

Eph 3:14–19 (ESV) For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ⁽¹⁵⁾ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ⁽¹⁶⁾ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ⁽¹⁷⁾ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ⁽¹⁸⁾ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ⁽¹⁹⁾ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

1. We have been working our way through this wonderful petition

- A. Paul is asking God through his Spirit to do a great work in us
 - 1). To create those desires that long for what this petition is offering
 - 2). To be willing to do what it takes to know those things
 - a). To surrender – to follow – so Christ is at home in your hearts

2. Now we come to actual petition offered by Apostle for the Ephesians

Eph 3:17–19 (ESV) so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ⁽¹⁸⁾ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ⁽¹⁹⁾ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge...

- A. We saw last week – the end of all the theology in Chapter 1-2 is leading to this
 - 1). To know and experience the love of Christ in our lives

Transition: Last week we looked at it in general terms – now in a more detailed manner

- A. We will start with answering the question – can this love actually be known
 - 1). The wording seems to be contradictory – we need to work through this

I. KNOWING A LOVE THAT IS UNKNOWABLE

Eph 3:18–19 (ESV) may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ⁽¹⁹⁾ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

1. Do you see what looks like a contradiction there

- A. He prays we would know this love he claims surpasses knowledge – to know what is unknowable
 - 1). A figure of speech known as an oxymoron = combination of words that seem to contradict
 - 2). Ex. Jumbo shrimp. Hell's angels. Found missing. Deafening silence. Larger half. Living dead
 - 3). I'm sure you wives will agree with this oxymoron – contradiction - "Adult male"
 - a). Here Paul prays that we may 'know' the love of Christ 'that surpasses knowledge'
- B. That brings up a question in my mind? Perhaps yours
How can you know something that cannot be known? Something that surpasses knowledge

Question: How do we handle this? Forget it then! No!

- A. He is saying that this love of Christ is so great it can never truly be measured
 - 1). The exciting reality - this love is so immense we will be learning about it for all of eternity
- B. But we can start grasping this now – experience new depths now – new angles
 - 1). Paul is praying God would help us to comprehend all that we can NOW

2. This is what will bring great joy and comfort into your life now

- A. The more you understand this the greater your joy – the greater your comfort – excitement
 - 1). This is what brings comfort in times of great trouble – I am loved! I am not in this alone!
 - a). The more you understand this love the less you worry

Maurice Roberts: There is no higher priority in the believer's life than to delight himself in the love of Christ.

Transition: Paul uses four dimensions to speak of the greatness of this love – see two today

II. THE BREADTH OF GOD'S LOVE

1. By breadth we mean how wide it reaches

- A. The Book of Revelation seems to be particularly interested in the breadth of Christ's love.
TURN: Re 5:9–11 (ESV) And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and *by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,* ⁽¹⁰⁾ and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth." ⁽¹¹⁾ Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands,

- 1). Move to chapter 7 and you find the same thing

Re 7:9 (ESV) After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, *from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages,* standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

- B. One day you will be standing there with this multitude

Because the breadth of God's love was wide enough to reach even you

- 1). You'll see the cost – what it took to get you there – slaughtered lamb - marks
 2). You'll be worshipping him with all your heart – because of his love towards you

Thought: But don't wait until you're there – start to be thrilled by it now

- A. Don't let the temporal be so consuming you can't see this amazing truth

- 1). Chuck Smith: "you can block out the sun with a penny if you hold it close enough to your eye."
 a). You can do the same thing with circumstances – focus so closely you can't see God
 b). It takes a deliberate choice to look up – look beyond – to see His love – to think deeply

- B. Think deeply – that's an issue in itself – how few think deeply any more

- 1). We don't give ourselves a chance – get a few seconds where we used to think
 Now we get our phones out and watch cat videos
 a). To be a deep thinker you're going to have to deal with things like that

Deliberate choices – intentional living – focusing on truth that will change you

Point: This reality is worth thinking about – worth dwelling upon – driving it deep into your heart

- A. Notice why they were praising Christ (Rev 5:9-11) – all about his loving work in their lives

- 1). Because he died for them – and ransomed them with his blood
 2). Because he gathered them into his kingdom

Col 1:13 (ESV) He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,

- a). Because he loved you he reached down into your desperation – slave of sin
 And lifted you into his kingdom – made you his child
 3). He made them (us) priests and appointed them (us) to reign with him on earth
 a). During the Millennial kingdom when Christ sets up his earthly kingdom
 b). We are going to reign with him!

- B. We can worship God for his loving actions in our life

- 1). What he has done – what he is doing – what he will do – that great hope we heaven
 2). Don't live life blinded to that – never being thrilled by that
 Take the coin away from your eye – lift your eyes – think deeply

Transition: So his love is wide – far reaching – Jew and Gentile – every nation – skin color - culture

3. One of the problems with the Jews – they never understood this dimension

- A. They thought that salvation was only for the Jews

- 1). But those who know God – filled with the Spirit – realize God loves every race
 a). We realize Christlikeness will not allow prejudice – we are love like he did

- B. This is to flow into all of mankind – the way we treat them – think about them

- 1). Does Christ love the homosexual – YES! Enough to die for them
Does Christ love the homeless – YES – the trafficked YES
The Day laborers – the Muslims at the Spectrum - Yes
- a). Without ever condoning sin – how do we reach out in love?

Thought: The wide reach of God's love is amazing

- A. It is wide enough to reach drug addicts – Not only the trafficked but even the traffickers
 - B. Read the biography of John Newton who wrote the hymn “Amazing Grace”
 - 1). As a child his mother taught him the Scriptures and prayed he would be a minister
 - 2). He rejected that – and went the other way – known as the “Great blasphemer”
 - 3). He was the captain of a slave ship
And had a reputation for profanity, coarseness, and debauchery which even shocked the sailors
 - a). And led many sailors into unbelief
 - 4). If God's love had any limit to it's breadth it would certainly have stopped before him
 - a). But for some reason his thoughts began to turn to Christ
 - b). He found a New Testament – and began to read
 - 1a). The love of God was drawing – reaching to one who thought he was beyond saving
 - 2a). God's love was wide enough to sweep even him in
He wrote: “Only God's amazing grace could and would take a rude, profane, slave-trading sailor and transform him into a child of God.”
 - 3a). Newton never ceased to stand in awe of God's work in his life.”
 - C. Conversions like this testify that nobody is beyond his reach
 - 1). None of your loved ones – none of your neighbors – co-workers
- Point:** I praise God that I have a message that I can tell anybody – anywhere – at anytime
- A. God loves you and if you will respond – even you can be forgiven and saved
 - 1). I don't care what you've done – you can become a child of God
His love is wide enough to reach even you!
 - B. AND I'm so grateful that God's love was wide enough to sweep me in!
 - 1). I will be in that crowd worshipping my king
- Transition:** The next one is so good – so comforting
- A. The breadth of God's love was wide enough to reach me – but is it strong enough to keep me?

III. THE LENGTH OF HIS LOVE: THE ENDLESS CHARACTER OF GOD'S LOVE

1. The everlasting love of God

Je 31:3 (ESV) the LORD appeared to him from far away. *I have loved you with an everlasting love;* therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

- A. Have you ever considered the eternity of Christ's love towards you and towards all the saints?
- B. This love began in eternity past it's what the great saints referred to as the Covenant of Redemption
 - 1). The fall of man was foreseen before the world was created – before man was created
 - 2). At that time an agreement was entered into between the Father and the Son
 - 3). A rescue plan was devised The Father covenanted with the Son
The Son would come – would die as a substitute

See this in: 1 Pet 1:19-20 (NIV) but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. (20) *He was chosen before the creation of the world,* but was revealed in these last times for your sake.

- a). It was all set up – here was divine love in motion

- b). The Father and the Son planning how we would be rescued in eternity past
- 4). The plan was chosen – the Savior chosen
Then the Bible tells us there was other choices made – who would be adopted into God's family
Eph 1:4–5 (ESV) even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁽⁵⁾ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,
- 5). At that point our names were written into the book of life
Re 13:8 (ESV) and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written *before the foundation of the world* in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.
Re 17:8 (ESV) The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life *from the foundation of the world* will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come.

Thought: How long have you been loved?

- A. Go back – back – back – into eternity past and you were in his mind – written in his book
- 1). You were chosen to be adopted – your name was written in the Lamb's Book of Life
Christ covenanted with the Father to come get you!
The great plan driven by divine love was set into motion
- 2). Your Savior would come and draw you to himself
Jn 6:37 (ESV) All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.

Transition: But let's not stay stuck in the past

2. It began in eternity – it is active in the present

- A. How do I know that? Because God is immutable – why theology is important
Mal 3:6 (ESV) "For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed."
Heb 13:8 (ESV) Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.
- 1). He never changes – therefore His love is always the same – a constant
- 2). There are no interruptions – no stopping – no questioning if he should have chosen us

Objection: Yeah but you don't know the sins I've committed since I've been saved
Are you sure he doesn't regret making me his child?

- A. Listen: He chose you with full light – he knows exactly what you were going to do
- 1). Those things you're ashamed of – he knew you'd do that – nothing is hidden from his sight
- a). And he still chose you – still adopted you – with great delight
Eph 1:4-5 (NLT) Long ago, even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. (5) His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. *And this gave him great pleasure.*
- 2). The devil will tell you that God is sorry he chose you – The Bible won't ever agree
- B. The length of God's love is an unbroken line that goes on and on – no variables – only a constant
- 1). It doesn't start and cease – dip and peak - put you on probation – then start again
- 2). It doesn't stop even when we let go of God – it chases us down – pursues us
Mt 18:12–14 (ESV) What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ⁽¹³⁾ And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ⁽¹⁴⁾ So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

Reformation Study Bible: The concern for the one is not at the expense of the ninety-nine, but it indicates God's commitment to each disciple and His special concern for one straying or in

danger. God elects, seeks out, and preserves not only His church as a whole but also each individual within the church.

a). Jesus called himself the good shepherd

Jn 10:11 (ESV) I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

1a). He called himself the good shepherd – all would know what that meant
When a sheep went missing – he went looking
Until it was found and brought back to safety

b). The problem sheep were prone to wandering off

1a). How many of you have wandered off? Now you're BACK why?

2a). You were loved with an everlasting love that didn't give up on you

Transition: Turn to Luke 15 – what a story of everlasting love

3. The example of the prodigal son – what a story of unchanging love

A. The Son goes to a far off country – cashing out his inheritance - PARTY

1). He has disgraced his father - sold the family land entrusted to them by God

a). Runs out of money – eating pig food – isolated

2). This is a picture of God's love – doing what is necessary to bring him to his senses

B. Goes back to the Father's house – I think in great depression

See if you can hear the depression: Luke 15:18-19 (NIV) I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. (19) *I am no longer worthy to be called your son;* make me like one of your hired men.'

1). Hear the depression there? I've ruined everything – I'll never be treated like a Son again
I can only hope he will be able to muster up enough mercy to let me be a hired hand

C. He gets home – the father sees him at a distance – shows he was looking – longing for his return

Sees him and rushes to him – falls on his neck – covering him in kisses

Luke 15:21 (NIV) "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

1). The father's like – yeah, yeah, yeah.... He's not listening to any of that hired hand rubbish

2). He's too busy blessing his boy who has returned

Luke 15:22-23 (NIV) "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. (23) Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate.'

Thought 1: Notice what is missing – anger – grudges – bitterness

A. No - I'll let you back in but your on probation– one more slip up you're gone – I'm watching you

Every breath you take

Every move you make

Every bond you break

Every step you take

I'll be watching you

B. The good shepherd – Jesus – goes out to find you

The Father rejoices when you return

Luke 15:23-24 (NIV) ...Let's have a feast and celebrate. (24) For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

1). The Father restores him – Hired hand right! You're my son! I didn't stop loving you

Thought 2: Let's go back to our original verse we started this section with – in NKJV

A. We are going to apply this to this boy – how he was drawn back and restored

Look what everlasting love does: Jer 31:3 (NKJV) The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; *Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.*

- 1). He's speaking to Israel who has sinned
Because I love you with an everlasting love – I am not giving up on you
I am going to draw you back
 - a). Many times he does that through circumstances – prodigal son – life falls apart
But it is always loving – always to bless again

B. Notice why they are being drawn back

Jer 31:4-5 (NKJV) Again I will build you, and you shall be rebuilt, O virgin of Israel! You shall *again* be adorned with your tambourines, And shall go forth in the dances of those who rejoice. (5) You shall yet plant vines on the mountains of Samaria; The planters shall plant and eat them as ordinary food.

- 1). That is exactly what the Father did when the son came home!

4. How important to take time to think about love like this

A. Here is comfort – here is hope – hope for loved ones who have wandered off

- 1). Hope for people like us who don't always finish things – we start but stop
Here is why we won't do that with Christianity – God is in the equation
 - a). I am in the grip of everlasting love – here is my security
Ro 8:38–39 (ESV) For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ⁽³⁹⁾ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

B. I will make it because I've been chosen – adopted and I'm engaged

- 1). I have an engagement ring – He has put a ring on it – to guarantee I'll be with him
Eph 1:13–14 (ESV) In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ⁽¹⁴⁾ *who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it*, to the praise of his glory.
 - a). Guarantee – Arabon = used for engagement ring
 - b). I'm engaged – I will be at the Wedding supper of the Lamb
- 2). I'm spoken for – the devil and hell can't have me
 - a). I have a ring that guarantees he will come to take me to be with him
Me! With all my failures – weaknesses and inconsistencies
 - 1a). He will pursue me – turn me back – He will finish what he has started

Summary

1. The love that began in eternity past is active in the present

- A. I am never alone – He is always with me – always there to talk to – pour my heart out too
 - 1). I wake up in his grip – walk through the day in his grip – go to bed at night in his grip
 - 2). This is the solution for anxiety = 1 Peter - I am told to cast all my cares upon him
 - a). Why? Because he loves me – he cares for me – he wants to carry them
 - b). Matthew 6 – Don't worry about your necessities – Why?
Because my Father wants to provide – has promised to provide

2. The love that is active in the present will carry on into eternity

- A. The love that was wide enough to sweep me into the family
Is long enough to keep me for all eternity – it is everlasting
 - 1). Here is my future hope – I will be with God

COMMUNION

1. We celebrate a love that was wide enough to reach even us And strong enough to keep even us

A. One day if you know Christ - you will be standing there with this multitude

2. Revelation tells us we will be praising him for his shed blood

A. We will see him as the Lamb who was slain – see the marks of the cross

1). We'll see what it took to get us into heaven – the high cost of love

2). We will be experiencing the strong grip of love – everlasting love

B. That is the future – this morning we want to honor our Lord for his past work

1). That decision he made with the Father to come to earth to hang on a cross

a). Allowing every sin we ever committed to be placed upon him

C. That past event that has present results

1). Today I know his love – today I walk with a God who will never leave me nor forsake me

2). Today I enjoy his presence

3. Let's have the ushers pass out the elements

III. THE DEPTH OF HIS LOVE

1. This is amazing – we see that depth in Philippians 2 – what he did

Php 2:5–8 (ESV) Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁽⁶⁾ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁽⁷⁾ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁽⁸⁾ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

A. In eternity our Lord was in the form – had the very nature of God – He was God!

B. But notice what he says

In eternity our Lord was 'in the form of God'. He was God the Son in the bosom of the Father from all eternity. But the Apostle tells us that 'He thought it not robbery to be equal with God'. That means that He did not regard His equality with God as a prize to be held on to, to be held on to at all costs. Rather He humbled Himself, He divested Himself of those signs of His eternal glory. And He came into this world of sin and shame in the likeness of man, in the form of a man.

This is entirely beyond understanding; as the Apostle says, it is 'the love of Christ which passeth knowledge'. These are facts. He deliberately did not hold on to what He had a right to hold on to, but rather humbled Himself, and entered into the Virgin's womb, and took unto himself of human nature, and came and lived as a man in this world. Recall what we are told about the poverty and the lowliness of the home into which He was born. Recall what happened to Him while He was in this world, how He performed a menial task; He who was equal with the Father, the Son of God eternal.

Next consider what He suffered at the hands of men, the misunderstanding, the hatred, the malice and the spite. Think of His suffering from weariness and hunger and thirst. Think of men laying cruel hands upon Him, arresting Him and trying

Him, mocking Him and jeering at Him, spitting in His most holy face. Think of cruel men condemning Him to death and scourging Him. Look at Him staggering under the weight of the heavy cross on His way to Golgotha. Look at Him nailed upon the tree, and listen to His expressions of agony at the thirst He endured and the pain He suffered. Think of the terrible moment when our sins were laid upon Him. He even lost sight of the face of His Father for the one and only time, and gave up the ghost and died, and was buried and laid in a grave. He, the Author of life, the Creator of everything, lies dead in a grave. Why did He do all this? The astounding answer is, because of His love for you and me; because He loved us. Such is the depth of His love! There is no other explanation.

His love shows yet greater and deeper when we remember that there was nothing in us to call forth such love. 'All we like sheep have gone astray'. We all have 'come short of the glory of God'. In our natural state we all were hateful and hopeless creatures. That we may have some true conception of our actual state and condition, and the depth of His love, let us turn to what Paul tells us about the condition of mankind until the grace of God in Christ laid hold upon us. We find it in the third chapter of his Epistle to the Romans, where we read, 'There is none righteous, no, not one: there is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongue they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: their feet are swift to shed blood: destruction and misery are in their ways: and the way of peace have they not known: there is no fear of God before their eyes. Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God' (vv. [10-19](#)). It was for such people that Christ came, enduring the Cross and despising the shame. The Apostle makes the same point in the fifth chapter of the Epistle to the Romans. Our Lord had said, 'Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends'; but says Paul, 'God commendeth His love toward us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us' and 'If, when we were enemies, we were reconciled unto God by the death of His Son ...' He did all this for sinners, for His enemies, for those who were vile and full of sin and who had nothing to commend them. That is the measure of the depth of His love. He came from heaven, He went down to the depths and rose again for such people. It is only as we meditate upon these things and realize their truth that we begin to know something about His love.

* * *

That brings us, in turn, to the *height* of His love. By this dimension the Apostle expresses God's ultimate and final purpose for us. Or we may say that this is the way in which he describes the height to which God proposes to raise us. Most of us tend to think of salvation only in terms of forgiveness, as if the love of Christ only purchases for us the forgiveness of our sins. Anyone who stops at that has clearly never known anything about the height of the love of Christ. Something of this height is seen in the fact that He died not only that we might be forgiven; He died to make us good. He died not only that our sins might be blotted out, but also that we might be given a new birth; not merely to save us from punishment, but also that we might be made children of God, sons of God, heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ. Such is His purpose for us, and all He did had that end in view. Furthermore, having given us this new birth, this new principle of life, He causes to dwell in us the same Holy Spirit that was in Himself. 'God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto Him', we are told ([John 3:34](#)). He gives the same Spirit by measure to us. That is the height of His love to us.

But, as the Apostle has already been reminding these Ephesians, His love to us is so great that He has actually joined us to Himself. We are united with Christ, He has made us part of Himself, of His own body. That is why we were 'quickened with Him' and 'raised with Him' and are 'seated in the heavenly places' with Him. In the fifth chapter of the Epistle he goes on to say: 'We are members of his body, of his flesh and of his bones'. It is His love that has done that for us. But we read in the Epistle to the Philippians that He is not only saving us in a spiritual sense, He is even going to save our bodies. He purposes to redeem us entirely, so we look for the coming from heaven of the Saviour, 'who shall change our vile body that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself' ([3:20-21](#)). Have we realized that Christ will not be satisfied until our very body is glorified as His own body was glorified?

We must go even beyond that, and remember how in His last prayer on earth to His Father, He prayed these words, 'Father, I will that they also whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am, that they may behold my glory' ([John 17:24](#)). Our Lord's love toward us knows no bounds; His desire for us is that we should be with Him and see something of that glory which He has shared with the Father from all eternity. He is not satisfied with purchasing our forgiveness and delivering us from the pollution of this sinful world, He wants us to be there with Him in the glory and to spend our eternity there.

The Apostle John in his first Epistle, describing this height, says: '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. 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' ([3:1-2](#)). A lover always desires that the object of his love should share all his privileges and blessings and enjoyments, and so our Lord desires that we should enjoy something of His eternal glory. He will not be satisfied until, as the Apostle says in the fifth chapter of this Epistle, We shall be 'a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish' (v. [27](#)). This is His ambition for the Church and for all whom He loves. We shall be glorified in spirit, in soul, and in body: there will be no fault, no blemish, no wrinkle.

We shall be perfect and entire and filled with 'all the fulness of God'. The final word is, 'and so shall we ever be with the Lord' ([1 Thess 4:17](#)).

Thus we have tried feebly to catch a glimpse of the love of Christ to us. Have you been feeling sorry for yourself, and somewhat lethargic in a spiritual sense? Have you been regarding worship and prayer as tasks? Have you allowed the world the flesh or the devil to defeat you and to depress you? The one antidote to that is to meditate upon and to contemplate this love of Christ. Have you realized its breadth, its length, its depth, its height? Have you realized who and what you are as a Christian? Have you realized that Jesus is 'the Lover of your soul', that He has set His affection upon you? Have you realized the height of His ambition for you? 'Child of God, shouldst thou repine'? Are we but to shuffle through this world? We should rather respond to John Cennick's exhortation:

*Children of the heavenly King,
As ye journey, sweetly sing;
Sing your Saviour's worthy praise,
Glorious in His works and ways.*

One great cause of the present condition of the Church is that we do not know Christ's love to us. We spend out time with petty things, and in fussy activities and discussions. Were we to be full of this love and of the knowledge of this love we would be entirely transformed. It is this knowledge that makes us mighty. That is why the Apostle prayed without ceasing that these Ephesians might 'with all saints comprehend what is the breadth and length and the depth and the height, and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge'. Oh that we might know it, and grow in it and rejoice in it. Let us follow Cennick as he continues in his hymn:

*Shout, ye little flock, and blest,
You on Jesus' throne shall rest;
There your seat is now prepared,
There your kingdom and reward.*

*Lift your eyes, ye sons of light,
Zion's city is in sight;
There our endless home shall be,
There our Lord we soon shall see.*

*Fear not, brethren; joyful stand
On the borders of your land;
Christ your Lord, the Father's Son,
Bids you undismayed go on.*

And then let us join Cennick in saying—

*Lord, obediently we go,
Gladly leaving all below;
Only Thou our Leader be,
And we still will follow Thee.*

'God so loved that he gave...!' and the giving with Calvary at its heart, was not a trickle but a torrent.

Paul S. Rees

Divine love is no abstract theory; it is a living Person.

Harry Foster

I know of no truth in the whole Bible that ought to come home to us with such power and tenderness as that of the love of God.

D. L. Moody

Our total welfare is the constant concern of God's loving heart.

W. J. C. White

We must see our circumstances through God's love instead of, as we are prone to do, seeing God's love through our circumstances.

Jerry Bridges

Though our feelings for (God) come and go, his love for us does not. It is not wearied by our sins, or our indifference; and, therefore, it is quite relentless in its determination that we shall be cured of those sins, at whatever cost to us, at whatever cost to him.

C. S. Lewis

Nothing binds me to my Lord like a strong belief in his changeless love.

C. H. Spurgeon

Everyday we may see some new thing in Christ. His love has neither brim nor bottom.

Samuel Rutherford

There is no higher priority in the believer's life than to delight himself in the love of Christ.

Maurice Roberts