



Ministers **U**ncompromisingly **S**ubmitted to **C**hrist in **L**ove and **E**ndless **S**ervice

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THE AMAZING LOVE OF GOD FOR YOU

Do you believe and have the faith that rests on God unfailing love for you? I am here to tell you that God loves you beyond your wildest imagination. Come with me on a journey and to begin I have a question. Why did God create you? Do you think it was because He was lonely and needed some kind of companionship to keep Him from going insane been alone eternally? Before you seek to answer that question I want you to think about this. God almighty is a spirit being eternally self-existent, not created, has always been, encompasses eternity, is, just is, The I am, eternally fulfilled in Himself essentially having no need of anything outside of Himself. We will answer that question as this teaching unfolds.

God knew you, everything about you intimately before He formed you. (Jeremiah 1:5) If God knew Jeremiah before He formed him don't you think He knew everything about Adam before He created him that he was going to sin? Yes he did and yet God created Adam and Eve fully knowing what will happen and what pain that will cost humanity and even more so the Godhead as God Himself will have to step into humanity to redeem man the being of His love back to Himself. Was God obligated to redeem man?

(The question is not; "Do we deserve the grace of God". You and I know the answer to that is no. Salvation is a free gift, a work of God's undeserving grace or mercy) My question is from God's viewpoint. As God, was God obligated to redeem man? I don't know that the answer to that question is as easy as yes or no but this I know. When you create something there is a moral obligation of personal responsibility to the well being of that which you create. Moreover, I strongly believe (this is my opinion) that had God allowed man to be lost eternally without making a way for redemption it would have been a complete victory for the devil. I am fully convinced that we don't have a mature enough revelation of the implications of God creating man in His own image and likeness and how that necessitates redemption as it relates to the fall of man. People who bring children into the world have a moral obligation to the well being of that baby to provide and nurture that child by themselves or if they are unable to place that child in a loving home where he/she will be adequately and lovingly provided for.

So even though God's man sinned and God saw His Son and Daughter gripped by the world of darkness His love for them didn't fail. God loved Adam and Eve so much that immediately after they sinned He came looking for them and cloth them with the skins of animals (reminiscent of the first blood offering). With the shedding of the animal blood He covered and forgave their sins so that His glory wouldn't destroy them and they could continue in fellowship with Him. Though things were not the same as they were before they could still continue fellowshiping with God and it was all because God loved man and the mess of sin was not big enough to overshadow the abundance and immensity of God's grace.

Though God knew you intimately before the foundation of the world and saw your weakness as a human being and knew all the sin you would commit, he loved you so much that He was not willing to give you up to Satan. He also saw who you would become In Christ and what you could do through Christ in 2005. He saw you In Christ and the wholeness of what the power of His redemption would accomplish in and through you. He believed in you not based on who you are but who He is in you and you in Christ.

Kenneth Etta Ministries, Inc
P.O. Box 1445
Huffman TX 77336

Tel (904)891-0397
www.kennethetta.com
keministries@juno.com

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Satan through deception entered into the heart of that which God's man (Adam) loved (Eve) and robbed them of their former glory in God in an attempt to hurt God by bringing death to the object of God's love-man. But praise God nothing took Him by surprise for God loved you so much He wanted to share His life with you even before He created you so much so that the Lamb of God, Jesus The Messiah, was slain before the foundations of the world. Yes God made provision for your redemption even before you needed it. Jesus Christ, who is our rest, our Sabbath was provided even before we came into the scene. He is the Lord and God of the universe and he created you in love to be and do on earth what He does over the universe. More importantly and foundationally He created you to experience with Him the intimacy in love and fellowship that exist in the Godhead according to Jesus' words in John. So God been the moral agent over the welfare and well-being of His creation whom He immensely love chose to become man so that He doesn't have to live without you and you don't have to spent eternity separated from His love.

There is a song by Michael Card that has had a profound impact on my life and in it are a series of questions and one of them goes, "could it be that you would really rather die than live without us"? We all know the answer to that question. Yes God, as the man Jesus became sin, the very thing He hated and took in and upon Him the judgement for sin so that you don't have to. Alleluia. 2 Corinthians 15:21 says He who knew no sin became sin so that we might become the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus so that God's justifiable wrath on sin could be poured on Him so that we could be redeemed back to God in love. Saint it was all because of you and me.

And in John 15:16 Jesus said, "You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you". The plan of redemption had nothing to do with your intellect or wisdom. You weren't in the counsel of the Godhead in the eternal past when your redemption was fully accomplished in God's heart even before it's physical manifestation with Jesus coming. It was all God's doing. You are barely on the receiving end and He chose you and all you did was respond to Him choosing you. So stop fretting and respond to Him in love.

Why do we love Him and how can we love Him? Simply this because He first loved us (1 John 4:19) Christianity is a life of responding to the love and goodness of God in love. The bible says that it is the goodness of God that brings us, enables us to repent that is turning from our sinful ways, put our trust in Him and walk in His ways I am here to tell you that God loves you unconditionally. Yes as humans we need love but His love for you is not based on your need, performance, anything you have done or will do. God loves you because of who He is. His love for you is founded and based on His nature of love.

What did it cost God to redeem us?

Take a journey with me to Philippians and let us begin to examine what it cost God almighty to redeem us because He loved us so much that He didn't want to live without us and us without Him. First of all I want you to know that He chose you in Him according to Ephesians 1: 4 which says, "Even as [in His love] He chose us [actually picked us out for Himself as His own] in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we should live holy (set apart for Him) and blameless in His sight, even above reproach, before Him in love.

John 1:14 says that the Word (Christ) became flesh (human, incarnate) and tabernacled (fixed His tent of flesh, lived awhile) among us. God became something He never was. God became a human being because He so loved us. Every time you read that verse you should put your name there. He so loved you that He was willing to become one of us so that He could redeem us back to Himself in love.

Philippians 1: 7-8 tells us that Jesus stripped Himself [of all privileges and ^[5] rightful dignity], so as to assume the guise of a servant (slave), in that He became like men and was born a human being.

⁸And after He had appeared in human form, He abased and humbled Himself [still further] and carried His obedience to the extreme of death, even the death of the cross.

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And Isaiah actually tells us what He looked like after all the flogging and beatings, the spitting upon, crown of thorns rammed into his head and Him hanging on the cross for the whole world to behold

It says in Isaiah 52:14 that

“For many the Servant of God became an object of horror; many were astonished at Him.] His face and His whole appearance were marred more than any man's, and His form beyond that of the sons of men”

In the next chapter Isaiah 53:3-9 it says

³He was despised and rejected and forsaken by men, a Man of sorrows and pains, and acquainted with grief and sickness; and like One from Whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we did not appreciate His worth or have any esteem for Him.

⁴Surely He has borne our grief's (sicknesses, weaknesses, and distresses) and carried our sorrows and pains [of punishment], yet we [ignorantly] considered Him stricken, smitten, and afflicted by God [as if with leprosy].⁽²⁾

⁵But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our guilt and iniquities; the chastisement [needful to obtain] peace and well-being for us was upon Him, and with the stripes [that wounded] Him we are healed and made whole.

⁶All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has made to light upon Him the guilt and iniquity of us all.⁽³⁾

⁷He was oppressed, [yet when] He was afflicted, He was submissive and opened not His mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He opened not His mouth.

⁸By oppression and judgment He was taken away; and as for His generation, who among them considered that He was cut off out of the land of the living [stricken to His death] for the transgression of my [Isaiah's] people, to whom the stroke was due?

⁹And they assigned Him a grave with the wicked, and with a rich man in His death, although He had done no violence, neither was any deceit in His mouth.⁽⁴⁾

Jesus hung on that cross not because He had to but because He wanted to, because He loved you. His love for you and to be with you, to share intimacy with you kept Him on that cross. God manifested the greatest form of love for you and me in that He laid down His life for us. Jesus told his captors that if He wanted to He could request of His Father and He will immediately send him a legion of angels but He didn't because His destiny was to go to the cross and the object of that destiny was you- to get you back to the Father's love. Romans 5:8 says, “But God shows and clearly proves His [own] love for us by the fact that while we were still sinners; Christ (the Anointed One) died for us”.

I have often wondered what it must have felt like in heaven on that day, the angels beholding God as man hanging on the cross and in the heart of God, seeing His only begotten Son hanging on that cross having gone through all the horrors He went through at the hands of those He created and came to redeem. How do you think God felt? It wasn't just The Son hanging on that cross who felt the agony and pain of it all. According to 2 Corinthians 5:9 “It was God [personally present] in Christ, reconciling and restoring the world to favor with Himself”. God the father felt every ounce of pain that Jesus felt. What loving father wouldn't? It was a double-edged experience- the agony of the moment and the joy that would follow because of a course accomplished and the fruit thereof which you are. And do you know that according to 2 Corinthians 5:21 God as the man Jesus became the very thing he hates (sin), the very thing that had separated you from Him so that when you accept Christ you can become God's very (exact) righteousness in Christ.

Do you know that today there is a man called Jesus who before He became man did not exist in human form but became human to redeem you and now dwells in a glorified human body and for ever will be because He

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loves you and is committed to you. He identified with you and me on earth in mortal flesh and will forever identify with us in heaven in immortal glorified bodies having brought us back to the Father. Think about that. If God's love and goodness doesn't cause you to want to give it all to Him in 2005 and walk in His ways I don't know what will. According to Titus 2:11, the grace of God teaches and enables us to deny all forms of unrighteousness and walk in His way. The message of grace is not cheap and in no way encourages abuse of God's love because believers who have a godly revelation of God's grace are the ones who are walking in godly and true holiness in submission to the Holy Spirit within.

I find it bewildering that believers at times are willing to accept the fact that God loved them as sinners but some how now that they are his children He doesn't love them as much because of their flaws. That is a lie from your mind or devil trying to get you to be sin conscious (I didn't say pretend as though you don't have flaws or sin) rather than righteousness conscious. God loves you just as much as He loves His only begotten son Jesus according to John 17:23. God cannot love you any more than He loves you now. His love for you is complete and perfect.

Let me tell you how God thinks about you. Please meditate on Psalms 139:

¹O LORD, you have searched me [thoroughly] and have known me.

²You know my downsitting and my uprising; You understand my thought afar off. ⁽¹⁾

³You sift and search out my path and my lying down, and You are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴For there is not a word in my tongue [still unuttered], but, behold, O Lord, You know it altogether. ⁽²⁾

⁵You have beset me and shut me in--behind and before, and You have laid Your hand upon me.

⁶Your [infinite] knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high above me, I cannot reach it.

⁷Where could I go from Your Spirit? Or where could I flee from Your presence?

⁸If I ascend up into heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in Sheol (the place of the dead), behold, You are there. ⁽³⁾

⁹If I take the wings of the morning or dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

¹⁰Even there shall Your hand lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me.

¹¹If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me and the night shall be [the only] light about me,

¹²Even the darkness hides nothing from You, but the night shines as the day; the darkness and the light are both alike to You. ⁽⁴⁾

¹³For You did form my inward parts; You did knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴I will confess and praise You for You are fearful and wonderful and for the awesome wonder of my birth! Wonderful are Your works, and that my inner self knows right well.

¹⁵My frame was not hidden from You when I was being formed in secret [and] intricately and curiously wrought [as if embroidered with various colors] in the depths of the earth [a region of darkness and mystery].

¹⁶Your eyes saw my unformed substance, and in Your book all the days [of my life] were written before ever they took shape, when as yet there was none of them.

¹⁷How precious and weighty also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How vast is the sum of them! ⁽⁵⁾

¹⁸If I could count them, they would be more in number than the sand. When I awoke, [could I count to the end] I would still be with you.

God's thoughts of goodness and love towards you far outnumber all the combined grain of sand in the universe. Please note in verse 16 it says all the days of my life were written before ever they took shape, when as yet there was none of them. What was God writing about you in His book of life before you were born? His loving and good thoughts about your life. If you were to see it (and you can by looking into, meditating on and walking in obedience and intimacy with Him) you will see that there is nothing but good thoughts of possibilities about what you can be in this life, a life of dreams accomplished and absolute

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fulfillment in Him in 2005 and beyond. Walk intimately close to God so He will direct your steps into the path and destiny of His marvelous thoughts for you written in His book. It is already written and it is found in your salvation in Christ. So let it come out from within you. The bible says that we should work out from within us our salvation already given to us freely in Christ. You want to know what God thinks of you? Look at the covenant of grace. For in the covenant of grace we find out who we are in Christ, what we can do through Christ, where we are seated in Christ and what we have in Christ. It is nothing but good. My question to you today is do you know our birthright in Christ? This is your inheritance given to you from the heart of your loving heavenly Father. It is an inheritance of grace. He promised that He is with you always and will never leave you or forsake you. Jesus didn't die for you and rose again so you would think of yourself as a loser, a worm and a nobody. Yesterday I was listening to Christian songs on the radio and as I listened to a song by Sandy Patti titled "In Heavens eyes". One of the lines goes like this:

In heaven eyes there are no losers

As I heard those words God spoke to me. He wants me to tell you that you are not a loser. I don't know what you are going through but God wants you to know He has not forsaken you. He wants you to know that you are forgiven and accepted in Christ the beloved. According to Ephesians 1: He has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual (given by the Holy Spirit) blessing in the heavenly realm! ⁴Even as [in His love] He chose us [actually picked us out for Himself as His own] in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy (consecrated and set apart for Him) and blameless in His sight, even above reproach, before Him in love.

⁵For He foreordained us (destined us, planned in love for us) to be adopted (revealed) as His own children through Jesus Christ, in accordance with the purpose of His will [² because it pleased Him and was His kind intent]--

⁶[So that we might be] to the praise and the commendation of His glorious grace (favor and mercy), which He so freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

⁷In Him we have redemption (deliverance and salvation) through His blood, the remission (forgiveness) of our offenses (shortcomings and trespasses), in accordance with the riches and the generosity of His gracious favor,

⁸Which He lavished upon us in every kind of wisdom and understanding (practical insight and prudence),

⁹Making known to us the mystery (secret) of His will (of His plan, of His purpose). [And it is this:] In accordance with His good pleasure (His merciful intention) which He had previously purposed and set forth in [³ Him,

¹⁰[He planned] for the maturity of the times and the climax of the ages to unify all things and head them up and consummate them in Christ, [both] things in heaven and things on the earth.

¹¹In Him we also were made [God's] heritage (portion) and we obtained an inheritance; for we had been foreordained (chosen and appointed beforehand) in accordance with His purpose, Who works out everything in agreement with the counsel and design of His [own] will,

¹²So that we who first hoped in Christ [who first put our confidence in Him have been destined and appointed to] live for the praise of His glory!

¹³In Him you also who have heard the Word of Truth, the glad tidings (Gospel) of your salvation, and have believed in and adhered to and relied on Him, were stamped with the seal of the long-promised Holy Spirit.

¹⁴That [Spirit] is the guarantee of our inheritance [the firstfruits, the pledge and foretaste, the down payment on our heritage], in anticipation of its full redemption and our acquiring [complete] possession of it--to the praise of His glory.

Jesus is saying to you today that He loves you beyond your wildest imagination. I don't know what you are going through today but God knows. Do you have decisions to make? Ask and He will give you wisdom.

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Are you feeling uncertain about your future? He says that He knows the plans he has for you, plans to prosper you and give you a hopeful and fulfilling life- seek his face and He will lead you on the path. Broken hearted and tired and heavy-laden with life? He says he was not only bruised for you but also the chastisement for your peace was laid on Him. He is calling on you to come to Him and He will give you rest. Your past has been nailed to the cross and all your sins forgiven and forgotten; your future in Christ waits to be continually revealed. I want to encourage you to respond to His love for you afresh this year 2005. God is more interested in you been with Him than what you can do for Him. Intimacy with God is the foundation for service. God is not man yet many times we relegate God to the statue of a robot as though He has no feelings when God is the most intensely passionate, emotional being you will ever know. God loves you and His love for you requires a response. That response is love. Loving God because He first loved you. Determine in your heart that 2005 will be a year of walking in love towards God and man. Determine that you will seek His face and walk in intimacy with Him in 2005 finding your rest, joy and strength in His presence. Dear saint the end of all things as we know it is near. It is only the kingdom priorities (His will) that will ultimately matter. Let the reality of Father's love for you erupt in worship as you develop a deeper walk with Him in 2005 knowing that you are His child, forgiven and accepted in Christ the beloved of God in whom you are now His beloved.

Shalom and with much love as always

[Kenneth Etta](#)

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