

"WEEKLY WISDOM"
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For The Week of 03.01.10

"THE POWER OF LOVE"

Rom. 5:8 But God shows *and* clearly proves His [own] love for us by the fact that while we were still sinners, Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One) died for us. AMP

The year is 1985 and a very popular movie was just released that later spawned sequels that did quite well. The movie was "Back To The Future". The reason I bring this up is because one of the things I remember most about that movie was a song that Huey Lewis and the News had done that was in the movie. The name of the song, you guessed it, "The Power of Love". Today I am not that big on movies because the content is not usually something I desire to see.

I had just gotten saved in 1985, but when I thought of my title for this weeks article that song came to mind. I then looked up the lyrics not knowing what all was actually said in the song. I was rather surprised by some of the words knowing that Huey Lewis was likely not thinking of the love of God that I am referring to, but yet some of the words were interesting. Take a look for example at a part of the third chorus of the song.

It don't take money and it don't take fame
Don't need no credit card to ride this train
Tougher than diamonds and stronger than steel
You won't feel nothin' till you feel
You feel the power, just the power of love
That's the power, that's the power of love

No amount of money or fame, nor credit or what it considered to be so valuable by man can purchase the love of God. It is not for sale. But one thing is absolutely true if you ever experience God's love, which is experiencing God because He is love, there is nothing that can take its place. In his song Huey Lewis even talks about that with a little help from above you can feel the power of love, and it might just save your life. I can tell you it will save your life. So God's love cannot be purchased with money, nor can it be experienced based on our status in life. It can only be experienced by yielding ourselves to Him. It is a power that will change your life, continually.

I have chosen the Amplified version of our foundation verse this week from Romans 5:8. God has clearly proven His love for us by sending Jesus Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. This is such a

common thought in Christianity that I honestly do not think most Christians have ever really gotten the full impact of how the death of Christ has demonstrated the love God has for mankind. For example, anyone who actually lived through hurricane Katrina today is still very much affected by what happened whenever someone talks about it. But for those who did not go through it to most Americans today it is simply an event that happened years ago.

This is what is also true of the crucifixion of Christ. None of us were there to see the devastating pain that Jesus went through while being beaten beyond recognition the Bible says at the whipping post, to say nothing of the beating at the hands of the Roman soldiers in private as well. We were not there to see the blood running down from His brow because of a thorn of crowns that was smashed onto His head. We did not see the flesh of His body torn and ripped from the torture of the scourging He endured. Nor were we there when they raised the hammer that sounded forth with a dulling and nullifying effect as it made contact with the spikes that were nailed through His hands and feet as blood poured forth.

None of us were present to see that cross raised and dropped into place thus hearing the sound of flesh tearing as they raised up the cross. We did not then watch for six hours as our Savior suffered with indescribable pain hanging on that cross to pay the price for our sin. The cross alone does not account as well for Jesus Himself going into hell for us, which is described as a place where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. You see for many believers it is simply an event in history that happened, but without fully seeing the impact of what was the most important event in all the history of the world, we will never be able this side of heaven to experience the true power of God's love for us. All that Jesus went through was a literal demonstration of a Father's love for His children. Yet most don't really know about this love.

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

Why is this so important? Because if God's love has never really been made known to us then we won't really get to know God, for God is love. Many of the things people go through today that God had nothing to do with He gets credit for when they refer to something they say God allowed, that had to do with things that happened in their life that were not good, but God allows it to happen. The devil comes to kill, steal, and destroy, Jesus came as a demonstration of God's love to bring forth life not destruction. This lack of understanding of the incredible love that God has shown us is keeping many from walking in all that Christ paid for. As this scripture in 1 John points out when we live in fear we do so because we don't have understanding of the perfect love of God, God's love that was revealed through what Christ has done for us.

Remember, He had never sinned but took our sin upon Himself. He knew neither sickness nor disease, He bore ours for us. Yet today I hear of ministers who pastor large congregations who tell their churches that God has allowed them or others to suffer with sickness or disease for His glory. God gets no glory for anyone suffering with the very thing that Jesus bore to free you from. This is very aggravating to me because of the simple fact that these people don't see nor understand the incredible, indescribable love that God has for us. Do we have a picture of that love? Yes we do. It is Jesus suffering in our place so that we don't have to suffer.

Gal. 5:6 ...what matters is faith working through love.

There is great power released through the love of God because it is through love that faith goes into operation. This implies two things. We do need to walk in love for our faith to work, but we must also understand God's love for us for our faith to be released in Him. It gets pretty difficult to put faith in a God who doesn't appear to love you because He allows and causes many of the troubles you go through. It stands to reason that if you don't realize how much God loves you how hard is it to put faith in Him? The devil knows this all too well, and through ignorance on our part of what had to be very difficult to watch for those who stood their looking on 2,000 years ago, yet something that painted a picture of the love God has for us, we have failed to see how much He loves us.

1 John 4:10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

1 John 4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

God's love is a love that does not base its actions on what someone else has or has not done, but it is shown no matter what others do. Jesus' took our punishment. The word propitiation means to take the wrath and punishment of God that we deserved. Yet again there are far too many people who think God is mad at them and Jesus bore God's anger and punishment. We have a promise that God will not be angry with those who receive His redeeming work.

I am passionate about this issue because I also know that if we can truly get a revelation of God's love for us it will empower us to change. We will begin to love each other the same way God loves us. How different it would be for husbands and wives, moms and dads, and churches to walk in the love of God. What a powerful impact we would then have on the world. It would be impossible for us to go about our lives without having a passion for those who don't know God and reaching out to them to touch their lives. We would find out the true meaning of what life is all about, and people would begin to see their faith in God work like it was

intended. I will leave you with something that God pointed out to me while looking at John 3:16 recently. It related to the numbers of that verse of scripture. This is what He showed me: 3 nails, 1 Savior, 6 hours on the cross to fulfill all that was needed for mankind. Just as God worked six days and then rested, Jesus did the work needed for us, six hours on the cross, so we could enter God's rest.