

## **THE MEANING OF THE LOVE OF GOD**

**Baptist Church, Iowa City, Iowa -- June 7, 1959**

**For God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten son,  
that whoever believeth in him should not perish,  
but have everlasting life.**

### Introduction

- A. God the creator.
- B. God the sustainer  
God of deism, the immanent God
- C. God omniscient and omnipresent  
Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or, whither shall I flee from  
thy presence?

If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there; if I make my abode in hell,  
behold, thou art there -- Francis Thompson, St. Augustine

- D. God is Holy

### I. God is love, merciful

- 1. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.  
He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to  
our iniquities.
- 2. Jehovah calls Israel out of Egypt. Stiff-necked people.
- 3. The story of Hoseah. God is love in the O.T.  
John 3:16 I John 4:8

### II. God's love is best exemplified in the N.T.

- A. The parable of the lost sheep -- love that seeks
- B. The parable of the prodigal son -- love that waits
- C. God does not find value in us; he imparts value to us.  
The Kenosis

- (1) The word made flesh
- (2) Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus;  
who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery;  
but made himself of no reputation and took upon himself  
the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men;  
and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself,  
and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

- D. Would you become a dog for the sake of saving dogs?  
He came down from glory to be for us. Even now he is for us;  
the God-man in the heavenly places.

Conclusion: Why all this talk about the love of God?

- A. That we may have a deep sense of gratitude --

Bless the Lord, oh my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.  
Bless the Lord, oh my soul, and forget not all his benefits --  
He forgiveth, he healeth, he redeemeth, he satisfieth my life with  
good things.                      Androclus and the lion --  
Let's be thankful

- B. Let's be loving -- the love of Christ constraineth me -- I Cor. 13.

- C. Let's give our hearts to Christ --

The story of Ishii, the great Japanese criminal  
God so loved that he gave -- Would you receive his gift?