

How God Proves His Love

No. 188

Introduction.

- I. One of our favorite hymns is “God is love.” The opening stanza exclaims, “Come, let us all unite to sing, ‘God is love!’”
- II. The Bible does emphatically declare “God is love” (1 Jn. 4:8), but despite this indisputable fact there are many who doubt God’s love or are unsure of it.
 - A. They want proof of God’s love.
 - B. They cry out, “How can I know God loves me? How can I know God really cares?”
- III. Here is proof of God’s love.
 - I. **Provided For Our Physical Needs** - We know God loves us because He has provided for our physical needs.
 - A. God has blessed us with food, clothing, shelter, automobiles and numerous other blessings. In fact, every good and perfect gift comes from the God of love.
 - B. The child of God can say as David did. (Psa. 23:1, 2; 37:25).
 - C. **Jesus** said. (Matt. 5:45; 7:7-11).
 - D. **Paul** said. (Phil. 4:19).
 - II. **Gave His Only Son For Us** - We know God loves us because He gave His only Son for us.
 - A. God sent His only Son into the world to die for our sins. After 33 sinless years in the flesh, Jesus died a horrible death on the cross for our sins.
 - B. In St. Paul’s Cathedral, in London, is a life-size marble statue of Christ writhing in anguish on the cross. The statue is subscribed, “This is how God loved the world!” This is how God loved the world!
 1. **Isaiah** wrote. (Isa. 53:5, 6).
 2. **Jesus** said. (Jn. 3:14-16).
 3. **Paul** wrote. (Rom. 5:8).
 4. **John** wrote. (1 Jn. 4:10).
 - a. The word “propitiation” means sacrifice. The blood of bulls and goats could not take away sin. So God gave His Son as a sacrifice for our sins.

- b. The fact that God gave His precious Son as a sacrifice for us on the cross should convince us that God loves us with the strongest possible love and should tug and pull at our heart-strings and make us want to love Him back. “We love because He first loved us.” (1 Jn. 4:19).

III. **Tells Us How To Live** - We know God loves us because He tells us how to live.

- A. God has not placed us on the earth to stumble in the darkness. He has not placed us on earth to be fearful and uncertain.
- B. **He has revealed to us the way to live.** He tells us how to be happy and how to find eternal life with Him.
 1. The **psalmist** declared. (Psa. 119:105).
 2. **Jesus** said. (Jn. 16:13; Acts 20:27).
 3. **Paul**, speaking of the all-sufficiency of the scriptures, said. (2 Tim. 3:16, 17).
 4. **Peter** wrote. (2 Pet. 1:3).
 - a. The fact God has granted us all things that pertain to life and godliness is conclusive proof of God’s love.
 - b. The fact God has granted us all things that pertain to life and godliness means we have the abundant life here and in the hereafter.

IV. **Willing To Help Us** - We know God is love because He is willing to help us.

- A. **Once 2 women, while driving across a lonely section of the country, encountered tire trouble.** One of the rear tire of their car went flat. When they had stopped the car and alighted, one of them said, “This is a fine state of affairs. Oh, for an angel now.” A voice from above shouted, “Here I am.” The woman looked up and saw a telephone lineman climbing down a pole where he had been working. He changed the tire, and his parting words to them as they started to drive away were, “When in trouble, look up.”
- B. When in trouble, we should look up. God helps those who look up to bear the troubles, the sorrows and the trials of life.
 1. This is why the psalmist said. (Psa. 121:1,2).
 2. This is why the psalmist said. (Psa. 55:22).
 3. God says in Hebrews 13:5.
 4. An unknown author has written, **Try the Uplook**

When the outlook is dark, try the uplook;
These words hold a message of cheer.
Be glad while repeating them over,
And smile when shadows appear.
Above and beyond stands the Master;
He sees what we do for His sake.

He never will fails or forsake us;
He knoweth the way we take.

When the outlook is dark, try the uplook-
The uplook of faith and good cheer;
The love of the Father surrounds us,
He knows when the shadows are near.
Be brave, then, and keep the eyes lifted,
And smile on the dreariest day.
His smile will glow in darkness;
His light will illuminate the way.

V. **Provided A Home For Us At End Of The Way** - We know God is love because He has provided a home for us at the end of the way.

- A. God knows that man has a desire to live forever. He knows man does not want his existence to end at the grave.
- B. Realizing this great desire, God has prepared a beautiful home for us.
 - 1. This home is more beautiful than any of us can even imagine and is free of diseases, sorrow, tears, and death.
 - 2. It is a perfect place prepared for those who have responded to the great love of God and do His will.

Conclusion

- I. In the closing part of Romans the 8th chapter we have some of the most inspirational and comforting words ever penned. (Rom. 8:31-39).

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? 33 Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; 34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 Just as it is written, "For Thy sake we are being put to death all day long; We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- A. Paul here exclaims that there is **no external force** - even famine, persecution and death - that can separate us

from the great love of God. As long as we keep ourselves in God's love by walking in the light and confessing our sins, our calling election is sure. What a glorious, what a wondrous promise! It should make us sing with even more fervor and more love "God is love."

B. **Charles Spurgeon**, the preacher, once saw a **weathercock** with the word written on it, "God is love." He remarked to a companion that he did not think that it was appropriated on so changeable a thing. He was kindly informed that he had misinterpreted it, that it really meant, "God is love, whichever way the wind blows." Regardless of the circumstances, in spite of the wind, "God is love" and nothing in heaven or on earth can change this marvelous fact.

II. **A young woman once went to a ticket office in an English railway station.** She had lived only for the sinful pleasures of life, but she was weary of her empty, sinful life. Above the ticket window were printed these words: "God So Love!" She said to the ticket agent, "I never heard that before. Where did these words come from?" The agent said, "They are in the Bible." She asked, "Where can I get a Bible?" "Across the street at the bookstore." The young woman bought a Bible and returned to the station in time to take her train. She asked a passenger to find the place in her Bible where it said, "God so loved." She was shown John 3:16. She read it over and over again! Reaching her home, the young woman rushed in. She showed the verse to the man with whom she lived. She said, "Isn't this wonderful!" The man replied, "I've know that verse was in the Bible for a long time. What's wonderful about it." She answered, "Well, if God loves me like that, I am going to forsake my sinful life, and love and serve Him with all my heart."

III. **May each of forsake the sinful things of our lives and love and serve God with all our hearts.** May each of us totally and unconditionally surrender our lives to the God of love. He invites all of us to come and enjoy all of His rich, bountiful blessings. Come as we stand and sing.

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