

January 16 2022 am

God Loves You - No Matter What

God Loves You - Always Has...Always Will Part 1

John 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.*

Hymn – The Love of God

The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell;
It goes beyond the highest star,
And reaches to the lowest hell;
Could we with ink the ocean fill,
And were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill,
And every man a scribe by trade;
To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,
Tho stretched from sky to sky.

(Words by Frederick Lehman, 1917)

God's Love...

Unreasonable

Humanly speaking – that is...His love is beyond human reason... Isaiah 55:8,9... ⁸ *“For My thoughts are not*

your thoughts, and your ways are not My ways.”

[This is] the LORD's declaration. ⁹ “For as heaven is higher than earth, so My ways are higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.

Romans 5:6-8... ⁶ *For while we were still helpless, at the appointed moment, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For rarely will someone die for a just person—though for a good person perhaps someone might even dare to die. ⁸ But God proves His own love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us!*

Unending

Jeremiah 31:3... *the LORD appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore, I have continued to extend faithful love to you.*

J. I Packer states --“What matters supremely ...is not...the fact that I know God, but that He Knows ME. I am engraved on the palms of His hands. I am never out of His mind. I know Him because He first knew me and continues to know me...There is never a moment when His eye s off me, and no moment, therefore, when His care falters. There is unspeakable comfort in knowing that God is constantly taking knowledge of me in love and watching over me for my good”

Psalms 139:7-12... ⁷ *Where can I go to escape Your Spirit? Where can I flee from Your presence? ⁸ If I go up to heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, You are there. ⁹ If I live at the eastern horizon [or] settle at the western limits,¹⁰ even there Your hand will lead me; Your right hand will hold on to me.*

1 Chronicles 16:34... *Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His love endures forever.*

Unchanging

Malachi 3:6... do not fear Me," says the LORD of hosts.

⁶ "For I, the LORD, do not change;

James 1:17...Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

The old saying goes... "The one constant thing in life, is change". Our life is in a constant state of change, but one thing we can count on is the steadfastness of God and His love for us. The \$100 word for this in theological terms is IMMUTABILITY...*simply put an attribute that "God is unchanging in His character, will, and covenant promises."*

(The Immutability of God,

Theopedia: http://www.theopedia.com/Immutability_of_God)

What Immutability Means..."Imagine that I am on the couch and I want to mute the sound on my TV but there are no batteries in the remote control. It is impossible for me to mute the TV's sound with a remote control that has no batteries. That gives us an idea, although it is a poor example, of how it is impossible to mute God's purpose.

We are human and to try and mute what God says in His Word or to thwart the divine will, plans, and purposes of God is a task that is destined to fail. Just as no human can prevent the sun from rising, no human effort can stop what God has planned or is doing at present. God is immutable and that is what the Word of God says. God has no need to change for He is complete and perfect in Himself and has no need of anything. The Covenantal name that He gave to Moses to tell the people of Israel just Who God was is this: I AM that I AM or I AM the self-existent One".

(<https://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/gods-unchanging-nature-the-immutability-of-god/#ixzz7HbSMhZ63>)

This attribute of God's love gives us, using a series of old hymn titles a...We have a "Blessed Assurance", a "Firm Foundation" that "Jesus Loves Me This I Know" with a "Love That Will Not Let Me Go".

Unconditional

Henri Nouwen.. "The world says: Yes, I love you IF you are good looking, and wealthy. I love you IF you have a good education, a good job, and good connections. I love you IF you produce much, sell much, and buy much. There are endless IF'S hidden in the world's love. These IF'S enslave us, since it impossible to respond adequately to all of them. The world's love is and always will be conditional. As long as we look for our true selves in the world of conditional love, we will remain 'hooked' to the world, trying, failing, and trying again. It is a world that fosters addictions because what it offers cannot satisfy the deepest cravings of the heart"

Luke 15... ¹¹ *He also said: "A man had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate I have coming to me.' So he distributed the assets to them. ¹³ Not many days later, the younger son gathered together all he had and traveled to a distant country, where he squandered his estate in foolish living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he had nothing. ¹⁵ Then he went to work for one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to eat his fill from the carob pods the pigs were eating, but no one would give him any. ¹⁷ When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have more than enough food, and here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I'll get up, go to my father, and say to him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and*

in your sight. ¹⁹ I'm no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired hands.'

²⁰ So he got up and went to his father. But while the son was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion. He ran, threw his arms around his neck, and kissed him. ²¹ The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. I'm no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² "But the father told his slaves, 'Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Then bring the fattened calf and slaughter it, and let's celebrate with a feast, ²⁴ because this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' So they began to celebrate. ²⁵ "Now his older son was in the field; as he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he summoned one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷ 'Your brother is here,' he told him, 'and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ "Then he became angry and didn't want to go in. So his father came out and pleaded with him.

²⁹ But he replied to his father, 'Look, I have been slaving many years for you, and I have never disobeyed your orders, yet you never gave me a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you slaughtered the fattened calf for him.' ³¹ " 'Son, he said to him, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'

No Matter What – I Love You

"Longing to leave her poor Brazilian neighborhood, Christina wanted to see the world. Discontent with a home having only a pallet on the floor, a washbasin, and a wood-burning stove, she dreamed of a better life in the city. One morning she slipped away, breaking her mother's heart. Knowing what life on the streets would be like for her young, attractive daughter, Maria hurriedly packed to go find her. On her way to the bus stop she entered a drugstore to get one last thing. Pictures. She sat in the photograph booth, closed the curtain, and spent all she could on pictures of herself. With her purse full of small black-and-white photos, she boarded the next bus to Rio de Janeiro. Maria knew Christina had no way of earning money. She also knew that her daughter was too stubborn to give up. When pride meets hunger, a human will do things that were before unthinkable. Knowing this, Maria began her search. Bars, hotels, nightclubs, any place with the reputation for street walkers or prostitutes. She went to them all. And at each place she left her picture - taped on a bathroom mirror, tacked to a hotel bulletin board, fastened to a corner phone booth. And on the back of each photo she wrote a note. It wasn't too long before both the money and the pictures ran out, and Maria had to go home. The weary mother wept as the bus began its long journey back to her small village. It was a few weeks later that young Christina descended the hotel stairs. Her young face was tired. Her brown eyes no longer danced with youth, but spoke of pain and fear. Her laughter was broken. Her dream had become a nightmare.

A thousand times over she had longed to trade these countless beds for her secure pallet. Yet the little village was, in many ways, too far away. As she reached the bottom of the stairs, her eyes noticed a familiar face. She looked again, and there on the lobby mirror was a small picture of her mother. Christina's eyes burned and her throat tightened as she walked across the room and removed the small photo. Written on the back was this compelling invitation. 'Whatever you have done, whatever you have become, it doesn't matter. Please come home.' She did."

SOURCE: Max Lucado, No Wonder They Call Him the Savior, pp. 158-159. Contributed by Joel Smith.

Solo "Hurry Home"

Writer- Zane Williams
Publisher: Downtown Music Publishing

Solo "Hurry Home"

He's been sitting by the phone since she left
But it's time for work and he just can't be late
So he grabs his old guitar And he plays a couple bars
on the machine And then he softly sings

It doesn't matter what you've done, I still love you
It doesn't matter where you've been, you can still
come home And honey if it's you, we've got a lot
of making up to do And I can't hug you on the
phone, so hurry home

Well the message light was blinking when he got
back. It was an old friend calling cause he just heard
the news. He says Man I hope you find her
If I see her I'll remind her that her dad is worried
And wantin' her to know

(Chorus)

Well the days dragged by without a word from her
And it looked like she might not be coming back
People said man don't you think it's time to take that
old message off.

He said no, you never know when she might call....
She was just outside a bar in New York City
Her so-called friends had left her all alone
She was scared he wouldn't want her
But she dialed up that old number and let it ring
And then she heard him sing **(Chorus)** He walked
in just in time to hear her say - Dad, I'm on my way