His promise to send Christ to the world again. (2 Pet. 3:8).

- A. At the time these words were written there were scoffers who said that so many years had elapsed from the time Christ promised to come again that it proved God would not send His Son.
- B. Peter affirms this is fallacious thinking because the passing of time means nothing to the eternal God.
 1. A 1,000 years is as a day to Him.
 2. Peter then adds that God has delayed the sending of His Son because He is longsuffering. (2 Pet. 3:9).

Conclusion.

- I. **Beloved, God desires that each one of us be saved.** He does not want one precious soul to perish. He wants all of us to have the abundant life in Jesus.
- II. Submit to Jesus today. Confess your faith in Him and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins. Come as we stand and sing!

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