

“WHAT GOD’S LOVE HAS DONE FOR ME!”

Mankind has achieved many wonderful and astounding things. We can see man’s wisdom as it is displayed in various circumstances of life. Yet, we will never be able to totally comprehend the nature of GOD’S LOVE. Sometimes we sing “Amazing pity, Grace unknown and Love beyond degree.” God’s love is beyond description. Just as God has given the world and all things therein to prove His existence, He has also shown and proven His love for all of mankind.

John the apostle tells us that God is the very essence of love (1 John 4:8-16). The Bible uses AGAPE love to describe the kind of love God has for mankind. This is a love that seeks the highest good for men and always gives what is best for the object of that affection. It must also be noted that this kind of love is given although the recipient does not always accept the benefits of such love. AGAPE love is a demonstration of one’s true feelings. Just **WHAT HAS GOD’S LOVE DONE FOR US?**

God’s love gave us CHRIST, the Lamb of God. Some have said that God could have chosen any means to bring about man’s pardon from sin. I do not think this is a true understanding of this great sacrifice. If some other way could have been used, then why did the Father give His only begotten Son? The sacrifice of Jesus was the very best the Father could offer. He gave His the best to save my soul. This was a demonstration that revealed the extent of His love for us. This action was taken because He loved me **SO**, “For God **SO** loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son...” He loved us to the extent that He was willing to pay the ultimate price to provide for our salvation.

God’s love gave us the GOSPEL, the New Covenant. God in His infinite wisdom knew man was not capable of directing his own steps (Jeremiah 10:23). Adam and Eve walked after their own steps and thereby sin entered into the

world. God has always given man the way that is right. Man’s duty is to follow the path set forth by truth (Ecclesiastes 12:13). The Gospel of Christ was carefully given so as to give mankind a clear understanding of how to walk (1 John 1:7). The Old Law was taken out of the way and nailed to the cross of Christ (Colossians 2:14). Paul was “...not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek” (Romans 1:16). God loved us **SO** much that He gave the Gospel that has the power to make us free (John 8:32; 17:17).

God’s love gave us the ABUNDANT LIFE. Solomon in all of his wisdom and splendor learned the folly that the material things in life provided (Ecclesiastes 2:17-19). The abundant life is not determined by the THINGS that we possess but by that which possesses us (Luke 12:15; Galatians 2:20). Inspiration tells us that the abundant life is provided by Jesus, “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly (John 10:10). This verse speaks of an “abundant life.” The phrase “more abundantly” means to exceed, to be over and above. Therefore, Jesus came to make life truly worthwhile. In every situation, in every circumstance of life when we follow Jesus we will be rewarded. The abundant life is a wonderful product of God’s love for us.

God’s love provides for a beautiful ETERNITY. Jesus said, “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” (John 14:1-3). This is a place prepared for a people who are prepared. God’s will is that all men be saved (1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9); yet not everyone will be saved (Matthew 7:13-14, 21-23). Remember earlier we discussed the Gospel that has been given to direct our way? The Gospel contains the

instructions and conditions for our salvation. These conditions must be obeyed (Hebrews 5:9). Noah was given instructions to follow by which his family could be saved (Genesis 6:14-22; Hebrews 11:7). The Jews on Pentecost asked for instructions that would remove their guilt and Peter gave them divine instructions (Acts 2:37-38). Christ’s parting word was that the Gospel be preached so that all men could be saved (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16). God’s grace and love do not preclude conditions connected to our salvation (Ephesians 2:8-10). It is by His grace and love that He provided for that salvation.

How grateful we should be for the wonderful love of God. It is from God’s love that every blessing flows! By this AGAPE love we have an assurance of eternal life. It is no wonder that Paul’s prayer for the Ephesians was that they might know the love of God, “That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God” (Ephesians 3:17-19).

The next time we sing **The Depth of God’s Love** we should really try to appreciate “WHAT GOD’S LOVE HAS DONE FOR ME.”

Oh the depth and the riches of God’s saving grace,
Flowing down from the cross for me!

There the debt for my sins by the Savior was paid
in His suffering of Calvary.

Oh the depth of such wonderful love,
Flowing boundless and full and free!

And the debt for my sins was all paid In His
suffering of Calvary!

Toney L. Smith from *The Encourager*

ILL

Sunday: Millie Robertson; Steven and Debbie Schleif; Clara Scott; Tom Tucker; John Cody Carter (PM).

Those battling cancer: Ledgia Campbell, David Cole, Shauna Heck, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers.

HOME BOUND

Kathleen Camp is in Room 101 at the Royal Terrace Nursing Home in Olathe. Barbara James' Aunt, Evelyn Marquardt is at Sharon Lane in Shawnee. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

Curtis and Paula Stillwell were in California last weekend. Chelsea Nelson was in South Carolina. Chris Edwards was away on business. George Thomas was in Iowa on business on Wednesday.

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING

Our monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held this Sunday, January 10, following our AM worship. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 41; Sunday PM, 26; Wednesday PM, NA.

GRATITUDE

As we come to the beginning of the New Year we are grateful for the blessings which we have received during the past year and look forward with renewed purpose in our work together in the New Year. We are thankful for the church here at Olathe, for your support and encouragement in the Lord's work as well as our faithful brethren in the Kansas City area and those involved in the work of OABS, for your fellowship and the opportunity to labor together. Our prayer for each one of you is that of the apostle John, "*Beloved, I wish above things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth*" (3 John 2).
The Thrashers

Those To Serve

January 10, 2010

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Parish

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Joel Nelson
SONG LEADER..... Trent Thrasher
OPENING PRAYER Jeff Nemechek
PRESIDE..... John Cody Carter
ASSIST..... Stanley Anderson
ASSIST..... Dave Parish
CLOSING PRAYER..... John Dodson

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER Chris Edwards
CLOSING PRAYER..... George Thomas
LORD'S SUPPER..... John Cody Carter

WEDNESDAY 13th

SONG LEADER..... Jeff Nemechek
INVITATION Joel Nelson

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

Phone: (913) 764-2325

E-mail: olathecofc@sbcglobal.net

CHURCH OF CHRIST

515 WEST PARK

P.O. BOX 482

OLATHE, KANSAS 66051

www.kc-cofc.org/olathe.htm

www.oabs.org/olathe.asp