Behold What Manner of Love

 A Brief Commentary

 by

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 Behold what manner of love

*1 John 3:1-3 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. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.*

**Let us Behold! The love of God to us:**

BEHOLD----(View with attention, with mind as well as eyes) Look upon---not just with the eyes, but **with our soul, and spirit**. God gave us body, soul and spirit that we might be a triune being able to worship him.

Lets BEHOLD HIM, Behold His love:

**God given love.** No strings attached. God’s love is not given because of something good in the recipients, not because of something we have done, but rather because God has chosen to place His love on us. How can we understand the love of God? We, who are saved can at least partially understand it, but we may never understand the full depths of God’s love, or why He placed His love on us.

*1 John 4:7,8 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.* ***He that loveth******not knoweth not******God;*** *for God is love.*

*Romans 8:33-39* ***Who*** *shall lay any thing to the charge of* ***God's elect****? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.* ***Who shall separate us from the love of Christ****? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.* ***Nay****, in all these things we are more than conquerors* ***through him that loved us.*** *For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is* ***in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

Note: verse 39, the love of God is **“**In Christ Jesus our Lord.” We must be “in Christ” to enjoy the benefit of God’s love. We must be born again Christians.

*John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

*1Peter 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*

Behold what manner of love The Father hath bestowed ( given bountifully) upon us. How did we get it, did we earn it? We did not merit it, we did not deserve it. God placed His love on those whom He chose to.

*1 John 4:19: We love him, because he first loved us.*

Do you Love Him? Are you loved of Him?

*John 13:1 Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved* ***his own*** *which were in the world,* *he loved them unto the end.*

Who are***“His Own”?***They are ***“*God’s elect”** *Romans 8:33* It is a precious thing to be **Chosen of God, part of His elect** Are you saved? Are you part of God’s elect?God determines who are His.

*Matthew 25:31-33 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.*

The Apostle Paul said**:**

*1Corinthians 3:6 I have planted, Apollos watered;* ***but God gave the increase.***

Behold what manner of **love:**

*John 13:1 Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father,* ***having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.***

*“Having loved His own”--*God’s love is for His own. The saved ones. **His elect**. However, the question often asked is, if His love is only for the saved ones, what about John 3:16 *“Whosoever Believeth”?* The answer is simple, no one can believe unless God The Holy Spirit convicts them?

*John 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day*.

There is some mercy for unsaved, but His love is for His chosen.

*Matthew 5:44,45 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven:* ***for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.***

*Romans 9:18 Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth*

Behold His love:

*1 John 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.*

BEHOLD what manner of love:

*John 4:9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.*

God The Father Loves The Son, therefore, He loves those who belong to The Son. Those who have put their trust in Christ.

BEHOLD His love.

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

While we were still dirty rotten sinners hopelessly lost, He placed His love on us, **even before the world began.**

Wait a minute! Didn’t I say God’s love was only for the believers? **YES,** However, when He places His love on us He convicts us and brings us to salvation.

*Proverbs 16:1 The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the LORD.*

BEHOLD what manner of love the Father hath bestowed uponus:

Not only has God saved us but He has adopted us into His family

*Romans 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****.*

BEHOLD what manner of love:

The unsaved may hate you because they hate Christ. Those you have to work and associate with may show no love, but if you are saved you are loved. God Loves you. It is popular to see signs and bumper stickers that say “God loves you” but that is true only if you belong to Him, if you are a true believer.

*John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and* ***he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.***

*1 John 4:10,11 Herein is love,* ***not that we loved God****, but that* ***he loved us****, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.*

We quoted verse 10 earlier. But notice **before** we loved **Him**, **He loved us.** Before We loved Him, He died for us. He became a **propitiation** for our sins. That is, He took our punishment for us.

We were not under probation to see if we would turn out alright. We were not on trial. We were under condemnation, already guilty, sentenced, to death, under God’s wrath, until He placed His love on us.

BEHOLD what manner of love:

We only need to recognize that we are guilty sinners, condemned sinners, who must turn to Christ **from** our sin, (repentance) and ask His mercy. He has promised He will save us.

Repentance is not turning over a new leaf. Not trying to do better next time. Repentance is admitting our hopelessness, acknowledging that we deserve the sentence of condemnation that GOD has **justly** place on us, accepting the responsibility for our sin, and the throwing of ourselves on His mercy, unconditional surrender to Him**.**

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

BEHOLD What manner of Love The Father hath bestowed upon us that **we should be called the sons of God.**

God reaches down to us who have fallen so low that we are **helpless** in our sins. **(DEAD in SIN**) He picks us up from that mire of sin, and places us (above even the angels) into Hisown Family.

**BEHOLD what MANNER of LOVE THE FATHER hath BESTOWED upon US that WE should be CALLED the sons of GOD.**