

THE SONG OF THE REDEEMED

"Unto Him that loveth us, and loosed us from our sins by His own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father; to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever."

The Apostle John was in sore trouble. He was banished to the Isle of Patmos because of his devotion to Jesus and his testimony for the Lord. His heart was filled with fear for the churches he left behind in Asia Minor. In the midst of his gloom and fear, God gave him a wondrous vision of the candlesticks and the glorified Christ in the midst of them. This vision scattered his fears as the sun rising scatters the fog in a valley. Then he bursts into a song. He proceeds to write to the seven churches of Asia which are representative of the churches elsewhere. He first salutes them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Somehow, he cannot deliver his message until he relieves his heart so he pours forth as from a fountain of thanksgiving aspiring heavenward, the anthem of the Church of the Redeemed below---"Unto Him that loveth us."

I have selected this song for my text. Repeat the text.

This utterance-----

1. Implies so much
 - (1) A world of grace surrounds us.
 - (2) A time of grace lies back of us.
 - (3) A Hope of eternal grace opens up before us.
2. Reminds us of so much
 - (1) Our sins and redemption
 - (2) Our trials and deliverances
 - (3) Our evil and its mastery
 - (4) Our low estate and the rank to which Christ has raised us.
3. Suggests so much
 - (1) That sin enslaves the human race
 - (2) The blood of Christ alone can release from its shackles
 - (3) His blood is sufficient to release anyone.
4. Leads us away from self and fastens attention on another Figure
 - (1) That Figure is Jesus Christ the----
 - a. Son of God
 - b. Saviour of the world
 - c. One adequate hope for life
 - d. One adequate hope of salvation for eternity
 - e. Perfect Ideal of humility
 - f. Paragon of purity
 - g. Personification of perfection
 - h. Only balm of universal heart.
 - i. Only sufficient remedy for every ill
 - (2) Characteristics of That Figure---
 - a. His nature is Divine
 - b. His character is perfect
 - c. His teaching is complete.

The text is a theme for meditation and not for oratory. It belongs to the banquet-hall where we meet with the Master, and over which floats the banner of His love.

Many things about the Lord might have attracted the attention of John for:----

- (1) His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength
- (2) His eyes were like flames of fire
- (3) His hair was like fine wool
- (4) His feet were like refined brass.
- (5) His voice was like the sound of many waters.

However, none of these things attracted the attention of John but the thing that a-

mazed him most was that such a glorious being should love sinful men.

II. NATURE OF HIS LOVE

Free.

1. Absolutely sovereign

It begins with God. That is where our hopes are born. The beginning is not to be found in us, in our inclinations, gropings and resolvings but in the inclinations of God.

2. Unmerited

Nothing within us to deserve it. One day an African boy looked in a mirror for the first time and ran to his mother crying, "O mammy I have seen the devil." When we look into the mirror of God's law we see more devil than angel. So, He loved us not because we merited it because it is the very nature of God to love. It is as natural for Him to love as for the sun to give off heat and light. His love was spontaneous and not called forth by any worthiness in its objects. It simply had respect to them as fallen, ruined creatures.

3. Condescending

He condescended to leave the glories of heaven and become incarnate and be crucified to save lost sinners. To Jesus the only loathsome thing is sin.

4. Self-sacrificing

To think of His sacrificial love makes the heart grow tender. His blood is the price of our redemption.

5. Unceasing-----everlasting

While our love is like a flickering candle His love is as changeless as the sea. "Loveth" is a timeless word including past, present, and future. The love of the Redeemer stretches from eternity to eternity. It had no beginning and will have no ending. It is an abiding state. He did love, He does love, He will love. His love is unchanged, unmodified, untouched, and utterly inexhaustible.

6. *Effectually* - "loved"

II. SOME EFFECTS OF THIS LOVE

1. It emancipates. This involves the----

(1) Idea of bondage

Sin is a chain that enslaves not merely the body but all faculties of the soul. This chain is heavy and strong and becomes stronger the more sins committed. Habit ties the chain tighter and holds it until it grips. The bondage of sin is one of the strongest forces in life.

Sin, like a tyrant, -----

a. Subjugates memory

b. Deteriorates moral strength

c. Increasingly destroys power of resistance and action

(2) Instrument of emancipation---Christ's Blood. It frees us from---

a. The bondage of law

b. The thralldom of the devil

c. The penalty of sin

d. The power of evil habit

e. The fear of death

f. The fear of what follows death

2. It enfranchises

It gives us citizenship in the Kingdom of God.

As citizens we have-----

a. Duties to perform

b. Responsibilities to bear

3. It exalts our position to royal rank

(1) Hath made us kings--

To rule our own thoughts, affections, and passions

To rule others by patience and faith.

(2) Hath made us priests

a. Standing of the priest is marked by:----

(a) Consecration

(b) Free access to God

- b. Office of the priest---sacrifice
- c. Character of the priest--one of purity
- d. Duty of the priest
 - (a) Minister to others
 - (b) Plead for others
 - (c) Proclaim to others

As His gifts to us Christ offers us:--

- a. Consecration
- b. Direct access to God

Privilege of standing unabashed and unafraid before Him. Privilege of coming with:---

 - (a) Lowly hearts
 - (b) Childlike confidence
 - (c) Burden of weaknesses, wants, and woes and spreading them before Him.
- c. Power of offering sacrifices which are acceptable to Him.

Among these acceptable sacrifices are----

 - (a) Ourselves
 - (b) Our prayers
 - (c) Our praise
 - (d) Our service
- d. Purity of heart and life

Thereby we are enabled to be real mediators and represent:---

 - (a) God before men
 - (b) Men before God

III. MERITS OF THIS LOVE

It is of such a worthy nature that each of us should:----

1. Gladly confess His name
2. Shun sin
3. Give Him dominion over ourselves
4. Recognize His Lordship over every department of life.
5. Give Him all the glory for what we achieve
6. Seek to bring others under His sway.

With Christ as the Lover, Emancipator, Cleanser, Ennobler, Hero, and Hope of our souls may we to His glory sing the Song of the Redeemed while here upon this earth and then with all the hosts of the redeemed around the Great White Throne above sing the songs of redemption forever.

His gifts to us----

1. The creation of us
2. Temporal blessings--body, strength, clothes, water, food, air.
3. His Word--gift of his wisdom. Found everywhere
4. His Son as our Saviour
5. Salvation by grace--slave sold
6. Promise and hope of resurrection
7. Certainty of heaven
8. Knowledge of will of God
9. Example of Christ
10. Throne of ever accessible grace
Direct access to God
Privilege of standing unabashed and unafraid before Him
Privilege of coming with-----
 - a. Lowly hearts
 - b. Childlike confidence
 - c. Burden of weaknesses, wants and woes spreading them before Him.
12. Counsel and help of the Holy Spirit
13. Light as to our duty
14. Opportunity of consecration
In conversion God gives to us; we accept eternal life from God; we appropriate the work Christ did for us. In consecration we give to God; offer ourselves in self-surrender to Him; we fulfill the work of the Spirit in us. Conversion should be crowned with consecration.
15. Power of offering sacrifices which are acceptable to Him
Among these are:-----
 - a. Our selves
 - b. Our prayers
 - c. Our praise
 - d. Our service

If appreciate what Lord has done rouse to action.

This great outburst of praise may well be called "the Glory Song." It glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ; it reveals also the Glory of those He has redeemed and will be heard throughout eternity.

Before the Spirit of God records this Glory song, the utterance of praise to be used and to be enjoyed by redeemed sinners, He mentions three titles of our Lord. The faithful Witness; the First begotten from the dead, and the Prince of the kings of the earth. These three titles take in His earthly life, His redemption work and His future Glory.

He loved us.
He washed us.
He hath made us.

These three things correspond to the three titles which precede this doxology.

"Who loveth us." His love is an abiding love. And this love He manifested by dying for us.

He hath made us kings and priests. It is all His work. A more correct translation is "He hath made us a Kingdom." We shall rule and reign with Him over the earth. What it all includes, what glories await us, what enjoyment with Him, what riches and blessings, power and honor, no mind can grasp and no tongue nor pen can describe.

THE LORD OF GLORY - GAEBELEIN

Three facts about Jesus: He loved, He liberated, He lifted.

The renown of history's great ones is based, some on one thing, some on another. Moses is renowned for his meekness; Solomon, for his wisdom; Alexander and Napoleon, for ability to conquer; Columbus, Copernicus, Edison, and others for discoveries in various fields; Homer, Shakespeare, and their fellows for power of literary expression. The list could be extended indefinitely. But the renown of the Nazarene, towering above them all, stands on His ability to love.

His love, how great its extent!

Then, the love of Jesus is great in its endurance. "Having loved His own who were in the world, Jesus loved them unto the end."

And this love of Jesus, so wonderful in extent and in endurance, is none the less so in its manifestation.

Loosed, or liberated us from our sins." So the second thing about Jesus that binds our hearts to Him is that He is the master Liberator.

In loving kindness Jesus came.

These are the ties that bind us to ~~Jesus~~ Jesus: He is the world's master Lover, in the extent, endurance, and manifestation of His love. He is the world's supreme Liberator, having power to free our souls. He is the matchless uplifter, able to elevate the humblest to the powers and privileges of Kingship and Priesthood. And He offers Himself to us today. How can we longer resist Him?