

Milk & Honey

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Spiritual Food and Encouragement for Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ

The Love of Christ

Steve Hulshizer

And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour. Eph. 5:2

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; Eph. 5:25

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. Gal. 2:20

We live in a world where what is called “love” is often nothing more than “lust.” A world in which the Scriptural truth that “God is love” is twisted to the point that “love is god.” The word “love” rolls off the lips of many, and appears in millions and millions of novels and greeting cards, usually without any sense of what true love is.

Love is often equated with affections and affections are associated with feelings... “she *felt* affection for the wise old lady.” (Webster) As often said, “Feelings can be misleading.” Appropriate affections are good, but different than love.

Looking at the verses shown at the beginning of this article you will notice a key word that appears in them all—“*given* Himself,” “*gave* Himself.” We live in a world filled with “takers.” In contrast true love is characterized by “giving.” Christ’s love was sacrificial. Husbands are to sacrificially love their wives.

So how do we define Christ like love. “Love is a decision *of the will* to be committed to another for their benefit at my expense.” Jacob’s labor of fourteen years for Rachel would illustrate this. “Love seeks not its own.” (1 Cor. 13:5) In this well know chapter the two primary characteristics of love are presented. The first is “giving.” The second is “endurance.” “Love endureth all things.” “Love never faileth.” Meaning, love never falls away or diminishes.

In 2 Cor. 8 Paul writes to tell the saints in Corinth to make good on a promise to give to the needy saints in Jerusalem. (vs. 10-11) It is in this context that we are given the often quoted verse 9. “For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.” Now the

grace spoken of here is the grace of “giving.” Paul exhorts them based on the ultimate example of the giving of the Lord Jesus. In order to get some understanding of Christ’s giving we need to *attempt* to make some comparison of His loftiness and the poverty of those He gave Himself for. We might think briefly on His riches. How rich was He? Thinking on just a few things that were His makes the human mind feel its limitations very quickly.

The universe was His!

He enjoyed uninterrupted fellowship with the Father.

He lived in an absolutely perfect heaven.

Angels served Him.

We need to think about how poor He became. In Psalm 22:6-8 it is prophetically stated, “I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people. All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him.” We get the clear picture Christ had no value in the eyes of man being despised, crushed, and discarded. And yet the rich One *gave Himself* for those so deep in sin. Paul marveled that Christ “loved me, and gave himself for me.” (Gal. 2:20)

Brother G. Stewart writing on these two words, “Himself” and “me” states;

“He—the Son of God, in all the glory of His Person and estate, and me, when in all the vileness of my condition as a conscience-stricken sinner, dead under the sentence of a spiritual law, and with nothing but condemnation before me. Who would suppose that between such contrary beings there could have been anything like love? Yet so it was, but this on His part alone; He loved me.”

The Rich for the poor.

The Righteous for the unrighteous.

The Holy for the unclean.

The Obedient for the rebellious.

The Humble for the proud.

The Creator for the creature.

The Almighty for the weak.

The Innocent for the guilty.

The Lifegiver for the dead.

Amazingly there is more! Think now of how rich those who were poor became because of the love of Christ.

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The Burnt Offering

R.F. Kingscote

Then opened He their understanding, that they might understand the Scriptures, and said unto them, Thus It is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day (Luke 24:45,46).

Oh what a wonderful exposition that must have been! It was from the Old Testament Scriptures—the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms—that He expounded unto them the things concerning Himself. How wonderful then does this book of Leviticus become in our eyes, when we find that, instead of its being only some Jewish ritual, we have precious things in it concerning the Lord Jesus Himself. And when we find that each one of the offerings gives us a picture of the Lord Jesus, either in His Person or His work, how interesting does it become!

It is indeed very gracious of God to teach us in this way, by means of types or pictures; for our poor, narrow minds could not apprehend at once the glory of the Person of the Lord Jesus, or the value of His work. Therefore, God gives us these types in order that we may, so to speak, consider one aspect of the Person or work of the Lord Jesus at a time. Then, having looked at one type, we turn to another, which gives us a different aspect. Thus, putting all together, our hearts are filled with wonder, worship, and praise; while we learn, in a way we could not otherwise have learned, what the glory of His Person is, and what the value of His work is.

We find in this book of Leviticus that there were four chief offerings. The first chapter presents the burnt offering; the second chapter, the meat offering; the third chapter, the peace offering; and the fourth chapter, the sin offering. Four offerings are brought before us by the Holy Spirit, in order to make clear to our minds four different aspects of the Person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. (The author counts the sin and trespass offerings together—Editor.) Just as, in the New Testament, the Holy Spirit has given us, in the four gospels, four different views of the Lord's Person.

Now of what does this burnt offering speak? "The work of Christ," you say. But what aspect of the work of Christ? Well, the sin offering, which comes last in order, speaks for itself. That is a type of Christ bearing our sins, what we have done, putting them away forever. But what is the burnt offering? The burnt offering is that which typifies Christ coming to do the will of God, at all cost to Himself, in spite of all that awful suffering and agony of the cross. He came to accomplish the will of God and to glorify Him, even in death. Thank God, it was for us, too. God's will was our salvation; and thus the Lord Jesus, in coming to accomplish the will of God, came to accomplish our salvation also. * (Write for free copy of the 60 page book, "Christ in the O.T. Offerings.)

Getting Used To The Dark

Vance Havner/Norman Hiebert

And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. Ephesians 5:11

A friend of mine took me to a restaurant where they must have loved darkness rather than light. I stumbled into the dimly-lit cavern, fumbled for a chair, and mumbled that I needed a flashlight in order to read the menu.

When the food came I ate it by faith and not by sight. Gradually, however, I began to make out objects a little more clearly. My host said, "Funny, isn't it, how we get used to the dark?" "Thank you," I replied, "You have given me a new sermon subject."

We are living in the dark. The closing chapter of this age is dominated by the prince and powers of darkness. Men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil. The night is far spent; the blackness is more extensive and more excessive as it deepens just before the dawn.

Lot was a righteous man, but he moved into Sodom, lived in it, probably became its mayor. His soul was vexed from day to day with the Sodomites' unlawful deeds, but he lost his influence with his family and had to flee for his life. He died in disgrace.

I have met many Lots in the past few years! "... as it was in the days of Lot; ... Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed." (Luke 17:28-30)

Modern Lots tell us that we should hobnob with Sodom and get chummy with Gomorrah in order to convert them. But the end does not justify the means. *Such people do not turn the light on in Sodom—they merely get used to the dark.*

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The lost are saved!

The guilty are forgiven!

The condemned are accounted as righteous!

The unclean are sanctified!

The unacceptable become accepted in the Beloved!

The Hell bound become Heaven bound!

The impoverished become coheirs with Christ!

As quoted at the beginning, Scripture uses the amazing love of Christ to exhort us to "walk in love." It also uses Christ's sacrificial love for the church to exhort husbands to sacrificially love their wives. May the love of Christ impact our lives daily for His glory. *

Give me a sight, O Saviour, Of Thy wondrous love to me.

Of the love that bro't Thee down to earth, To die on Calvary

Chorus

Oh, make me understand it, Help me to take it in,

What it meant to Thee, the Holy One, to bear away my sin.

Someone to Thank

Robert Clarke

In 1943, Fred Hargensheimer, an American pilot, was shot down over New Guinea. The local people rescued him from the Japanese and cared for him. After the war, Hargensheimer remembered his debt. He personally raised money to finance a school on the island. And in 1970 he and his wife left their home on St. Paul, Minnesota for New Guinea. They planned to donate fourteen months of their lives toward the development of a cocoa plantation at the school.

Isn't that remarkable? Nearly thirty years later, he still remembered those individuals who had been kind and generous and had provided for his needs. Is there someone you should remember today? Remember to thank personally? Remember to write a word of appreciation? Remember to call? I know there is a great God in heaven who longs for our thankfulness, who wants us to remember Him and to offer Him the expression of our heart's gratitude.

In his letter to the Philippians, Paul said, "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you." Why not look back over the past and think of those people and experiences that have brought blessing into your life, and simply thank the Lord for that spiritual or practical enrichment.

Thirty years later Hargensheimer gave of his own time and effort to assist the people who had saved his life. How long ago did the Lord save your soul? How long has it been since you thanked Him and praised Him for your salvation and His other gifts to you? Why not turn this very special holiday time into a time of recalling and giving thanks to God for the people who have been such a blessing to you?

Meditations On Being Thankful - ECS Press, Dubuque, IA

Looking For Worshipers

Arno C. Gaebelein

But the hour is coming and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. John 4:23

We do not find such a statement anywhere else in the Scriptures. Nowhere is it said that the Father seeks; but here the Son of God makes known that the Father seeks true worshipers, worshipers in spirit and in truth. And this seeking of the Father of true worshipers goes on throughout this present age through the Spirit of God. All who accept the Lord Jesus Christ, and are saved are thus sought by the Father as worshipers. It is true we are saved to serve; but a still higher truth is we are saved to worship. In fact only if we worship right, can we serve right. This true worship centers

In His Presence

Psalm 16:11

William Neff

I cannot begin to see.

All that God has done for me.

For if the cost reflects the prize,

Its then too great to behold with human eyes.

A body new I'll need to bear

The glory with Christ to share.

For all my nature here below,

Is only fit for hell to go.

"Redeemed," I hear the songs proclaim,

"Set Free," and given "A New Name."

The sight in heaven will be so grand,

But none more precious than His nail pierced hand.

To me, for the Lord of glory to express His grace,

Would suffice just to see His face.

And so much more He's done for me,

'Twill be expressed for all eternity.

Let us not wait to arrive in glory,

Before we start to tell the story.

It's then too late, so share today this wondrous love,

That perhaps another soul may dwell above.

Continued from previous column - *Looking for...*

in the Lord Jesus Christ; true worshipers are not gathered to earthly names, institutions, denominations, sects or parties, but unto the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. The day will come when "the hour" in which the Father seeks such to worship Him will end; this dispensation in which the true Church is gathered will end, like previous dispensations ended. The true Church will be brought to glory, and is seen there, in the Book of Revelation, as a company of worshipers (Rev.4-5). *

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God's Blessed Man

H. A. Ironside

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful (Psalm 1:1).

I was very much impressed, a number of years ago, as I listened to Joseph Flacks tell of his visit to Palestine. When he was in the city of Jerusalem he was given the opportunity of addressing quite a gathering of Jews and Arabs, all of whom were presumably unconverted. For his text, Mr. Flacks took the first Psalm. Of course, he could repeat it to them in the Hebrew. He dwelt upon the tenses, "Blessed is the man who hath not walked in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stood in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seat of the scornful."

He said to them, "Now, my brethren, who is this blessed man of whom the psalmist speaks? Notice, this happy man is a man who never walked in the counsel of the ungodly, he never stood in the way of sinners, he never sat in the seat of the scornful. He was an absolutely sinless man. Who is this blessed man?" When no one answered, Joseph Flacks said, "Shall we say he is our great Father Abraham.? Is it Father Abraham that the psalmist is speaking or here?"

One old Jew said, "No, no, it cannot be Abraham, for he denied his wife; he told a lie about her."

"Ah," said Joseph Flacks, "it does not fit, does it? Abraham, although he was the father of the faithful, yet was a sinner who needed to be justified by faith. But, my brethren, this refers to somebody; who is this man? Could it be our great lawgiver, Moses?"

"No, no," they said, "it cannot be Moses. He killed a man and hid him in the sand." Another added, "And he lost his temper by the water of Meribah."

"Well," Joseph Flacks said, "my brethren, who is this? There is some man here that the Spirit of God is bringing before us. Could it be our great King David, the sweet psalmist of Israel, who perhaps wrote this Psalm?"

"No, no," they cried, "it cannot be David. He committed adultery and had Uriah slain."

"Well," he said, "who is it; to whom do these words refer?" They were quiet for some little time and then one Jew arose and said, "My brethren, I have a little book here; it is called the New Testament. I have been reading it. If I believed this book, if I could be sure that it is true, I would say that the man of the first Psalm was Jesus of Nazareth."

An old Jew got right up and said, "My brethren, the man of the first Psalm is Jesus of Nazareth. He is the only One who ever went through this world who never walked in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stood in the way of sinners."

Then the old man told how he had been brought to believe in Christ, and he took that occasion to openly confess his faith. He had been searching for a long time and had found out sometime, before that Jesus was the One, but he had not had the courage to tell others. *

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Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: 1 Pet. 3:15

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Steve Hulshizer

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