



Pastor David's Weekly Devotional

When Bill Gaither, the well-known gospel writer and singer, was asked what he thought was the greatest Christian lyric ever written – not including the songs of Scripture – he did not hesitate to quote the words from F.M. Lehman's 1917 hymn "The Love of God." Bill Gaither added that, in his opinion, no lyrics in all hymnody surpass the third verse of that song. This great hymn has been sung in many different arrangements, and in countless venues. It is a song that resonates in the hearts of believers because it masterfully describes the infinite and matchless love of God for His children.

The love of God is greater far Than tongue or pen can ever tell;
It goes beyond the highest star, And reaches to the lowest hell;
The guilty pair, bowed down with care, God gave His Son to win;
His erring child He reconciled, And pardoned from his sin.

*Chorus: O love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure, The saints' and angels' song.*

When years of time shall pass away, And earthly thrones and kingdoms fall,
When men, who here refuse to pray, On rocks and hills and mountains call,
God's love so sure, shall still endure, All measureless and strong;
Redeeming grace to Adam's race – The saints' and angels' song.

Could we with ink the ocean fill, And were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill, And every man a scribe by trade,
To write the love of God above, Would drain the ocean dry.
Nor could the scroll contain the whole, Though stretched from sky to sky.

Truly this song echoes the great and profound truth that God is not only loving, but that God (in and of Himself) is love. The Bible teaches us, "*Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love...¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in Him*" (1Jn.4:8,16). We know, and rely on the truth, that God will always act in perfect love because God is at all times perfect Love. He cannot stop loving any more than He can stop living. As God is eternal so His love is eternal. We can trust the reality of God's love just as we can trust the reality of God – because God is love. It is important to keep in mind that God's love has no imperfections or impurities (as does the "love" that comes from the world). God's love is as holy as He is holy.

The truth that "*God is love*" is an essential component of the Christian's faith and hope. For without God's infinite and perfect love, a believer's faith is mired in the muck of insecurity and instability. More importantly, however, is the reality that without the divine expression and personification of God's perfect love we, as believers, would forever be steeped and drowning in a bottomless sea of sin and judgment. Therefore, it is completely by God's love that Christians live and have eternal life! As the Scriptures so wonderfully declare: "*Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail*" (Lam.3:22). The true disciple of Christ can be assured that nothing – absolutely nothing – can separate them from "*the love of God in Christ Jesus*" (Rom.8:39).

Together in and for Christ,
Pastor David
(1/26/26)

Scripture Readings for the Week (Monday – Sunday ~ Week #4):

Genesis 12-15; Joshua 16-20; Psalm 9-11; Job 7-8; Isaiah 18-22; Matthew 8-10; Romans 7-8

Recommended Reading:

"*The Love of God*" by John MacArthur