

What Manner Of Love

[1 John 3:1-2](#)

1Jn 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

1Jn 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

When salvation is considered, there are several things which could come to mind. Salvation could mean being saved from destruction or danger. Or, salvation could have reference to healing of the body. The greatest reference to salvation in the New Testament refers to making a person a partaker of the spiritual salvation offered by Christ.

Salvation of the soul is often taken for granted. But salvation of the soul is the most important thing a person can experience.

I. THE GIFT OF SALVATION

1Jn 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God:

When I look at this verse I feel like I should take off my shoes because I am standing on holy ground. This is an amazing piece of Scripture because packed all together in this little verse is origin, object and objective of love. God is the origin of love and man is the object. The objective of God's love is found in the words, "that we should be called children of God."

It is important for us to understand that we did not get saved and become a member of the church on our own initiative. Paul said to the Philippians,

Php 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.

It was God who began the process of salvation in our lives. It wasn't us that sought out God, but the other way around.

Luk 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

1Jn 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and

sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

Rom 5:6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

Rom 5:7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

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

Salvation is an expression of God's love for humankind. This expression of love did not begin in man, but rather in God. God's love was so marvelous that he called special attention to it. John said, "**Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us**"

The word bestow isn't a word that is used much today, but I would like to call special attention to it here this morning. Webster's dictionary says that this word means, "to convey as a gift". It says further that it is usually used with the words "on" or "upon".

Man cannot purchase salvation, nor can he merit or earn it. Salvation is God's gift to sinners.

Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is the gift of God:*

Eph 2:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

There are three things that make a gift possible.

I. There must be someone who is able to purchase the gift to be given.

This also means that the giver must also be unselfish and willing to give the gift. Regarding salvation, God is that One. He was the only One who was able to purchase a gift which would satisfy Him concerning man's sin.

Jesus said,

Mat 16:26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

In the sight of God, the soul of one sinner is of more value than all the wealth of the world. Imagine, if you can, the value of the blood of Jesus, shed for the remission of the sins of the whole world. He provided enough grace and supplied enough blood to save the entire world, if the whole world would but receive Him by faith.

He is the propitiation, or the atoning sacrifice, for the sins of the entire world – but the world (as a whole) will not receive Him.

The salvation which Paul calls “so Great salvation” is indeed great from the standpoint of the price paid for it. God was able to give, and since He is a God of love, He was unselfish and willing to give the Gift that would save fallen man from everlasting damnation – but the purchase price was the precious blood of His only begotten Son.

II. To make a gift possible, there must be a gift to give.

Jesus was that gift. And He was the only Gift that God could give to settle the problem of sin. None of the heavenly creatures, not cherubim, not seraphim, not angels nor saints could pay the sin debt.

In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed,

Mat 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.**

If it had been possible for God to provide some other way of salvation, certainly He would have spared His Son. But there was no other way. Jesus was the only One who could provide the solution to our sin problem. He was the only begotten Son of God, the Lamb without spot or blemish, the Perfect Sacrifice, and only through Him could our salvation be made possible. He was our Gift.

III. Before giving can be complete, there must be someone to receive the gift.

That is where we come in. Man is the recipient of God’s gift and the object of His love.

Joh 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name:

Joh 1:13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

God planned and provided salvation even before there was a sinner to be saved.

Psa 90:1 ...Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations.

Psa 90:2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou *art* God.

There was never a time in the eternal ages behind us when God was not. He has no beginning, He has always been. God is, “from everlasting to everlasting.” He is omniscient; God has known all things, always. He knew the end in the beginning, and He knows everything between the beginning and the end.

Therefore, before He created this earth, before He created the dust from which He formed Adam, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit planned and perfected salvation.

1Pe 1:18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as silver and gold*, from your vain conversation *received by tradition from your fathers*;

1Pe 1:19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

1Pe 1:20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

1Pe 1:21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.

Before the foundation of the world was laid, the Holy Trinity agreed that Jesus would purchase redemption with His own precious blood. Salvation was planned, perfected, and insofar as God was concerned, finished, before creation began.

A debt that is paid in full cannot be paid again. If I owe a debt, and I write a check for the full amount I owe, when my creditor accepts the check and marks the account, “Paid in Full”, that debt is paid and can never be paid again.

That is what Jesus did for the sin-debt of the world – He paid it in full. It is finished and nothing can be added. We now only need to accept or receive God’s free gift of salvation purchased at the cost of the precious blood of God’s only begotten Son.

1Jn 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God:

We’ve looked at the meaning of the verb bestow and now I would like to call your attention to it’s tense. In the English, the verb "bestowed" is in the past tense. However, in the Greek text this word "bestowed" is in the perfect tense. The perfect tense suggests that a thing has occurred in the past, yet it has existing results.

This verse would literally read, **Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, and it stands bestowed.**" The Bible tells us that the gifts and calling of God are without repentance. This gift stays a gift, it is not something that God will ever change His mind about. Because the love of the Father has been bestowed and stands bestowed, we are called children of God.

God provides man salvation by giving man his nature. This is what it means to be regenerated. Man takes on the nature of God through the work of the Holy Spirit, and by trusting in Jesus Christ.

II. THE PRIVILEGE OF SALVATION

1Jn 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God:

This verse suggests that salvation is a privilege. The greatness of this love that the Father has bestowed upon us is shown in that by it, we are **called children of God**. As God looked down on lost humanity, He might have merely had a charitable compassion, a pity on our plight, both in this life and in eternity. With a mere pity, He might have set forth a plan of salvation where man could be saved from hell. But God went far beyond that, to call us the **children of God**.

Who calls us the children of God?

- **The Father does.**

2Co 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you,

2Co 6:18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

- **The Son does.**

Heb 2:10 For it became him, for whom *are* all things, and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Heb 2:11 For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified *are* all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,

Heb 2:12 Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.

Heb 2:13 And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me.

- **The Spirit does.**

Rom 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Rom 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Rom 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

Rom 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

There is a sense in which this seems a totally “unnecessary” blessing that God gives in the course of salvation. But it is a demonstration of His true and deep love for us. We can picture someone helping or saving someone, but not going so far as to make them a part of the family - but this is what God has done for us.

In this, we gain something in Jesus Christ greater than Adam ever possessed. We never once read of Adam being called one of the **children of God** in the sense John means here. He was never adopted as a son of God in the way believers are. We err when we think of redemption as merely a restoration of what was lost with Adam; we are granted more in Jesus than Adam ever had.

If we are truly **children of God**, then it should show in our likeness to our Father, and in our love for our “siblings.”

It is important to understand what it means to be the **children of God**, and that everyone is not a child of God in the sense John meant it here.

God’s love is expressed to all in the giving of Jesus for the sins of the world.

Joh 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.

But this does not make all of humanity the **children of God** in the sense John means it here. Here he is talking about those who have *received* the love of Jesus in a life of fellowship and trust with Him;

Joh 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name:

So many times when we are reading our Bibles we tend to plow through the text as if we were in some kind of race to get from the In to the Amen. But notice our text says, “Behold”. When we see a word like this, we should really pause and think about what is being said. Behold! I like what Spurgeon said about this verse.

“**Behold** means that God wants to see this and He is not ashamed to show it to us. “‘There,’ he says, ‘you poor people that love me you sick people, you unknown, obscure people, without any talent, I have published it before heaven and earth, and made the angels know it, that you are my children, and I am not ashamed of you. I glory in the fact that I have taken you for my sons

and daughters.” (Spurgeon)”

Salvation of the soul is unlike anything else. There is nothing in the world that can give a person the nature of God except salvation.

III. THE GLORY OF SALVATION

Salvation has past, present and future power, simultaneously. John said

1Jn 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

Salvation has past, present and future power, simultaneously.

John is here suggesting that his salvation is a present possession with future possibilities. Listen to what John said, "**Now are we the sons of God... we shall be like him;**"

The word "now" is an adverb which suggests the time of our being a child of God and the verb phrase "shall be" suggests our future state of being. We are a child of God right now. We are being molded into the image of Christ on a daily basis. And one day, our Lord will return and in the twinkling of an eye we will be changed. Corruption will put on incorruption, and we will be like Him. Our present salvation is a prelude and preparation for what is to come. We are in the process of becoming all that God saved us to be.

The power of salvation is also seen in the fact that salvation opens the way for us to be where Jesus is eternally. John said, **when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.**

Jesus himself talked about our eternally living with him when he said,

Joh 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

Joh 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

The Apostle Paul also talked about our eternally living with Jesus when he wrote,

2Co 5:1 For we know that if our earthly house of *this* tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

A couple of weeks ago I had the privilege of standing before you and preach a sermon entitled What is truth? I left you with 4 absolute truths to ponder. They were:

- The absolute truth is that all men are sinners.
- The absolute truth is that we all need the Lord in our lives.
- The absolute truth is that Jesus came to die for your sin.
- The absolute truth is that you can have salvation today because of what Jesus did then.

Today as I close I would like to leave you with a few more:

- God's love has bestowed upon us the gift of salvation. It is complete, it is perfect, and it is absolutely free. It was purchased when Jesus took mine and your place on that cross.
- God went much further and not only saved us from an eternity in a devil's hell, not only granted us eternal life, but has adopted us into His family now.
- Even though we are sons and daughters now, he is conforming us into the image of His precious Son on a daily basis. Our Lord is coming back, and when He does we will be like Him.

For those of us that know the Lord these truths should be putting a big ol' ear to ear grin on our faces, grace on our lips and eternity in our hearts. For those here that don't know the Lord, these truths and promises can be yours. Let us help you with this. Please don't leave here today without talking to one of us about those classes. We aren't guaranteed tomorrow, and this is much too important to put off till later.