

To Love As God Loves

Joh 3:16a For God so loved...

Unconditional

Rom 5:8 But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were **yet sinners**, **Christ died for us**.

Rom 5:9 Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

Rom 5:10 For if, **when we were enemies**, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, **being reconciled**, we shall be saved by His life.

- We were not saved while in that old former sinful self. Christ had already died, was buried and resurrected even before we came along. The work was already finished. God **still** loved us though!

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Giving

Joh 3:16b ...that He gave...

Heb 10:5 Wherefore when He cometh into the world, He saith, Sacrifice and offering Thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared Me:

Heb 10:10 By the which will we are sanctified through the **offering of the body of Jesus Christ** once *for all*.

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Painful

Gal 4:4 But when the **fulness of the time** was come, God **sent** forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

Gal 4:5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

- Under the Romans there were roads built that connected the empire with the then known world. This brought about the ability to communicate and travel faster and easier. The gospel could be preached to all the world.

Col 1:5 For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof **ye heard** before in the **word of the truth of the gospel**;

Col 1:6 Which is come unto you, as **it is in all the world**; and bringeth forth fruit, as *it doth* also in you, since the day ye heard *of it*, and knew the grace of God in truth:

But it was also a time in which the most brutal form of execution was in existence. It was such that would be remembered for the rest of all time.

Joh 19:1 Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged *Him*.

- We all know what a Roman flogging was. Many didn't make it through the beating itself let alone the crucifixion. And the Roman military type of flogging was done in such a way as to disgrace the nation where it was done. (*Clarke*)

Deu 25:3 Forty stripes he may give him, *and* not exceed: lest, *if* he should exceed, and beat him above these with many stripes, then thy brother should seem vile unto thee.

2Co 11:24 Of the Jews five times received I (*Paul*) forty *stripes* save one.

But it seems that Pilate had in mind to have Jesus scourged beyond the normal intensity in order to satisfy the Jews. He knew how degrading and painful the “art” of crucifixion was and how such punishment was not necessary for One that he felt was innocent. Remember, the Romans made an “art” of causing such pain for such an extended period of time that some lived on for days before dying. Maybe when the Jews saw the beaten and torn Jesus they would have pity on Him and would not have had Him crucified and Pilate would be able to let Him go. Remember, Pilate’s wife’s dream?

Mat 27:19 When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of Him.

Joh 19:2 And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put *it* on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe,

Joh 19:3 And said, Hail, King of the Jews! and they smote Him with their hands.

- Can we only imagine such mockery. Think about it. What if it were your children doing that to you. The love you would have for them. The pity. Wouldn’t it be so hard to call for help only to realize that they would have no hope of salvation if you did? Sometimes we have to turn our backs even on our own children in order that they will know how serious we are over such a matter as the eternal salvation of their souls. And what Christian parent doesn’t pray for their children?

Costly

Gal 6:17 From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.

- The apostle Paul counted the cost of discipleship.

Luk 14:28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have *sufficient to finish it?*

Luk 14:33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be My disciple.

- God counted the cost.

Luk 23:44 And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour.

- Matthew and Mark just call it “darkness” but here in Luke he calls it “a” darkness. God could not look upon His own Son because of His (*God’s*) Holy nature. Could

there be any pain worse than that of a father being separated in like manner from his son whom he loves (*or for that matter any relationship*)?

Mat 19:29 And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for My name's sake...

Imagine how painful it would be. But that's how much pain God felt when He could no longer look upon Jesus as He hung on the cross with our sins on His torn and bloodied shoulders. And yet, He continued to love us.

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Joh 3:16c ...His only begotten Son,

Psa 2:7 I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto Me, Thou *art* My Son; this day have I begotten Thee.

- What day did Jesus become the “only begotten” and what does “only begotten” mean?

Zec 14:8 And it shall be in **that** (*specific*) **day**, *that living waters* shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be.

- Half of the living waters would go from that day back to the beginning of time and half would go from that day forward to the end of time.

Joh 4:10 Jesus answered and said unto her, **If thou knewest the gift of God, and Who it is that saith to thee, Give Me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of Him, and He would have given thee living water.**

Tit 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the **washing of regeneration**, and **renewing** of the Holy Ghost; (*This is the new birth.*)

Joh 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, **Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**

Joh 3:5 Jesus answered, **Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water** (*baptism*) **and the Spirit** (*according to the teaching of Holy Spirit*), **he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.**

1Pe 3:21 The like figure (*speaking of the water of the flood that saved Noah and his family; remember, it wasn't the ark by itself that saved them from the lost world below. It was the water that purged the wickedness from existence along with their obedience of getting into the ark.*) whereunto *even* baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh [*baptism is not taking a bath*], but the answer of a good conscience toward God [*now that the sins are purged*],) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: (*If Jesus didn't raise up, our faith is vain and we are yet in our sins. 1 Cor 15:17*)

1Pe 1:22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, *see that ye* love one another with a pure heart fervently:

1Pe 1:23 Being **born again**, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, **by the word of God**, which liveth and abideth for ever.

- With the above scriptures I mind we can see that Jesus became the “only begotten” when He defeated Satan at the resurrection having conquered death to die no more. His blood went back to cover the sins from Adam to the cross and to this very day continues to do so.

Heb 9:12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us*.

Rom 8:29 For whom He (*God the Father*) did foreknow, He also did **predestinate** (*Gk.4309-limit in advance*) [*only those found faithful in Christ*] to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He (*Jesus*) might be the **firstborn** among many brethren.

- Thus Jesus was known in eternity as the “only begotten” of the Father.

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Joh 3:16d ...that whosoever believeth (*Gk.4100-to entrust [especially one's spiritual well being to Christ]*) in Him should not perish (*Gk.622-die*), but have everlasting life.

Joh 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth (*Gk.191-give audience, understands*) My word, and **believeth** (*Gk.4100*) on Him that sent Me, **hath everlasting life**, and shall not come into condemnation; but is **passed from death unto life**.

(*Jas 2:19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.*)

- The word “believe” here is a synecdoche (*part of the whole*) for obedience. It is a word given to encompass the gospel plan to save which includes hearing, believing what is heard, repenting of those sins that separate us from God, confessing that Jesus is the Christ that came into the world to save sinners like us and then to be immersed in water (*obedience*) for the remission of those past sins.
- Once we become reconciled by His blood, at that moment we receive salvation. Baptism becomes the final demarcation where we are separated out of the world and into Christ. (*Like Noah was separated from the world and in the ark.*)

Rom 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *Him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

- In conclusion, Paul stated...

Rom 8:38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

Rom 8:39 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.

- And Jesus stated...

Joh 15:12 This is My commandment, That ye love one another, **as I have loved you** *(to the point of giving My life for you).*

Joh 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

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