

(Isaiah 53:5). Behold Him in the wilderness, in Gethsemane, upon the cross! The spotless Son of God took upon Himself the burden of sin. He who had been one with God, felt in His soul the awful separation that sin makes between God and man. This wrung from His lips the anguished cry, “My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?” (Matthew 27:46). It was the burden of sin, the sense of its terrible enormity, of its separation of the soul from God—it was this that broke the heart of the Son of God.

But this great sacrifice was not made in order to create in the Father’s heart a love for man, not to make Him willing to save. No, no! “God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son” (John 3:16). The Father loves us, not because of the great propitiation, but He provided the propitiation because He loves us. Christ was the medium through which He could pour out His infinite love upon a fallen world. “God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself” (2 Corinthians 5:19). God suffered with His Son. In the agony of Gethsemane, the death of Calvary, the heart of Infinite Love paid the price of our redemption.

Jesus said, “Therefore doth My Father love Me, because I lay down My life, that I might take it again” (John 10:17). That is, “My Father has so loved you that He even loves Me more for giving My life to redeem you. In becoming your Substitute and Surety, by surrendering My life, by taking your liabilities, your transgressions, I am endeared to My Father; for by My sacrifice, God can be just, and yet the Justifier of him who believeth in Jesus.”

None but the Son of God could accomplish our redemption; for only He who was in the bosom of the Father could declare

Him. Only He who knew the height and depth of the love of God could make it manifest. Nothing less than the infinite sacrifice made by Christ in behalf of fallen man could express the Father’s love to lost humanity.

“God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son.” He gave Him not only to live among men, to bear their sins, and die their sacrifice. He gave Him to the fallen race. Christ was to identify Himself with the interests and needs of humanity. He who was one with God has linked Himself with the children of men by ties that are never to be broken. Jesus is “not ashamed to call them brethren” (Hebrews 2:11); He is our Sacrifice, our Advocate, our Brother, bearing our human form before the Father’s throne, and through eternal ages one with the race He has redeemed—the Son of man. And all this that man might be uplifted from the ruin and degradation of sin that he might reflect the love of God and share the joy of holiness.

The price paid for our redemption, the infinite sacrifice of our heavenly Father in giving His Son to die for us, should give us exalted conceptions of what we may become through Christ. As the inspired apostle John beheld the height, the depth, the breadth of the Father’s love toward the perishing race, he was filled with adoration and reverence; and, failing to find suitable language in which to express the greatness and tenderness of this love, he called upon the world to behold it. “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God” (1 John 3:1). What a value this places upon man! Through transgression the sons of man become subjects of Satan. Through faith in the atoning sacrifice of Christ the sons of Adam may become the

sons of God. By assuming human nature, Christ elevates humanity. Fallen men are placed where, through connection with Christ, they may indeed become worthy of the name “sons of God.”

Such love is without a parallel. Children of the heavenly King! Precious promise! Theme for the most profound meditation! The matchless love of God for a world that did not love Him! The thought has a subduing power upon the soul and brings the mind into captivity to the will of God. The more we study the divine character in the light of the cross, the more we see mercy, tenderness, and forgiveness blended with equity and justice, and the more clearly we discern innumerable evidences of a love that is infinite and a tender pity surpassing a mother’s yearning sympathy for her wayward child.



**“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.”
John 3:16**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:




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God's Love for Man

Steps to Christ
Tract Series





ature and
revelation alike
testify of God's
love. Our Father in
heaven is the source of
life, of wisdom, and of
joy. Look at the wonderful
and beautiful things of nature. Think of their
marvelous adaptation to the needs and happi-
ness, not only of man, but of all living crea-
tures. The sunshine and the rain, that gladden
and refresh the earth, the hills and seas and
plains, all speak to us of the Creator's love.
It is God who supplies the daily needs of all
His creatures. In the beautiful words of the
psalmist—

“The eyes of all wait upon Thee;
And Thou givest them their
meat in due season.
Thou openest Thine hand,
And satisfiest the desire
of every living thing.”

Psalm 145:15-16

God made man perfectly holy and happy;
and the fair earth, as it came from the Cre-
ator's hand, bore no blight of decay or shad-
ow of the curse. It is transgression of God's
law—the law of love—that has brought woe
and death. Yet even amid the suffering that
results from sin, God's love is revealed. It
is written that God cursed the ground for
man's sake (Genesis 3:17). The thorn and the
thistle—the difficulties and trials that make
his life one of toil and care—were appointed
for his good as a part of the training needful in
God's plan for his uplifting from the ruin and
degradation that sin has wrought. The world,
though fallen, is not all sorrow and misery.
In nature itself are messages of hope and

comfort. There are flowers upon the thistles,
and the thorns are covered with roses.

“God is love” is written upon every open-
ing bud, upon every spire of springing grass.
The lovely birds making the air vocal with
their happy songs, the delicately tinted flow-
ers in their perfection perfuming the air, the
lofty trees of the forest with their rich foliage
of living green—all testify to the tender,
fatherly care of our God and to His desire to
make His children happy.

The word of God reveals His character. He
Himself has declared His infinite love and pity.
When Moses prayed, “Show me Thy glory,”
the Lord answered, “I will make all My good-
ness pass before thee” (Exodus 33:18-19). This
is His glory. The Lord passed before Moses,
and proclaimed, “The Lord, The Lord God,
merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and
abundant in goodness and truth, keeping
mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and
transgression and sin” (Exodus 34:6-7). He
is “slow to anger, and of great kindness,”
“because He delighteth in mercy” (Jonah 4:2;
Micah 7:18).

God has bound our hearts to Him by
unnumbered tokens in heaven and in earth.
Through the things of nature, and the deepest
and tenderest earthly ties that human hearts
can know, He has sought to reveal Himself
to us. Yet these but imperfectly represent
His love. Though all these evidences have
been given, the enemy of good blinded the
minds of men, so that they looked upon God
with fear; they thought of Him as severe and
unforgiving. Satan led men to conceive of
God as a being whose chief attribute is stern
justice—one who is a severe judge, a harsh,
exacting creditor. He pictured the Creator as
a being who is watching with jealous eye to
discern the errors and mistakes of men, that

He may visit judgments upon them. It was
to remove this dark shadow, by revealing to
the world the infinite love of God, that Jesus
came to live among men.

The Son of God came from heaven to
make manifest the Father. “No man hath
seen God at any time; the only begotten
Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He
hath declared Him” (John 1:18). “Neither
knoweth any man the Father, save the Son,
and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal
Him” (Matthew 11:27). When one of the
disciples made the request, “Show us the Fa-
ther,” Jesus answered, “Have I been so long
time with you, and yet hast thou not known
Me, Philip? He that hath seen Me hath seen
the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show
us the Father?” (John 14:8-9).

In describing His earthly mission, Jesus
said, The Lord “hath anointed Me to preach
the gospel to the poor; He hath sent Me to
heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliver-
ance to the captives, and recovering of sight
to the blind, to set at liberty them that are
bruised” (Luke 4:18). This was His work.
He went about doing good and healing all
that were oppressed by Satan. There were
whole villages where there was not a moan
of sickness in any house, for He had passed
through them and healed all their sick. His
work gave evidence of His divine anointing.
Love, mercy, and compassion were revealed
in every act of His life; His heart went out
in tender sympathy to the children of men.
He took man's nature, that He might reach
man's wants. The poorest and humblest
were not afraid to approach Him. Even little
children were attracted to Him. They loved
to climb upon His knees and gaze into the
pensive face, benignant with love.

Jesus did not suppress one word of truth,

but He uttered it always in love. He exer-
cised the greatest tact and thoughtful, kind
attention in His intercourse with the people.
He was never rude, never needlessly spoke
a severe word, never gave needless pain to
a sensitive soul. He did not censure human
weakness. He spoke the truth, but always in
love. He denounced hypocrisy, unbelief, and
iniquity; but tears were in His voice as He
uttered His scathing rebukes. He wept over
Jerusalem, the city He loved, which refused
to receive Him, the way, the truth, and the
life. They had rejected Him, the Savior, but
He regarded them with pitying tenderness.
His life was one of self-denial and thoughtful
care for others. Every soul was precious in
His eyes. While He ever bore Himself with
divine dignity, He bowed with the tender-
est regard to every member of the family of
God. In all men He saw fallen souls whom it
was His mission to save.

Such is the character of Christ as revealed
in His life. This is the character of God. It is
from the Father's heart that the streams of
divine compassion, manifest in Christ, flow
out to the children of men. Jesus, the tender,
pitying Savior, was God “manifest in the
flesh” (1 Timothy 3:16).

It was to redeem us that Jesus lived and
suffered and died. He became “a Man of
Sorrows,” that we might be made partak-
ers of everlasting joy. God permitted His
beloved Son, full of grace and truth, to come
from a world of indescribable glory, to a
world marred and blighted with sin, dark-
ened with the shadow of death and the curse.
He permitted Him to leave the bosom of His
love, the adoration of the angels, to suffer
shame, insult, humiliation, hatred, and death.
“The chastisement of our peace was upon
Him; and with His stripes we are healed”