

Truths of Assurance and Freedom

Lesson # 2 -- Truths Regarding God's Love and Holiness (2).

Introduction

- A. On one hand love is the most difficult virtue to understand. On the other it is one of the easiest. The difference is whether one has experienced genuine love. It is like an unusual taste. No amount of words can tell a person how an olive tastes. When they taste one -- no words are necessary.
- B. God wants us to understand that He loves us. And, He wants us to know the content of that love, its meaning, and have its benefits in our life. When we live without love it is not God's fault. And, it may not be ours.
- C. The text: Romans 5:8-11

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

I. The Revelation of God's Desire: He Wants Us to Know That He Loves Us.

- A. For Adam and Eve, experiencing God's love, was one of the many benefits of their creation. And, the relationship was deepened by their daily fellowship with Him. They knew God personally, communicated with Him, and expressed their love for Him in all their activities.
- B. In the Fall of Man, they and all of us lost that loving relationship with God and its transforming experience. As a consequence, we are born under condemnation, in a separation from God, and, instead of understanding His love, we have a deep suspicion that He may not be good, rejected us in Eden, and does so now.

II. The Manifestation of God's Love: He Did Not Reject Us But Came to Us.

- A. How could God reverse such a tragic condition? He did so in three ways. First by revealing His love and plan (The Old Testament). The message of the tabernacle, priesthood, and sacrificial system testifies to His love.
- B. The second step was by sending the Lord Jesus to be the living proof of His love. We cannot read the Gospels without seeing how much God loves us.
- B. The third step was the most astounding. The Lord Jesus took upon Himself all our judgment, our separation, our condemnation, our pain, our death, our lack of love, all of our feelings of being unloved and rejected, and all the suffering of what Hell would mean to us. That is what happened in the Crucifixion. He took your place and mine -- and paid our debt!

III. The Historical Proof of His Love: "God demonstrates his own love for us"

- A. First: It would seem the only way God could reach us was to demonstrate, or prove, or explain His love by some great historical event. Because it happened in history, He and we could point to it again and again. It would never change.
- B. Second: It would need to be explained in an inspired revelation that would cause the readers/hearers to understand. The revelation would be authoritative.
- C. Third: It would be necessary for God Himself to intervene in the process. Only He could bring a person to understand their condition, bring them to repentance and faith, and the assurance of belonging to Him. That is the new birth.

IV. The Astounding Benefits of His Love: "Christ Died For Us."

A. Benefit # 1 -- "Justified by his blood." Rom 5:9

The term "Justified" means "declared righteous" and indicates the spiritual condition of those who have repented and believed in Jesus Christ. The term includes forgiveness, acceptance by God, and all the benefits of salvation. The use of the word "blood" points to the substitutionary death of our Savior.

B. Benefit # 2 -- "Saved from God's wrath." Rom 5:9

The word "wrath" refers to Hell. Because the Lord Jesus took upon Himself all our judgment the believer has been set free from condemnation and will never know the suffering of Hell.

C. Benefit # 3 -- "Reconciled to him (God) through the death of his Son." Rom 5:10

The term "Reconciled" speaks of the reversal of the separation that was caused by the Fall of Man (Gen 3). It reminds us that the condition of the sinner has been fully reversed in the action of the new birth.

D. Benefit # 4 -- "Saved by his life." Rom 5:10

This benefit speaks of the sustaining of the believer in salvation. Perhaps a paraphrase "Kept saved by his life of intercession in Heaven" would help us here. While it is true that we have all the benefits of our Savior's life on earth (See Romans 5:11; 8:3,4; 10:3,4) in this passage the emphasis is on His priestly work of intercession as explained in Heb 7:22-28.

E. Benefit # 5 -- "We also rejoice in God." Rom 5:11

In these words we are reminded that Christianity is not only positional but also experiential. God has made every provision for our enjoyment of Himself in fellowship and of His provision in the Lord Jesus. (See John 15:11; 16:24; 17:13)

Conclusion

- A. In order to enter into the experience of love it is necessary to respond to God on the basis of what He has said to us and done for us. This is vital.
- B. Take time to read the Bible and pray. Meditate on His Word. Worship Him and thank Him for Who He is and what He has done for you.

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