

Oaks-West Church of Christ

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December 22, 2019

God's Love For Sinful Man

by Frank Walton

"By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him" (1 Jno. 4:9). It is not by our goodness, greatness, loveliness, or merit that moved a holy, perfect God to work through the ages, in spite of our great failures, to reach out and rescue a race of rebels. We were dead in the vileness of sin and "without God and without hope" (Eph. 2:12). The driving force behind the dramatic plan of salvation is the loving character and initiative of God alone (Eph. 2:1-5).

Redemptive love is undefeatable goodwill. Do we marvel at it as the most powerful force in the universe? It motivates His grace toward the undeserving, which includes all of us, in offering the best and

dearest He has in His Son (Jno. 3:16). This divine power is the greatest force for change in the universe. "See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God" (1 Jno. 3:1).

We must marvel at the wonders of such love, such amazing redemptive goodwill. It persists in spite of man's repeated failures and foolishness in the story of the Bible. He knows all about us, every secret sin, and, like the forgiving father in Jesus' parable of the prodigal son (Lk. 15), He still wants us back! It is an optimistic, positive love that sees great potential for anyone who turns completely to God in sincere faith. It is also a tough love that beckons us to penitently do better and reach higher in humble obedience.

God's Love For Sinful Man ...

In the plan of salvation, we must point people to our loving God through Christ and give Him all the glory, honor, and credit for the power to change erring lives (Rom. 5:6- 11; 11:33-36). One reason many of us are not as motivated to actively share the gospel with the lost is that we really don't love them like our heavenly Father does (see 1 Jno. 4:19). "He who does not love does not know God, for God is love" (1 Jno. 4:8). The effective soul-winner Paul exclaimed, "The love of Christ impels us" (2 Cor. 5:14).

Knowing the infinite love of God confronts us with a choice: will I be a stagnant hoarder or a transformed channel of divine love to the lost? The love of God lifts our spirits, changes our lives, and moves us to lovingly share the gospel with lost people all around us. God's love sent Christ into the world and offered us grace to obey the gospel and be saved. So, God's love in Christ transforms us into loving, Christ-like people. Such divine love is the moving force in all our service for God and man. The greatest command is to love God with our all and to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mk. 12:28-31). We should greet each day with love in our heart. We study 1 Corinthians 13 on the virtuous traits of God-pleasing love, which is active goodwill, and all our relations will improve. How much love is there in your heart and daily action?

Psalm 66:1–20 ESV

"Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise! Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you. All the earth worships you and sings praises to you; they sing praises to your name." Selah

Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man. He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot. There did we rejoice in him, who rules by his might forever, whose eyes keep watch on the nations— let not the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah

Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of his praise be heard, who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip. For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried. You brought us into the net; you laid a crushing burden on our backs; you let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.

I will come into your house with burnt offerings; I will perform my vows to you, that which my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble. I will offer to you burnt offerings of fattened animals, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams; I will make an offering of bulls and goats. Selah

Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for my soul. I cried to him with my mouth, and high praise was on my tongue. If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. But truly God has listened; he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me!"

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.



Upcoming Ladies' Bible Classes - TBA

Winter Lectures - each Friday evening in January, 7:30 p.m. at Westside church of Christ, Killeen.

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.



Please remember the following individuals in your daily prayers:

June Owens

Jack Wilson

Jerry & Nancy Richardson

Karen Hallmark

Geraldine's mother (Iva Aleene Morris)

Rich Force

Jim Trammel

Ron Stanberry

Sue Stanberry

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

We have many that face challenges on a daily basis and need your prayers as well.

“The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

(James 5:16)

For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer.” (1 Peter 3:12)

[illegible]

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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George Gresham
Jim Johnson
Darrell Trammel

Bible Classes..... 9:45 A.M.
Worship 10:45 A.M.
Worship 6:00 P.M.

Bible Classes..... 7:00 P.M.