



## Raising our Reverence Pt 3: The Love of God!

March 15, 2020

### **Text: Romans 8:31-39**

Now that we have been reminded of the Holiness of God and the right and just command to “serve Him acceptably with godly fear,” let us today consider another great theme of Scripture:

### **The Love of God.**

Beloved of Christ, may we today be wonderfully overcome with reverence and awe that despite our wickedness, rebellion, and sin, God loves us! And His love is all encompassing, overwhelming, and sure! It is wide, long, high, and deep! (Eph 3:19) May we, by the Spirit of God, comprehend such magnificent love!

Let us look at this wonderful Text...

### ***Romans 8:31 (KJV) What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?***

- Paul had just finished expounding on the nature of sin and the holy nature of the Law. He had just admitted that nothing good dwells in him; he looks within and all he sees is a fight...a war in his members. But thanks be to God through Jesus Christ that we have been delivered from this body of death! (Romans 7:7-25)
- He declares that in Jesus there is therefore now no condemnation! That the law of the Spirit of life in Christ has made us free from the law of sin and death! That we can now be spiritually minded instead of carnally minded...that the Spirit of God lives in us! (Romans 8:1-11)
- He tells us that we have received the Spirit of adoption and that we are heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ! (Romans 8:12-17)
- Even if we suffer with Him, we shall be glorified with Him; and even if sufferings come, they “are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” Indeed, all of creation groans and travails in pain awaiting ultimate redemption!
- Thankfully, “the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.” (Romans 8:18-26)
- And then Paul, via the Holy Ghost, gives us this loving promise:

***Romans 8:28-30 (KJV)*** *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. 29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.*

- So what shall we say to these things? How about “**Hallelujah!**” If God be for us....!!!

### ***Romans 8:32 (KJV) He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?***

- God loves us and has already given us the greatest gift possible, His Son!
- Since His love is so great, the lesser gifts are also ours!

- “All things” is a statement of assurance; another way of saying that our Father will care for us in this life and the next, therefore we need not worry!

**Romans 8:33-34 (KJV)** *Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.*

- God loves us! Our salvation is sure. No matter who accuses or attempts to condemn, as believers in Jesus, we are the elect of God! No one can snatch us from His hand! (John 10:28-29)
- Not only that, but Christ, right now, in some wonderful way, is interceding for us!

**Romans 8:35 (KJV)** *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

- With this in mind, we have nothing to fear! God’s love holds us regardless of what is happening!
- Nothing...NOTHING can separate us from His love! NOTHING!

**Romans 8:36 (KJV)** *As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.*

- Persecutions WILL come! (2 Tim 3:12) Difficult times will occur. Death for Jesus is a possibility.
- This has been the case since the founding of the Church.

**Romans 8:37 (KJV)** *Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*

- Nevertheless, we are more than conquerors through Him and His love!
- Living for Jesus doesn’t mean we won’t have struggles; it means that in Him, we still have victory!

**Romans 8:38-39 (KJV)** *For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

- Amen! He loves us! Nothing in all creation can stop His love!
- William MacDonald’s commentary on verses 37-39 is worth reading...

**8:37** Instead of separating us from Christ's love, these things only succeed in drawing us closer to Him. We are not only **conquerors**, but **more than conquerors**. It is not simply that we triumph over these formidable forces, but that in doing so we bring glory to God, blessing to others, and good to ourselves. We make slaves out of our enemies and stepping stones out of our roadblocks.

But all of this is not through our own strength, but only **through Him who loved us**. Only the power of Christ can bring sweetness out of bitterness, strength out of weakness, triumph out of tragedy, and blessing out of heartbreak.

**8:38** The apostle has not finished his search. He ransacks the universe for something that might conceivably separate us from God's love, and then dismisses the possibilities one by one—

**death** with all its terrors;  
**life** with all its allurements;  
**angels nor principalities**, supernatural in power and knowledge;  
**powers**, whether human tyrants or angelic adversaries;  
**things present**, crashing in upon us;  
**things to come**, arousing fearful forebodings;

**8:39 height nor depth**, those things that are in the realm of dimension or space, including occult forces. Then, to make sure that he is not missing anything, Paul adds:

nor any other created thing.

The outcome of Paul's search is that he can find nothing that can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. No wonder these words of triumph have been the song of those who have died martyr's deaths and the rhapsody of those who have lived martyr's lives!

### **What love! Praise His Name!**

Indeed, the entire biblical narrative can be viewed the lens of God's love. From the beginning, God desired to walk intimately with His children:

- **Genesis 1:1 (KJV)** *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*
- **Genesis 1:27-28 (KJV)** *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. 28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*
- **Genesis 3:8 (KJV)** *And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.*

But man fell and lost this closeness with His Creator:

- **Genesis 3:6 (KJV)** *And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.*
- **Genesis 3:23-24 (KJV)** *Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. 24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.*

- redemption **Genesis 3:15 (KJV)** And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

As population of earth grew, sadly, God's children rebelled against Him, "every imagination of the thoughts of their hearts being only evil continually" (Gen 6:5). So the LORD judged His creatures through a global flood, wiping out all life on land. In love however, the LORD spared mankind through Noah's family, and gave them the same dominion mandate:

- **Genesis 8:15-17 (KJV)** *And God spake unto Noah, saying, 16 Go forth of the ark, thou, and thy wife, and thy sons, and thy sons' wives with thee. 17 Bring forth with thee every living thing that is with thee, of all flesh, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth; that they may breed abundantly in the earth, and be fruitful, and multiply upon the earth.*

Through Noah would eventually come a man named Abraham. God would make Abraham a promise; that through him all the nations of the earth would be blessed. Through Abraham, God would call out a holy people for Himself. This people would be named after Abraham's grandson Jacob; a people known as Israel. (Israel means "God Contends, God Fights")

Israel's children would grow and prosper, but eventually would find themselves slaves in Egypt. But God, in love, delivered them:

- **Exodus 2:23-25 (KJV)** *And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage. 24 And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. 25 And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them.*

Now Israel, this people that the LORD chose for Himself, a people from whom would come His ultimate expression of love, was loved of God. He said of them:

- **Deuteronomy 7:6-8 (KJV)** *For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth. 7 The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: 8 But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.*

True to form however, even after disinheriting the pagan nations and taking over the promised Land under the leadership of Joshua, God's people would go on to rebel against Him over and over. They would choose other gods from the surrounding nations to worship, something the Bible calls idolatry. Because Yahweh is Israel's husband (a common image in Scripture), He sees this sin as adultery, and it is described in Scripture in the most vivid, but excruciatingly sad terms:

**Jeremiah 3:6-9 (KJV)** *The LORD said also unto me in the days of Josiah the king, Hast thou seen that which backsliding Israel hath done? she is gone up upon every high mountain and*

under every green tree, and there hath played the harlot. **7** And I said after she had done all these things, Turn thou unto me. But she returned not. And her treacherous sister Judah saw it. **8** And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also. **9** And it came to pass through the lightness of her whoredom, that she defiled the land, and committed adultery with stones and with stocks.

The entire book of Hosea was written to illustrate this sad point.

So the LORD punished His people by sending them out of their promised land to be punished, to be captives in Babylon and Assyria. **Yet He still loved them. He said...**

- **Jeremiah 12:15 (KJV)** *And it shall come to pass, after that I have plucked them out I will return, and have compassion on them, and will bring them again, every man to his heritage, and every man to his land.*
- **Jeremiah 24:5-7 (KJV)** *Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel; Like these good figs, so will I acknowledge them that are carried away captive of Judah, whom I have sent out of this place into the land of the Chaldeans for their good. **6** For I will set mine eyes upon them for good, and I will bring them again to this land: and I will build them, and not pull them down; and I will plant them, and not pluck them up. **7** And I will give them an heart to know me, that I am the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart.*
- **Jeremiah 32:37-40 (KJV)** *Behold, I will gather them out of all countries, whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath; and I will bring them again unto this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely: **38** And they shall be my people, and I will be their God: **39** And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them: **40** And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.*

Why?

- **Jeremiah 31:3-4 (KJV)** *The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee. **4** Again I will build thee, and thou shalt be built, O virgin of Israel: thou shalt again be adorned with thy tabrets, and shalt go forth in the dances of them that make merry.*

**In the New Testament, the love of God comes to an even fuller bloom. Scripture says:**

- **John 3:16-17 (KJV)** *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. **17** For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.*
- **Romans 5:6-8 (KJV)** *For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. **7** For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good*

man some would even dare to die. **8** But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

- **Ephesians 2:4-10 (KJV)** But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, **5** Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) **6** And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: **7** That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. **8** For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: **9** Not of works, lest any man should boast. **10** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.
- **Titus 3:3-7 (KJV)** For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. **4** But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, **5** Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; **6** Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; **7** That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.
- **1 John 3:1 (KJV)** Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.
- **1 John 4:9-10 (KJV)** In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. **10** Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

**What should our response be to God's Love? Love!**

#### **Love for God!**

- **Mark 12:30 (KJV)** And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.
- **1 John 4:19-21 (KJV)** We love him, because he first loved us. **20** If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? **21** And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

#### **Love for one another!**

- **Ephesians 5:2 (KJV)** 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.
- **John 13:34 (KJV)** A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.
- **1 John 4:11 (KJV)** Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

#### **Loving obedience!**

**John 14:15 (KJV)** If ye love me, keep my commandments.

### **Loving service!**

**Galatians 5:13 (KJV)** *For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.*

### **Loving forgiveness!**

**Luke 7:47 (KJV)** *Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.*

### **Loving humility**

**Ephesians 4:1-3 (KJV)** *I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, 2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; 3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

### **Love for family**

- **Ephesians 5:25 (KJV)** *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;*
- **Titus 2:4 (KJV)** *That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,*

Oh may our lives reflect these precious truths! May we continually be overwhelmed by the love of God!

If you are not a believer in Jesus, receive God's love today by faith. Repent and believe in Jesus Christ and be saved from the wrath of God.

Thank you LORD for loving us!

Amen.