

Celebration Services [December 29-30, 2007]

"Is God's love a fuzzy feeling?" [Pt. 11]

Introduction:

God's reason for saving us==**John 3:16-17**

four truths about God's love:

For God so loved [SPECIFIC] the world [OBJECT] that He gave [INTENSE] His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal live [RESULT].

1. the **SPECIFICITY** of God's love-

so loved = "in this way" == not a general kind of love;

it is **SPECIFIC** in its devotion, purpose, application and result.

2. the **OBJECT** of God's love- *the world...*

D. A. Carson tells us that "God's love is to be admired **not** because the world is so big and includes so many people, **but** because the world is so **bad**: this is the customary connotation of *kosmos*..."

God loves the world of those whom He will save for the display of His glory.

3. the **INTENSITY** of God's love- *He gave His...Son...*

Here is the HEART of the Gospel of our redemption.

The **RADICAL** and **INTENSE** love of God as seen in the VIOLENT death of His Son:

Acts 2:23 ...[Jesus was] delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God...

What is God so **INTENSE** about that He would crucify His own Son?

His *Righteousness* in the display of Who He is and How He is.

Rom 3:21-26

God is the ONLY Being Who perfectly knows Himself and finds that He ALONE is True and Good having no fault in Himself.

The moral...affection of God, chiefly consist[s] in a regard to Himself, infinitely above His regard to all other beings; or, in other words, God's holiness consists in [His delight in Himself]. Jonathan Edwards

God's pure and Holy Self-love in the relationship of love between the Father and the Son.

John 14:31 *I love the Father*

John 5:20 *the Father loves the Son*

It is *Right* for God to be this way.

to withhold such a Truth would be contrary to His Goodness.

And this is why God Joyfully shares Himself with us:

John 15:10-13

We are to love God with the same "whole hearted" love that He has within Himself for Himself.

Mark 12:28-32 *And one of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, "What is the greatest commandment?" 29 Jesus answered, "The greatest is, 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord; 30 and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' 31 "The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."*

Whenever our love is not "whole hearted", we fall into sin.

Matt 15:7-9 *"You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying,
8'This people honors Me with their lips,
But their heart is far away from Me.
9'But in vain do they worship Me,
Teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.' "*

4. the **RESULT** of God's love- *perish* [or] *eternal life*

Eternal Life or Eternal Wrath

Since, God's love is eternally *Right* to refuse God's love is eternally **WRONG**,

and God's *Right-ness* **DEMANDS** that He must condemn what is wrong.

Wrath is God's settled and deliberate fury against all opposition to the Truth of Who He is within Himself.

As eternally **INTENSE** as God's love is, His wrath is as *eternally* **INTENSE**.

Our response=reciprocity or rejection>

What Good [God] News the Gospel is==

The wrath of God is justly upon all who reject==by not believing, by denying their need, by putting off, by depending upon some other way,

Romans 1:18-32

What are we to do?

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as God's love in Himself for us-

Believe that Jesus is the Lord Who has paid the full wrath of God

Believe that Jesus is now moving in your heart through your desire to be saved from God's wrath

Believe that Jesus has convinced you of your sin of not loving Him with His kind of love

Believe that Jesus is calling you to surrender yourself to His forgiveness and leadership

If you are *believing* this, God is loving you into loving Him.

Say "yes" to God's loving you as your thankful response.

