

Make Church a Part of Your Life

WEEKLY SERMONETTE

"The Greatest Love of All"

By Preacher/Teacher Terry L. Laughlin, CrossRoads Church

"For this reason I kneel before the Father... that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power... to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." (Ephesians 3:14,17-19)

Every one of us who is now born-again in Christ Jesus was at one time an enemy of God. We loved ourselves more than God, and we esteemed our sin more highly than we esteemed His salvation. We were fit only for hell and the judgment of God. Scripture says that, "we were by nature objects of wrath."

If you have not yet accepted Jesus as your Savior and Lord, you are, unfortunately, still in this position with God. But, we were changed, and so can you be changed! "Because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions -- it is by grace you have been


saved." (Ephesians 2:4-5) Because of His great love! This is the sole reason that any one of us may be reconciled back to God. There simply is no other rationale for us to have been given the opportunity to live in His presence forever. It is be-

cause of His great love! "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

God's love for you is perfect, complete and everlasting. Our human love for

one another is fickle and changeable. The dearest of friends may find offense and part ways. A vow of love at the altar may fail only months or years later. Even a parent may let their love for their own child grow cold, or a child for his parent. But the love of the Lord our God, Creator of heaven and earth does not fail. His love does not grow cold. He says... "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness." (Jeremiah 31:3)

There is no person, no trial or hardship that can separate you from the love of God. The apostle Paul, a man acquainted with many trials and much suffering, wrote these words: "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8: 38,39) Who of you can refuse such a love as this? Why would you want to?



Love in Bloom

Poets have long compared love to flowers blooming. In Song of Songs 2:12, we read, "Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come..."

In a garden, a seed is planted... perhaps the first date. If the relationship is well matched... the seed grows in fertile soil. A new couple discovers each other's interests... the "garden" is tended and watered. Weeds may try to push through, but they are uprooted and discarded... the couple learns to negotiate their differences. The relationship flowers... delicate buds give way to fragrant petals and mature love is born.

Around Valentine's Day, know that true love is strong and enduring. When weeds try to encroach keep in mind that God is the Master Gardener. With Him, love will blossom and flourish. Hold up that love in worship this week.

Sunday Galatians 2:1-21	Monday Galatians 3:1-20	Tuesday Galatians 3:21-4:7	Wednesday Galatians 4:8-31	Thursday Galatians 5:1-26	Friday Galatians 6:1-18	Saturday 1 Corinthians 12:1-26
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Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society
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KANSAS



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- Healthcare workers
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- People ages 25-64 years of age with certain high-risk medical conditions
- Anyone wanting to protect themselves against H1N1 influenza

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