

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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The Love Of God

(Jerry Fite)

God is love. John not only wants us to know this fact about God but points to what God did to show His love: *“In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him” (I John 4:8-9)*. We do not have to accept God’s love without evidence. He has manifested His love by sending His Son into the world. We were dead in our sins doomed to perish eternally. God, not willing that any should perish, gave His only Son so those who believe in Him would have eternal life (*John 3:16*). God graciously gave His only begotten Son to die for us so we might be made alive spiritually and live eternally in the joys of heaven. What love!

Appreciation for God’s love comes when we think of those for whom Jesus died. Paul gives us a four-fold look: *“For while we were weak. . . Christ died for the ungodly; but God shows His love for us that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us; for if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life” (Romans 5:6-10)*. We might be

moved with compassion to act on behalf of the helpless, but would you give up something valuable for your enemy, the one who having no regard for you did everything contrary to your values? Yet this is what God did for us. God expressed His love for us before we loved Him *“In this is love, not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins” (I John 4:10)*. To appease God’s Holy nature and His justifiable wrath, God, not man, gave His Son to be sacrificed on our behalf. What love!

In order to come into this world, Jesus descended from heaven. This descent was not only directional, but humbling. *“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9)*. To come to this world, Jesus left the glorious riches of Heaven. We look at his modest surroundings at birth; His having no place, like his own house to lay his head when mature; and sadly cast our eyes upon the cross’s painful cruelty He endured for us and call Him the humble servant. Don’t just look at the world He came to; try to

fathom the glory He left. Comparatively speaking, He left the “rich” state to descend to “poverty”. He left the glories God eternally enjoys to experience blasphemy, pain, and death. As He faced death, He prayed to His Father and requested, *“And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed” (John 17:5)*.

Henry Barraclough, an accountant, expressed this aspect of God’s love in his song, *“Ivory Palaces.”* In 1915, after being moved by a sermon, Henry went to his room and immediately took pen in hand and wrote the one and only song he ever published. He based it upon Psalm 45. As our glorious Lord is presented as the groom, the sweet aroma of myrrh, the glistening white grandeur of ivory palaces accompanies melodious vibrations of stringed instruments to captivate our sense of smell, sight and sound as to the glory Jesus left. *“Out of the ivory palaces, into a world of woe; only his great eternal love, made my Savior go.”* What love!

Knowing God’s love should move us to rejoice in the opportunity to be reconciled to God and to love one another.