

So That You May Know

An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John 4:9&10**

Chapter 18- The Manifest Love of God

183- The Manifest Love of God- Part 7

WAOY Thursday 05/01/08

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1John**, and today I want to continue to look at what John taught about "The Manifest Love of God". So let's open our Bibles and read **1John 4:9&10** again together:

9 By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.

10 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.

Now on the last broadcast- we were going over the fact that God sent Jesus into the world and how that meant that Jesus was always with the father. Now how that ties into the love of God is that God loved so He sent. In **John 3:16** John also said that God loved so He gave and here John says that God loved so He sent. So we can see that God sending Jesus into the world was a manifestation of Gods' Love toward us.

It is sad today to hear so many people teach and preach about the Love of God being manifested in monetary terms or in terms of worldly possessions or in terms of some temporary and fleeting thing. It is commonly taught today that God's Love is manifest towards us in the fact that God gives us things like a new job or a new car or even a new wife or that God does something nice to us or for us.

But dear friends- nowhere in the Bible is the Love of God equated with things like that. The Bible says that God's Love was manifested towards us in sending Jesus Christ to this earth. God's Love is equated in Scripture with Jesus being our propitiation- not in temporary earthly comforts or diversions.

So, I have a question. If the Bible says that God's Love is manifest in Him sending Jesus to this earth to be the propitiation for our sins- then why do so many today teach that God's Love is manifested in other ways? Here's why. Wrongly describing God's Love; wrongly interpreting just what the Love of God is; incorrectly assigning God's Love to things that are manifestly inferior to the true Love of God is the result of not comprehending correctly the seriousness of sin and the magnificence of the death, burial, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

You see, beloved, if you have bought into the pagan humanistic concept that says that people are basically good- then to be rescued from sin is not really that big a deal. If you don't believe that man is as sinful as the Bible says that he is or if you don't believe that sin is as offensive to God as the Bible says that it is- then the concept of Jesus being our propitiation is not connected to the Love of God in your mind at all. If man is good- or if sin is no big deal- then for Jesus to die in our place; for Jesus to take our punishment on Himself; for Jesus to be our propitiation; is nice- and sweet- but not nearly so nice and not nearly so important as that new car or that new house or that new 401k Plan.

And so those who do not believe what the Bible teaches about lost man and sin have no reason to equate God's Love with Jesus being our propitiation and so they are left with meaningless and temporary and shallow and base and earthly things to attach to God's Love.

If you believe that men are born basically good and that even though we may have or we may do certain things that are wrong- that nonetheless we are basically and internally good and noble creatures who all have tremendous potential if we can only find the way to tap into that internal power and if only we can find the way to release the giant that is suppressed inside of us- if you believe that- then Jesus being sent by God to die for your sins is nice and all – but your attitude will be- *“Okay fine- Jesus died- but what have you done for me lately, Lord?”*

If you agree with the heretic, Pelagius, who taught 1700 years ago that the Fall of Adam did not in any way affect those who came after him and so men are born basically good and that all that men need to become better is to build up their self-esteem, in the words of a modern false prophet- all we need is to “be a better you”- then for God to give you a nice boat or a new job or some other temporary earthly toy will be to you the very manifest Love of God.

But if you agree with Scripture and you believe that men are born basically bad; that inside every single little beautiful baby is a nature that is in hostile rebellion against God. If you believe what God said about man- that he is born in sin and he is shapen in iniquity; If you believe that what is *wrong* with man is that which is *inside* of him- a wicked heart; a fallen nature; and that the imagination of man's heart is only evil continually; if you believe that all men born of woman are absolutely and totally depraved and that we all have been radically ruined by the Fall and that we are strangers from the promises of God; we are aliens from the commonwealth of Israel; that we are dead in sins and trespasses; that we are without God and without any hope in the world; if you agree with the Bible that lost men are not good- that there is none who are righteous; there are none who seek after God; they are all gone out of the way; that lost fallen man not only doesn't love or serve God willingly but that we don't have the internal power to do so and we do not even have the desire to do so- if you believe all of that- if you agree with God about man's lost and unregenerate condition- then for God to send Jesus to live a perfectly sinless life; for God to send Jesus to take upon Himself every single one of your sins- even the ones that you haven't committed yet; for God to send Jesus to take your place on the Cross; for Jesus to step in and die on your behalf- in your stead- as your propitiation; for Jesus to take the full brunt and fury of God's Wrath that by rights should have been poured out on you; for Jesus to die with all of your sins upon Him and then for Him to rise without sin in victory- if you believe all of that- then you will see that the most magnificent; the most glorious; and the highest expression of Gods' Love that He could possibly manifest toward mankind is in sending Jesus Christ.

So we can see that a wrong and unbiblical view of lost man's condition always results in a cheapening of God's Love and a cheapening of God's Grace while a correct and Scriptural understanding of lost man's condition rightly places God sending Jesus as the epitome of Gods' expression of Love towards Man.

Brothers and sisters, look at it like this. If you are not doomed to burn in hell forever- if you are okay- then being rescued from that doom by God sending Jesus is really not a big deal. But if you understand that not only were you doomed to burn in hell forever- but by God's Grace you comprehend and agree that you personally *deserved* to burn

in hell forever- then to be rescued from that lake of fire By Jesus being your propitiation is so great and so wonderful that nothing else compares to it.

So in order for any of us to grasp the glory and the wonder of Jesus being our propitiation- and to equate God's manifest Love with Jesus being our propitiation requires that we understand and believe the following four things:

1. It isn't just that you agree that sin is bad generically- but it is very important that you personalize this and that you believe that *your* sin that you personally did was bad and that what you did was horribly offensive to God.
2. It isn't just that you believe in hell generically- but it is very important for you to personalize this too and believe that you personally were doomed to burn in hell forever.
3. And it isn't that you believe that wicked people like Hitler or Sadaam Hussein go to hell but that nice people who do nice and kind things- yet who have rejected Jesus Christ go to hell.
4. And it is important that you realize that people who reject Jesus not only go to hell but it is very important dear friends that we understand the concept that those who go to hell go there because they *deserve* to go to hell; they earned it; they worked hard to spurn the love of God and they are getting what they so richly deserve and that God is not mean when people go to hell- but that God's wrath against sin is just; it is proper and it is correct. Now you may get the idea that everybody who goes to hell *deserves* to go to hell- but it is also needful for you to know that everybody who goes to Heaven deserves to go to hell too. Nobody deserves Heaven. Nobody earns heaven- we go to Heaven by Grace; we enter into Heaven by Mercy- because Jesus is our propitiation and took upon Himself all of our sins- that is why we go to Heaven- not because any of us earns it.

Now if you can capture those four elements of Scriptural Truth- then the news that Jesus was sent by God to be the propitiation for our

sins all of a sudden becomes Good News; it becomes fantastic news; it becomes very valuable news to us.

You see, beloved, if there is no wrath coming to sinners; if there is no future judgment that is promised by God to be poured out upon all who sin; if damnation is not certain and inescapable; if there is no guarantee of fury coming to all of those who sin against God- if there isn't something lying just ahead of all of us that is so terrible and so frightening and so horrific that the Bible tells us over and over to flee from it-then for us to escape that certain guaranteed wrath and judgment- even though we deserved it- is just some more information and will not impact us much at all.

But when I realize that although I deserved to go to hell for my wicked sins- but instead of God pouring out His just wrath against me- God sent Jesus and Jesus became my propitiation and God poured all the wrath that should have come to me on Jesus- then that news becomes Good News indeed and God sending Jesus to be my propitiation is indeed the manifest Love of God.

Listen, I am fully aware that preaching like this is not going to win me any popularity contests- but this is the Truth. I didn't write the Bible dear friends- but I sure do believe it and I am not ashamed of it and if we are going to be people of love and mercy- then we need to be faithful to tell men about the danger of their condition and we need to love them enough to warn them against sinning against God and we must love them enough to warn them about the reality of hell and we must love them enough to plead with them with tears to flee from the wrath that is sure to come. That is part and parcel to preaching the Gospel.

The faithful preacher who delivers Gods' Word stands between two great and powerful extremes. On one side he hears the voices of the millions who trusted in the finished work of Christ alone for Salvation as they rejoice forever in the greatest joy and the greatest glory and on the other side are the screams of those who rejected Jesus as they burn forever in the flames of fire that will never be quenched.

And moved with the understanding that both extremes are true; that both extremes are real- the faithful minister is compelled to persuade men to repent; to persuade men to trust in Christ; and to persuade men to live for God so they may escape the certainty of the one and enjoy the certainty of the other.

Make no mistake about it- it is impossible to love Jesus and not love what Jesus did and what He said and Who He was. You cannot love the little baby Jesus in the manger and then reject what Jesus said when He said: “... **unless your righteousness surpasses *that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.***”

You cannot love the fact that Jesus died on the Cross and then reject that this same Jesus said, “**If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.**”

And you and I must realize that because the manifest Love of God is properly expressed by Jesus being our propitiation and by God placing all of our sins upon Him and By God pouring out all of His wrath upon Him so that we may enjoy the glories of God forever- that for us to love God will require everything from us; it will demand everything from us; and it will cost us everything.

Well, I have to stop right here, but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **1John**. May God help us all.

© 2007- 2023 by Enjoying God Ministries, Inc. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America
Enjoying God Ministries, Inc. PO Box 147 Saucier, Mississippi 39574 www.covenantofpeace.net

Scripture quotations, except those noted otherwise, are from The New American Standard Bible © 1995 by The Lockmann Foundation. Used by permission.

This is a single transcript in a larger series of teachings taken from a verse by verse Journey through the Epistle of 1John. You are free to reproduce it and distribute it as the Lord leads you- without cost or reimbursement to us with the stipulation that you may not add anything or take anything away from this transcript without the express written permission of The Covenant of Peace Church and that this complete copyright statement be at the end of all copies.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.