

THE LOVE OF GOD

1 John 4:7-11

Introduction:

- 1. F. M. Lehman wrote a beautiful song to extoll God's love.**
- 2. C. M. Pullias said, "The love of God is preeminently the greatest subject of all."**
- 3. H. Leo Boles said, "Because God is love, His every act must be interpreted in terms of love."**
- 3. How can we see God's love?**

Distribution:

I. GOD'S LOVE IS SEEN IN HIS CREATION.

- A. The beautiful earth was created for man (Ge. 1 & 2).**
 - 1. Each successive day of creation prepared for man.**
 - 2. On the sixth day, man was made.**
 - a. He came into an environment especially made.**
 - b. He alone was made in God's image (Ge. 1:27).**
 - 3. God placed man in Eden, a paradise on earth.**
 - 4. He made a "helper comparable to him" (Ge. 2:18-25).**
- B. The happiness of Eden was destroyed by sin (Ge. 3).**
 - 1. The gates of paradise were closed to Adam and Eve.**
 - a. They were separated from the Tree of Life.**
 - b. They were subject to toil and pain.**
 - c. They would eventually return to the dust.**
 - 2. God promised Paradise would be restored.**
 - a. The Seed of the woman would bruise the head of the serpent (Ge. 3:15).**
 - b. God's plan of redemption began to unfold.**

II. GOD'S LOVE IS SEEN IN SENDING HIS SON.

- A. The Golden Text proclaims God's love (Jn. 3:16).**
 - 1. Man was condemned because of his sin (Ro. 6:23).**
 - 2. God's love for man sought a way of escape.**
 - 3. By the cross God can be just and yet merciful (Ro. 5:6-8).**
- B. Christ reflected the love of the Father in His life.**
 - 1. He showed us what the Father is like (Jn. 1:18; 14:8,9).**
 - 2. The Prodigal Son shows God's love for us (Lu. 15:11-24).**

III. GOD'S LOVE IS SEEN IN HIS CHURCH.

- A. The church was in God's eternal purpose (Ep. 3:8-10).**
 - 1. It is not a "mere afterthought".**
 - 2. One must be a member of it to be saved.**
- B. The church was purchased with the blood of Christ (Ac. 20:28).**
 - 1. Christ's blood was shed for sin.**
 - 2. The forgiven are added to the church (Ac. 2:36-41, 47).**

IV. GOD'S LOVE IS SEEN IN THE GIFT OF HIS WORD.

- A. The Bible is the world's most precious book.
 - 1. It is the best loved yet most hated of all books.
 - 2. Many attempts have been made to destroy it.
 - 3. It has been translated into more languages than any other.
 - 4. More Bibles are sold than of any other book.
- B. The Bible provides all we need to go to Heaven (2 Ti. 3:16,17).

V. GOD'S LOVE IS SEEN IN HIS PROMISE OF ETERNAL LIFE.

- A. God gave His Son that we might have life (Jn. 20:30,31).
- B. Eternal life is the hope of Christians (Ti. 1:2).
 - 1. Hope is "desire coupled with expectation."
 - 2. Hope that is seen is not hope (Ro. 8:24).
 - 3. God, who cannot lie, promised it (1 Jn. 2:25).
- C. Eternal life can be ours if we "lay hold on it" (1 Ti. 6:12).

Conclusion:

- 1. Nothing can separate us from God's love (Ro. 8:35, 36).
- 2. We can reject God's love (He. 3:12).
- 3. There is only one way to lay hold on eternal life (Ac. 2:36-38).