

Amazing Love!

John 3:16

(Scripture Reading: Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:14-18)

It is only when we see the extent of our sinfulness, the perilous plight we are in, and the price that had to be paid for our redemption that we can see how amazing the love of God truly is.

1) The Loved of God

A) What does 'world' refer to? (not the *enormous number* of people but the *sinful nature* of people)

- John 15:18 – “If the **world hates you**, you know that it **hated Me before it hated you.**”
- 1 John 2:15-16 – “¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world... ¹⁶ For all that is in the world—the **lust of the flesh**, the **lust of the eyes**, and the **pride of life**—is not of the Father but is of the world.”
- James 1:27 – “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being **polluted by the world.**”
- James 4:4 – “... **friendship with the world is enmity with God...** Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an **enemy of God.**”
- Numbers 21:4-5 – “⁴ Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged [alt., *impatient*] on the way. ⁵ And **the people spoke against God and against Moses:** “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and **our soul loathes** [alt., *detests*] **this worthless bread.**”
- Deuteronomy 9:4-6 – “⁴ After the LORD your God has driven them out before you, **do not say** to yourself, “The LORD has brought me here to take possession of this land **because of my righteousness.**” No, it is on account of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD is going to drive them out before you. ⁵ **It is not because of your righteousness or your integrity** that you are going in to take possession of their land; but on account of the wickedness of these nations ... ⁶ Understand, then, that **it is not because of your righteousness** ... **for you are a stiff-necked people.**”
- Romans 3:9-23 – “⁹ What shall we conclude then? Do we have any advantage? Not at all! For we have already made the charge that **Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin.** ¹⁰ As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one; ¹¹ there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. ¹² All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.” ¹³ “Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit.” “The **poison** of vipers is on their lips.” ¹⁴ “Their mouths are full of **cursing** and bitterness.” ... ^{22b} There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

B) The contrast between the love of humans and false gods and the love of the true, living God

- Our human love
 - we tend to love *if, until, or because*

- Islamic Allah's love (Qur'an re:)
 - 2:195 – God loves those who **do good deeds**
 - 2:222 – God loves those who **ask** for his **forgiveness**
 - 2:222 – God loves those who **purify themselves**
 - 3:76 – God loves those who **fear** him
 - 3:146 – God loves those who are **steadfast**
 - 3:159 – God loves those who **trust** him
 - 5:42 – God loves those who **act justly**
 - 61:4 – God loves those who **stive** for his **cause**
 - 3:31 – God loves those who **follow** his **prophet**
- God's divine love
 - Romans 5:6b-10 – “^{6b} in due time Christ died for the **ungodly**. ⁷ For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still **sinner**s, Christ died for us...¹⁰ [W]hen we were **enemies** we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son ...”

2) The Gift of God

A) Our plight

- i) Genesis 2:17 – “of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”
- ii) Romans 6:23 – “**The wages of sin is death.**”
- iii) Numbers 21:6 – “So the Lord sent **fiery serpents** among the people, and they **bit** the people; and many of the people of Israel **died.**”

B) God's costly cure

- i) Deuteronomy 21:22-23 – “²² If a man has committed a sin deserving of death, and he is put to death, and you **hang** him **on a tree**, ²³ his body shall not remain overnight on the tree, but you shall surely bury him that day, so that you do not defile the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance; for **he who is hanged is accursed of God.**”
- ii) Galatians 3:13 – “**Christ redeemed us from the curse** of the law **by becoming a curse for us**, for it is written: ‘**Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.**’”
- iii) 2 Corinthians 5:21a – “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

3) The Promise of God

- A) What is promised: everlasting life
- B) Who it is promised to: everyone
- C) How it is received: look in faith (ie. believe)