

LOVE THAT WOULD NOT LET ME GOD

The Powerful Influence of God's Beauty

THE CROSS OF CHRIST is the zenith revelation of the God's character, making forever clear that the Creator of the universe literally loves you and me more than His own life. By taking humanity upon Himself in the Incarnation and yet retaining His divinity, God willingly submitted to a reality of limitations in which the quality and truthfulness of His love could be put to the ultimate test and revealed. Having laid aside His divine "privileges," God in the person of Jesus Christ entered into the full experiential reality of our sin and guilt, "numbered with the transgressors" He bore "the iniquity of us all." Once there, for a sustained period He faced the dark horror of complete separation from the Father, unable to see life for Himself beyond the grave; the hope of resurrection was blotted from His view by our sin. And yet He had declared to Peter that the sacrifice of His life was totally voluntary, for at any point in the journey He could have called to the Father for twelve legions of angels to deliver Him. This being the case, it is astoundingly clear that God in Christ was willing to suffer the horrific demise of forever ceasing to live, of dying an eternal death from which there might be no resurrection, rather than allow you and me to perish in the same fate. It is this selfless love that constitutes the power of the gospel. Jesus said those who see this love will be *drawn* to Him. Paul said those who see it will be *compelled* to cease living for themselves. Hosea said those who see it will be *allured* to God in a marriage covenant of faithful love.

Only By Love is Love Awakened

Hosea 3:1—Then the LORD said to me, "Go again, love a woman who is loved by a lover and is committing adultery, just like the love of the LORD for the children of Israel."

Hosea 2:13-14—**13**"She . . . went after her lovers; but Me she forgot," says the LORD. **14**"Therefore, behold, I will allure her, will bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfort to her."

"I will win her back with words of love" (TEV).

Hosea 2:16—**16** "And it shall be, in that day," Says the LORD, "That you will call Me *My Husband*, and no longer call Me *My Master*."

John 12:32—And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15—**14**For the love of Christ compels us, because we

NOTE: Hosea speaks of the sin problem as a violated love relationship. God is our spiritual lover and we are pursuing adulterous affairs with other lovers. Sin is a rejection of God's love and a refusal to love Him in return. This view of sin is evident in the New Testament: "Sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4). "Love is the fulfilling of the law" (Romans 13:10). If sin is the violation of God's law, and the essence of that law is love, it follows that sin is anti-love, self-centeredness as opposed to other-centeredness.

NOTE: To *draw* or *allure* is to influence by presenting a powerful attraction, which is the antithesis of coercion.

judge (discern) thus: that if One died for all, then all died; **15**and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

Submitting to Human Limitations

Hebrews 2:14—Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.

Philippians 2:5-8—**5**Christ Jesus...**6**being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, **7**but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. **8**And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!

The Supreme Sacrifice

Hebrews 9:26—He has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

Matthew 26:38-39—**38**Then He said to them, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.” **39**He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”

Luke 22:43—Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him.

Matthew 26:53, TEV—Don’t you know that I could call on my Father for help, and at once He would send Me more than twelve armies of angels?

Matthew 27:46—My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?

Isaiah 53:6, 12— **6**All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all... **12**He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of (the) many.

Psalms 88:3-11—**3**My soul is full of troubles... **4**I am counted with those who go down to the pit... **5**like the slain who lie in the grave, whom You remember no more... **6**You have laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness, in the depths. **7**Your wrath lies heavy upon me, and You have afflicted me with all Your waves. Selah... **8**I am shut up, and I cannot get out... **10**Shall the dead arise and praise You? Selah. **11**Shall Your lovingkindness be declared in the grave? Or Your faithfulness in the place of destruction?

1 John 3:16—By this we know (the meaning of) love, because He laid down His life for us.

NOTE: The Philips translation says, He laid aside His divine “privileges” and “advantages.” What divine privileges? When Christ became a man, He laid aside omniscience (Luke 2:40; Mark 13:32; John 10:18), omnipresence (John 20:17) and omnipotence (John 5:30; Acts 2:22), thus rendering His life of faith in the Father and His sufferings at Gethsemane and Calvary authentic.

NOTE: “Soul”=*psyche* in the Greek.

NOTE: On the meaning of “this cup” see Revelation 14:10.

NOTE: “Forsaken” is the Greek word *Egkateleipo*, which is a stronger concept than the English “forsaken” carries. It literally means to “totally abandon” or “desert,” with no sense that the deserting party will ever return.

NOTE: In this Messianic prophecy we have a window into the thoughts and feelings of the Savior on the Cross. The cry, “I am shut up (in the lowest pit, in darkness, in death) and cannot get out,” followed by the desperate question, “Shall the dead arise?” indicates that Jesus faced the bleak prospect of eternal death, and yet followed through to save us.

“Behold Your God”—Isaiah 40:9

Ty Gibson • Light Bearers • 37457 Jasper Lowell Rd., Jasper, OR • 541-988-3333 • lbm.org
All Scripture References are from the New King James Version unless otherwise noted.