

*Knowing
and
Loving
God*

Mark Starin

Table of Content

Session One – Knowing and Loving God	page 2
Session Two – Loving God’s Nature	page 4
Session Three – Knowing God’s Word Part One	page 6
Session Four – Knowing God’s Word Part Two	page 8
Session Five – Loving God’s Word	page 11
Session Six – Knowing God	page 13
Session Seven – The Mighty God in Christ	page 15
Session Eight – The Right Hand of God	page 17
Session Nine – Loving God’s People	page 19
Session Ten – Loving God’s Church	page 21
Session Eleven – Loving What God Did for Us	page 23

Loving God

Knowing and Loving God - Session One

The Importance of Love

The greatest thing that we can give to God is our love.

(1 Corinthians 13:13, NKJV) And now abides faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

As for our relationship with Jesus, it is important to love Him. Faith cannot work unless it be associated with love. Our love to God produces the desire to do His will. We cannot properly do His will until we do it with love. Faith works by love, love to God and love to our brethren. This is the basis for true Christianity.

(Galatians 5:6, NKJV) For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision avails any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which works by love.

Love is our foundation, the ground where we put our roots. Without love we will not be grounded in truth. Without love we will not be able to grow in faith. Without love we will not be able to grow to become the mature Christians that Christ want us to be.

(Ephesians 3:17) That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love.

Love binds everything together. *(Colossians 3:14) And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.*

God wants our love. Without love there is no faith, and without faith there is no grace.

The Greatest Commandment

We see that love is a requirement in the Old Testament and also in the New Testament.

(Deuteronomy 6:5) And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

(Deuteronomy 10:12) And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul.

(Mark 12:30) And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

(2 Thessalonians 3:5) And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.

(Jude 21) Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Love binds us together with God. Love is the greatest commandment because if we really love God then we will want to follow all of the other commandments. Without love we will never be able to properly serve God. Love will be our motivating force to do God's will.

Circumcision of the Heart

God wants our hearts. He wants us to love Him with all of our hearts. When we do this then our praise will come from God. We have to come to a decision in our life, do we want to please people or do we want to please God?

(Romans 2:29) But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

(Deuteronomy 30:6) And the Lord thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live.

God wants our heart because the heart is the center of our life. Therefore, we are to protect it. *(Proverbs 4:23) Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*

God wants our heart because it determines our true character. God wants us to truly be with Him. *(Proverbs 23:7, NKJV) For as he thinks in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, says he to you; but his heart is not with you.*

God wants our heart because it is the source of faith. *(Romans 10:10) For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

Why Love God?

We love God because of His great love towards us.

(Jeremiah 31:3) The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

(Romans 5:8) But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

(Ephesians 2:4) But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us.

(1 John 4:19) We love him, because he first loved us.

Loving God

(Luke 17:12-19) And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood far off: (13) And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. (14) And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go show yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. (15) And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, (16) And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. (17) And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? (18) There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. (19) And he said unto him, Arise, go your way: your faith has made you whole.

Ten lepers were healed, but only one returned to thank and worship Jesus. Nine loved their healing, one loved Jesus. Some love God for what He does for them, others love Him for who He is. *(1 John 4:8, NKJV) He that loves not knows not God; for God is love.*

Loving God's Nature

Knowing and Loving God - Session Two

Introduction

We need to understand God's divine nature, and then go a step farther and love this nature. God nature is perfect. The essence of God's divine nature is love and righteousness. God's divine nature is so great that we will never be able to fully comprehend it. In this lesson we will study and reach out to God with a greater understanding and appreciation of His great nature.

God is the Source of Divine Love

This is a love of unmerited favor. It is love that is offered to all of mankind through God's grace. God is love. *(1 John 4:8) He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.*

God loves those who serve Him in truth and righteousness:

(Psalm 146:8) The Lord openeth the eyes of the blind: the Lord raiseth them that are bowed down: the Lord loveth the righteous:

(Jeremiah 31:3) The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

God is so great in His love that it goes beyond those that love and serve Him; it is even extended to those that are far from Him:

(John 3:16) 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.

(1 John 3:16) Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

(Romans 5:8-10) But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (9) Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. (10) For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

(Ephesians 2:4) But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us.

Even when we were in sin and far from God, He still loved us. This great love was revealed when Christ was offered up as our sacrifice.

God's Holy Nature / Divine Goodness

God's divine nature is also the source of righteousness in the world. His nature is the source of all goodness, truth, and wisdom.

(Psalm 99:9) Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the Lord our God is holy.

(Psalm 33:5) He loveth righteousness and judgment: the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

(Psalm 48:10) According to thy name, O God, so is thy praise unto the ends of the earth: thy right hand is full of righteousness.

(Psalm 97:2) Clouds and darkness are round about him: righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne.

(Psalm 145:17) The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.

(Isaiah 6:3) And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

God's Nature Revealed

God's divine nature is not defined, but revealed.

(Colossians 2:2, BBE) So that their hearts may be comforted, and that being joined together

in love, they may come to the full wealth of the certain knowledge of the secret of God, even Christ.

Loving God's Nature

God is love and God is holy. As we draw closer to Him, we grow in His grace, love, and holiness. As we learn more about His great nature, our appreciation for Him grows and our love for Him increases.

© 2009 Mark Starin

Knowing God's Word - Part 1

Knowing and Loving God - Session Three

Key Verse: *(Psalm 119:11) Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*

Introduction

God's Word is living and powerful, a discerner of the heart. *(Hebrews 4:12, BBE) For the word of God is living and full of power, and is sharper than any two-edged sword, cutting through and making a division even of the soul and the spirit, the bones and the muscles, and quick to see the thoughts and purposes of the heart.*

The Word is a weapon against evil. *(Ephesians 6:17) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

The Word is a guide to salvation. *(2 Timothy 3:15) And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

The Word is inspired of God. *(2 Timothy 3:16) All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.*

The Word is a guide to Christian Living. *(2 Timothy 3:17) That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.*

The Blessings of God's Word

(Psalm 119:1-2) Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord. (2) Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart.

The Word will lead us to truth. *(Psalm 119:105, 130) Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path... (130) The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.*

The Word will cleanse us from sin. *(Psalm 119:9) Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.*

The Word will guard us against sin. *(Psalm 119:11) Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*

The Word will give us hope. *(Psalm 119:114) Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word.*

The Word will provide direction. *(Psalm 119:133) Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.*

The Word will bring us peace. *(Psalm 119:165) Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.*

Our Relationship to God's Word

We are to learn it (read and study). *(Psalm 119:7) I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments.*

We are to meditate upon it. *(Psalm 119:15, 97) I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways... (97) O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.*

We are to remember the Word. *(Psalm 119:11, 16) Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee... (16) I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.*

We are to obey the Word. *(Psalm 119:1-8) Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord. (2) Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart. (3) They also do no iniquity: they walk in his ways. (4) Thou hast*

commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently. (5) O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes! (6) Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments. (7) I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments. (8) I will keep thy statutes: O forsake me not utterly.

We are to rejoice and delight in the Word.(Psalm 119:162, 171, 174) I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil... (171) My lips shall utter praise, when thou hast taught me thy statutes... (174) I have longed for thy salvation, O Lord; and thy law is my delight.

Most of all we are to love the Word of God. (Psalm 119:97, 163, 165, 167) O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day... (163) I hate and abhor lying: but thy law do I love... (165) Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them... (167) My soul hath kept thy testimonies; and I love them exceedingly.

Prayer and God's Word

We are to ask God to help us to understand His Word.(Psalm 119:18, 33-34) Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law... (33) Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end. (34) Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart.

We are to ask God to help us to desire His Word.(Psalm 119:35-36) Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight. (36) Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness.

We are to combine the Word of God with faith. (Hebrews 4:2) For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

From "Knowing God's Word - Part 1" by David K. Bernard © 2003, adapted by Mark Starin.

Knowing the Word of God - Part Two

Knowing and Loving God / Session Four

The Old Testament

The Old Testament is made up of 39 books. It was written over a period of 1400 years by 32 writers, *(2 Peter 1:21) For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.* Yet there is only one author, *(2 Timothy 3:16) All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.*

The Old Testament consists of:

- Law – 5 books
- History – 12 books
- Poetry – 5 books
- Prophecy – 17 books (5 major books and 12 minor books)

The theme of the Old Testament is “Expectation and Longing”; *(Job 23:3) Oh that I knew where I might find him! that I might come even to his seat!*

The Old Testament points to the coming of the Christ, *(Luke 24:45-46) Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, (46) And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day.*

There are more than 300 prophecies concerning the coming of the Christ.

- Place of birth, *(Micah 5:2) But thou, Beth-lehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.*
- Born of a virgin, *(Isaiah 7:14) Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*
- His triumphal entry, *(Zechariah 9:9) Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.*
- Betrayed by a friend, *(Psalm 41:9) Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.*
- Sold for 30 pieces of silver, *(Zechariah 11:12) And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver.*
- Hands and feet pierced, *(Psalm 22:16) For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.*
- His ascension, *(Psalm 68:18) Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the Lord God might dwell among them.*

The Old Testament also shows the state of man when he has no faith in God, 1 Corinthians 10:1-11.

The Dead Sea Scrolls proved the fact that the books of the prophets have been preserved over thousands of years.

The New Testament

The New Testament is made up of 27 books. Eight writers wrote it over a period of 100 years.

The New Testament consists of:

- The Gospels – 4 books
- Church founded – 1 book
- Epistles – 21 books
- Prophecy – 1 book

The Gospels (the life of Christ – He is here)

- Place of birth, Matthew 2:1
- Born of a virgin, Matthew 1:18
- His triumphal entry, John 12:13-14
- Betrayed by a friend, Mark 14:10
- Sold for 30 pieces of silver, Matthew 26:15
- Hands and feet pierced, John 20:27
- His ascension, Luke 24:50-51

Church founded

- *(Acts 2:1-4) And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. (2) And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. (3) And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. (4) And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

Epistles

- Christ will return, *(Titus 2:13) Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.*
- The life of the Christian is to be like Jesus, *(Philippians 2:5) Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.*
- *(1 Peter 1:16) Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*

Prophecy

- A revelation of Jesus, *(Revelations 1:1) The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John.*
- He is the One on the throne, *(Revelations 4:2, 8) And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne... (8) And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.*
- Judgment Day, *(Revelation 20:11-13) And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. (12) And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. (13) And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.*

- The New Heaven and the New Earth, (*Revelations 21:1*) *And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.*
- Jesus the beginning and the end, (*Revelations 1:8*) *I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.*

The theme of the New Testament is “We have found Him”; (*John 1:45*) *Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.*

The Church is built on the apostles and prophets, Jesus – the chief cornerstone, (*Ephesians 2:20*) *And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.*

The fact that people are receiving the baptism of the Holy Ghost today, just as they did in the days of the first church proves the book of Acts to be a true account of what happened, as well as proving the rest of the Bible.

Loving God's Word

Knowing and Loving God - Session Five

The Author of the Bible

God Himself has inspired all of the Word of God. Forty writers have written it over 1500 years, but it has only one author, God.

(2 Timothy 3:16) All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

(2 Peter 1:21) For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

Loving God's Word

The Word of God is to be in our hearts, in our houses, on our minds and on our lips.

God said, *(Deuteronomy 5:29) O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!*

God said, *(Deuteronomy 6:6-7) And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart. (7) And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.*

Job said, *(Job 23:12) Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.*

David said, *(Psalm 19:7-11) The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. (8) The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. (9) The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. (10) More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. (11) Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.*

David said, *(Psalm 51:6) Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.*

(Psalm 119:47) And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved.

(Psalm 119:97) O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.

(Psalm 119:103) How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

(Psalm 119:140) Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it.

Jeremiah said, *(Jeremiah 15:16) Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of hosts.*

However, there will always be those who do not love truth. *(2 Thessalonians 2:10) And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*

Some love their traditions and customs more than they love God and His Word.

(Mark 7:13) Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

The Word of God is...

Sacred, *(Deuteronomy 4:2) Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.*

Truth, (*Psalm 119:142*) *Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is the truth.*

Pure, (*Proverbs 30:5*) *Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.*

Everlasting, (*Isaiah 40:8*) *The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.*

Powerful, (*Jeremiah 23:29*) *Is not my word like as a fire? saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?*

The Standard of Faith, (*John 12:48*) *He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.*

Life, (*Philippians 2:16*) *Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.*

The Word Was Made Flesh

(*John 1:1,14*) *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... (14) And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

Jesus said, (*John 14:15*) *If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

© 2010 Mark Starin

Knowing God - Part One

Knowing and Loving God / Session Six

Key Verse: *(Deuteronomy 4:39) Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the Lord he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else.*

The purpose of this lesson is to know and love God for who He is. Not only to understand God's identity, but to love this great truth.

What is God?

One, *(Deuteronomy 6:4) Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord. (Isaiah 44:8) Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any.*

The First and the Last, *(Isaiah 41:4) Who hath wrought and done it, calling the generations from the beginning? I the Lord, the first, and with the last; I am he.*

The Creator, *(Genesis 1:1) In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*

The King, *(Psalm 24:7-8) Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. (8) Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.*

The Shepherd, *(Psalm 23:1) The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

The Rock, *(Psalm 31:3) For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me.*

The Redeemer the Savior, *(Isaiah 45:21-22) Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the Lord? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me. (22) Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.*

The Healer, *(Hosea 6:1) Come, and let us return unto the Lord: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up.*

Omnipotent, *(Job 42:2) I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee.*

Omnipresent, *(Jeremiah 23:24) Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the Lord. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the Lord.*

Omniscient, *(Psalm 139:4) For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether.*

Who is God?

The One God was manifested in the flesh, *(1 Timothy 3:16) And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory. (John 1:1,14) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...(14) And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

Jesus is God manifested in the flesh. Jesus is...

The First and the Last, *(Revelations 1:17) And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last.*

The Creator, *(John 1:10) He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and*

the world knew him not.

The King, *(Revelations 19:11-16) And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. (12) His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. (13) And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. (14) And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. (15) And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. (16) And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.*

The Shepherd, *(1 Peter 5:4) And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.*

The Rock, *(Ephesians 2:20-22) And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; (21) In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: (22) In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.*

The Redeemer the Savior, *(Jude 25) To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.*

The Healer, *(Luke 4:18) The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.*

Omnipotent, *(Isaiah 9:6) For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

Omnipresent, *(Acts 17:27) That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us.*

Omniscient, *(John 16:30) Now are we sure that thou knowest all things, and needest not that any man should ask thee: by this we believe that thou camest forth from God.*

Jesus is God. He is the One True God incarnated. He is the First and the Last, the Creator, the King of kings, the shepherd of our souls, the Rock - our foundation and strength, the Redeemer and Savior of our souls, our Healer, Omnipotent, Omnipresent, and Omniscient. *(Deuteronomy 4:39) Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the Lord he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else.*

Let us consider in our hearts that this one God was manifested in the flesh and He is our everything.

The Mighty God in Christ

Knowing and Loving God - Session Seven

The purpose of this lesson is to know and love God for who He is. Not only to understand God's identity, but to love this great truth.

The Old Testament Teaches That There is One God

David said: (*Psalm 86:10*) *For thou art great, and doest wondrous things: thou art God alone.*

The Lord said: (*Isaiah 43:10-11*) *Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. (11) I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no saviour.*

Zechariah said: (*Zechariah 14:9*) *And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one.*

God's Name Revealed in the Old Testament

Jehovah is the name of God revealed in the Old Testament. (*Exodus 6:3*) *And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name Jehovah was I not known to them.*

Jehovah means "He is." He is the Self-Existent One and the Eternal One.

Manifestations of God in the Old Testament / Theophanies

In a vision - (*Genesis 15:1*) *After these things the word of the Lord came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.*

In a cloud of glory - (*Exodus 33:9-11*) *And it came to pass, as Moses entered into the tabernacle, the cloudy pillar descended, and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the Lord talked with Moses. (10) And all the people saw the cloudy pillar stand at the tabernacle door: and all the people rose up and worshipped, every man in his tent door. (11) And the Lord spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.*

In fire - (*Leviticus 9:23-24*) *And Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of the congregation, and came out, and blessed the people: and the glory of the Lord appeared unto all the people. (24) And there came a fire out from before the Lord, and consumed upon the altar the burnt offering and the fat: which when all the people saw, they shouted, and fell on their faces.*

In a whirlwind - (*Job 38:1*) *Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said:*

As a man - (*Genesis 18:1-3, 22*) *And the Lord appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day; (2) And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him: and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground, (3) And said, My Lord, if now I have found favour in thy sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant: (22) And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the Lord.*

The New Testament Teaches That There is One God

(*Romans 3:30*) *Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith.*

(1 Corinthians 8:4) As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one.

(Ephesians 4:5-6) One Lord, one faith, one baptism, (6) One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Manifestations of God in the New Testament

Dove - (Matthew 3:16) And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him.

Jesus - (Colossians 1:15) Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature.

The Mighty God in Christ - Jesus is Jehovah

Jesus is a Greek word. Jesus means Jehovah the Savior.

He is God our Savior - (Matthew 1:21-23) And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. (22) Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, (23) Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

He is the Self-Existent One - (Jude 25) To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

He is the Eternal God - (Isaiah 9:6) For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

There is no other name for salvation - (Acts 4:12) Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

His name is above all other names - (Ephesians 1:21) Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come.

Jehovah said: (Isaiah 45:22-23) Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else. (23) I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.

Jesus is Jehovah - (Philippians 2:10-11) That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; (11) And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Isaiah said: (Isaiah 12:2) Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.

God said: (Isaiah 43:11) I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no saviour.

This is Jesus - (Titus 2:13) Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.

From the book "The Oneness of God" by David Bernard, adapted by Mark Starin.

The Right Hand of God

Knowing and Loving God - Session Eight

Questions?

What was referred to as the power of God in the Old Testament?

Give an example of the two natures of Christ.

Jesus - Man and God (Emmanuel - God with us)

As the Son of God He was the Word incarnated, as the Spirit He is the Eternal God
As a man He was born a baby (Matthew 1:23-25), as Spirit He is the Mighty God
(Isaiah 9:6)

As a man He increased in wisdom (Luke 2:52), as God He knows all things (John
21:17)

As a man He grew hungry (Matthew 4:2), as God He fed the multitudes (Matthew
14:19-21)

As a man He was a servant (Philippians 2:7), as God He is the King of kings
(Revelations 19:16)

As a man He dwelt on earth (John 1:14), as God He created the earth (Colossians
1:16-17)

As a man He prayed (Luke 22:44), as God He answers prayer (John 14:13-14)

As a man He was a sacrifice for sins (Hebrews 9:26), as God He forgave sins (Mark
2:5-7)

As a man He died (John 19:30), as God He arose (Luke 24:1-6)

At the Right Hand of God

(Acts 7:55-56) But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, (56) And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

Stephen could not have seen his Lord as a Spirit - *(1 Timothy 6:16, NKJV) Who only has immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man has seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.*

But he did see Him as the Son of Man - *(1 Corinthians 15:45) And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.*

The phrase "Son of Man" or "Son of God" is a messianic title which exemplifies the humanity of Christ.

The phrase "At the Right Hand" is a figurative language for the "Power of God"
(Exodus 15:6) Thy right hand, O Lord, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O Lord, hath dashed in pieces the enemy.

Jesus said, *(Matthew 26:64) Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.*

Jesus said, *(Matthew 28:18) And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*

Jesus has:

Power over sin - *(Mark 2:5) When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.*

Power to know man's thoughts - *(Luke 6:8) But he knew their thoughts, and said to the man which had the withered hand, Rise up, and stand forth in the midst. And he arose and stood forth.*

Power over death - (*John 11:43*) *And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.*

Power over sickness and demons - (*Matthew 8:16*) *When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick.*

Power over all elements - (*Luke 8:24*) *And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, master, we perish. Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm.*

Power for eternity - (*Ephesians 1:20-21*) *Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, (21) Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come.*

Christ is the power of God in the New Testament - (*1 Corinthians 1:24*) *But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.*

“On the right hand of majesty” - (*Hebrews 1:3*) *Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.*

Jesus sitting on the right hand of majesty means He is the glory and greatness of God.

God said, (*Isaiah 42:8*) *I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.*

Therefore, Christ cannot be another God, He is God - (*2 Corinthians 4:6*) *For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

When we see the face of Jesus Christ we will see the glory and greatness of God.

The Answer to the First Question

The Ark of the Covenant was referred to as the power of God in the Old Testament. (*Psalm 132:7-8*) *We will go into his tabernacles: we will worship at his footstool. (8) Arise, O Lord, into thy rest; thou, and the ark of thy strength.*

Loving God's People

Knowing and Loving God - Session Nine

Questions

What are the two greatest commandments?

Give one reason why we should love each other?

Introduction

People are the apex of God's creation, the only creation where God gave His own image. As we all bear the image of God, we are to love what God loves. Seeing that God loves people, to the extent that He incarnated Himself and died for them, it follows that we ought to love what God loves. If we cannot love what God loves, it is doubtful that we love God. *(1 John 4:20-21) If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? (21) And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.*

As Christians We Are To Love One Another

Loving God and others are the two greatest commandments, *(Mark 12:29-31) And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: (30) And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. (31) And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.*

Love is the proof of discipleship, *(John 13:34-35) A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. (35) By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

We are to be unselfish in our love, *(Matthew 22:39) And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*

Christ gives us the standard of love, *(John 15:12) This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.*

We are to be sincere in our love, *(Romans 12:9, BBE) Let love be without deceit. Be haters of what is evil; keep your minds fixed on what is good.*

We are to increase our love for one another, *(1 Thessalonians 3:12) And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you.*

We are to have great love for one another, *(1 Peter 1:22, NKJV) Seeing all of you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto sincere love of the brethren, see that all of you love one another with a pure heart fervently.*

As Christians We Are To Love Our Families

Husbands are to love their wives, *(Ephesians 5:25, 28, 33) Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it... (28) So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself... (33) Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.*

Elderly women are to teach younger women to love their families, *(Titus 2:1-4, GodsWord) Tell believers to live the kind of life that goes along with accurate teachings. (2)*

Tell older men to be sober. Tell them to be men of good character, to use good judgment, and to be well-grounded in faith, love, and endurance. (3) Tell older women to live their lives in a way that shows they are dedicated to God. Tell them not to be gossips or addicted to alcohol, but to be examples of virtue. (4) In this way they will teach young women to show love to their husbands and children.

As Christians We Are To Love Our Leaders

We are to esteem our leaders, (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13, NKJV) And we plead to you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; (13) And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.

As we love God, we submit to the leaders He puts in the church, (Hebrews 13:17) Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

We Are To Submit To The Leaders Because:

Jesus loves the church so much that He purchased it with His own blood, and gave the church leaders to help oversee it, (Acts 20:28) Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

God gave church leaders to help build the church, (Ephesians 4:11-12) And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; (12) For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

God gave church leaders to the church to protect the church, (Hebrews 13:17) Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

As Christians We Are To Love Our Enemies

Jesus not only wants us to love our neighbors, one another, and our families, but He wants us to love our enemies also. (Matthew 5:43-48) Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. (44) But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; (45) That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. (46) For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? (47) And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? (48) Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

We Grow In Knowledge As We Grow In Love

(Colossians 2:2, GodsWord) Because they are united in love, I work so that they may be encouraged by all the riches that come from a complete understanding of Christ. He is the mystery of God.

Answers to the Questions

What are the two greatest commandments?

- Loving God and each other, Mark 12:29-31.

Give one reason why we should love each other?

- Love is the proof of discipleship, John 13:34-35.
- Loving each other proves that we love God, 1 John 4:20-21.
- God commands us to, John 15:12.

© 2010 Mark Starin

Loving God's Church

Knowing and Loving God - Session Ten

Questions

What do you expect from church?
What do you love about your church?

Introduction

We are to love the church because the church is a special place, a place for the name of God. King Solomon knew that the building that he built could not house all of God, for God is Omnipresent. The church is a special place for the name of God so we know where to come and worship Him.

(1 Kings 8:27-29) But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded? (28) Yet have thou respect unto the prayer of thy servant, and to his supplication, O Lord my God, to hearken unto the cry and to the prayer, which thy servant prayeth before thee to day: (29) That thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, even toward the place of which thou hast said, My name shall be there: that thou mayest hearken unto the prayer which thy servant shall make toward this place.

The Church – A Place For Worship

I love the church because I love to worship the Lord with other believers. The Lord desires our worship, and He is looking for a people who will come to church; and worship Him in spirit and in truth.

(Psalm 134:1-2) "Behold, bless ye the Lord, all ye servants of the Lord, which by night stand in the house of the Lord. Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the Lord"
(Isaiah 56:7) "Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people."
(John 4:23) "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him."

The Church – A Place To Hear God's Word

I love the church because it is the place where I hear God's holy word. As we hear the word of God, we are strengthened in our faith.

(Romans 10:17) "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."
(1 Corinthians 1:18) For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.
(1 Corinthians 1:21) For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

The Church – A Place To Draw Closer To God

I love the church because I love to feel God's presence.

(Psalm 73:28) "But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works."
(Psalm 145:18) "The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth."

(James 4:8) "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded."

It is good to draw close to the Lord. As we draw close to Him, and call upon Him in truth, then He is near. That is why we come to church, to worship the Lord in spirit and in truth; and to hear His holy word. As we worship Him, and apply His word to our lives; we then become cleaned by our obedience to the word. As we do this, we are drawing closer to the Lord.

The Church – A Place For Salvation

I love the church because here we receive salvation as we respond to God's Word and presence.

(Acts 2:47) "Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

(Isaiah 45:21-22) "Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the Lord? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me. Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else."

The Church – A Place For Miracles

I love the church because this is where we receive God's power for the miracles that we need.

(Mark 16:20) "And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen."

(2 Corinthians 3:17) "Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."

As we pray and preach the word, then the Lord is in our midst; and where the Lord is, there is liberty, healings and miracles.

Let us draw close to the Lord with our worship. Let us draw close to the Lord by being obedient to His word. And as we do this, we will find salvation and miracles. A church is a place for worship, preaching, drawing closer to the Lord, salvation, and miracles. We are to love the church because this is where we come to receive God's Word and His spiritual blessings.

Our Responsibilities to Our Church

Support our church with our tithes and offerings. *(Malachi 3:10) Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.*

Honor the ministry for they watch after our soul.

(1 Thessalonians 5:12-13) And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; (13) And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.

(Hebrews 13:17) Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

Be faithful to church attendance. *(Hebrews 10:25) Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

Be in unity with the church congregation, for we are one body in Christ. *(Ephesians 4:2-3) With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; (3) Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

Pray for one another. *(James 5:16) Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*

© 2010 Mark J. Starin. Revised 10/2012

Loving What God Did for Us

Knowing and Loving God - Session Eleven

Loving What God Did for Us

In the book of Isaiah there are many prophecies concerning the coming Christ and of His true identity. God revealed what He will do to bring salvation to the world. As we have a greater understanding of what God did for us, we will have a greater appreciation of Him and of this beautiful plan of salvation that is for us today. The Christ is God with us. In Isaiah we see the two natures of the coming Christ; His deity and His humanity.

(Isaiah 7:14) Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

(Isaiah 9:6) For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

When we read a verse concerning Christ, we need to ask the question, is this speaking about His deity or humanity? This will help us to better understand the verse that we are reading.

We understand that God's plan of salvation always includes the shedding of innocent blood to cover the sins of mankind; *(Leviticus 17:11) For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.*

In the Old Testament days God had people sacrifice an animal for the covering of their sins. In the New Testament we see that God was incarnated in flesh and became our sacrifice. God is our savior. *(Isaiah 52:10) The Lord hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.*

God revealed His power before all nations, so they will see what He has done to bring salvation; *(1 Corinthians 1:18) For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.*

In Isaiah 53, we see that Christ will come, suffer, and die. He will do this so that we will be able to obtain healing and salvation through the shedding of His blood. Let us take a close look at Isaiah 53.

Isaiah 53:1

(Isaiah 53:1) Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?

The question here is whom has God's power been extended to? The answer is - those that believe are those that receive God's power; *(Romans 1:16) For I am 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.*

Isaiah 53:2-3

(Isaiah 53:2-3) For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. (3) He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

The Almighty is now in the form of a man. This form is like a tender plant compared

to His divine form. And when it states that He is like a root out of dry ground nothing beautiful for us to see means that Christ was born into a humble family, not into a wealthy family. Because of this He was despised and rejected.

Isaiah 53:4-6

(Isaiah 53:4-6) Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. (5) But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. (6) All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He suffered for us, to bring healing and salvation from our sins.

(Matthew 8:17) That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.

(1 Peter 2:24) Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Isaiah 53:7-8

(Isaiah 53:7-8) He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. (8) He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

He was falsely accused, beaten and then crucified. And He never spoke against those that did this great injustice. *(Matthew 26:62-63) And the high priest arose, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee? (63) But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.*

Who will preach this message of Christ? The answer is - the church; *(Acts 2:36) Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.*

Isaiah 53:9

(Isaiah 53:9) And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

A wealthy man named Joseph placed Jesus' body in his grave; *(Matthew 27:60) And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.*

Isaiah 53:10-12

(Isaiah 53:10-12) Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. (11) He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. (12) Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

It was the will of God that the Christ suffer and die for an offering of sin.

(Matthew 26:39) And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. (Leviticus 17:11) For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the

altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.

© 2010 Mark Starin

www.pwntecostalsoflebanon.org