



The Voice Of Truth

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THE TREMENDOUS LOVE OF CHRIST

By Jimmy Pettigrew

Love is one of the greatest, if not the greatest, elements that we experience in Christianity. Paul said, without love I am noise, I am nothing, and I profit nothing. Love should be the motive by which we do all things. "Let all your things be done with charity," 1 Corinthians 16:14. "And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness," Colossians 3:14

Love is the strongest word in the Bible, for we read, "God is love," 1 John 4:8. This love motivated Jesus Christ to die for us! The tremendous love of Christ is shown throughout the Bible. "While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us," Romans 5:8. Jesus Christ demonstrated the real love in His life and death. Jesus demonstrated the superior love, "Because he laid down his life for us," 1 John 3:16. We never knew the meaning of love until Jesus demonstrated it in His life. Jesus is our dearest friend. He was unselfish with others, the meaning of love. Paul said, "Love seeketh not her own," 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

What made the love of Christ so tremendous? He just didn't walk around saying, I love you; He showed us love! Love motivated Him to put His words into action. Jesus showed us love by keeping God's commandments; He contended for the word of God, and He sought the lost. He was a man of proper value.

We as God's children must follow the example of our Saviour and let love motivate us. Love is evidenced in keeping His commandments (John 15:10). The Lord does not ask His disciples to do that which He Himself does not do. As it was necessary for Him to keep the commandments of His Father to abide in the Father's love, so it is necessary for disciples to keep the Lord's commandments to abide in His love.

Jesus Christ showed His tremendous love by being a man of stern rebuke. He told the Sadducees, "Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God," Matthew 22:29. He showed again His tremendous love by trying to keep the word of God pure. Jesus knew to stand for the truth; it is equal to loving God. This love should motivate us to do more for God!

GOD IS WATCHING

Jimmy Pettigrew

"For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil" (1 Peter 3:12). The "righteous" are the ones over whom God watches in tender care. God is ever watching to bless them. They are here contrasted with "them that do evil." God's protection, guardianship, and care are so meaningful for the Christian. God sees all that happens on the earth. We are prone

to accept only that which is visible; and, since we cannot see God watching, we are unmindful of His constant surveillance!

So, it is difficult for any of us to remember always that there is an all seeing eye watching our every act at all times. Yet, we're told, "The Lord looketh from heaven; he beholdeth all the sons of men. From the place of his habitation he looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth" (Psalm 33:13-14). God sees and knows all that takes place in the world. "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good" (Proverbs 15:3). There is no possible way to escape this all seeing eye of God! Job says, "For his eyes are upon the ways of man, and he seeth all his goings" (Job 34:21).

Since God knows all our goings, we should be aware of this, and live accordingly! We should have the same conviction as Hagar in saying, "Thou God seest me" (Genesis 16:13). Are you conscious of this as you plan and proceed in your daily affairs? God sees and reads us constantly! "Hell and destruction are before the Lord: how much more then the hearts of the children of men?" (Proverbs 15:11). Man becomes utterly foolish in thinking that he can fool God, and hide his sinful behavior! "Woe unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the Lord, and their works are in the dark, and they say, Who seeth us? and who knoweth us?" (Isaiah 29:15). "...and be sure your sin will find you out" (Numbers 32:23). "But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7). Though many of these passages are so well known, yet, how much have they really influenced our personal lives? Are we conscious throughout every day that God is silently observing our deeds and hearing our speech?

We can no more hide from God than could Adam and Eve in the garden. God knew why the prophet (Elijah) was hiding in the cave. Jonah was not hidden from God in the ship, nor yet in the belly of the great fish. Man cannot escape from Him. There is nothing that can hide from God! "Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do" (Hebrews 4:13). When Christians are aware that they cannot escape from Him, we should "... walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:1-3). Consciously walking under the surveillance of Almighty God will help:

- 1) A Christian to be an obedient child
- 2) A Christian to be Holy
- 3) A Christian to be a walking sermon
- 4) A Christian to be right in God's sight
- 5) A Christian to be a good steward
- 6) A Christian to be active in righteousness
- 7) A Christian to be present at every service
- 8) A Christian to be one who resists the Devil
- 9) A Christian to be one who prays
- 10) A Christian to be one who abstains from appearance of evil

God is observing all we do, and hearing all we say. Possibly no thought would add more zest to life and give it better direction than knowing that God is near and cares for us. Just remember that God is really watching!

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear and Learn - Rom. 10:17; John 6:45; 17:3

Believe - Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24

Repent - Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30

Confess the Lord - Matt. 10:32-33; Rom. 10:9-10

Be Baptized - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27; 1 Pet. 3:21

Continue in the Apostles' Teaching - Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17