

**“THE WONDER OF WONDERS”
JOHN 3:16**

ALL OF US WANT AND NEED TO BE LOVED. THERE IS FAR TOO MUCH HATE AND DISTRUST IN THIS OLD WORLD. IT IS THEREFORE COMFORTING AND EXCITING TO KNOW THAT OUR CREATOR LOVES US WITH THE HIGHEST FORM OF LOVE, AND ON TOP OF THAT, IT IS A FREE GIFT! WE WOULD BE FOOLISH TO REJECT SUCH A FREE GIFT OF LOVE.

I. THE LOVE OF GOD IS UNCONDITIONAL

“FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD”. THE GREEK WORD FOR “WORLD” IS DEFINED AS “THE UNGODLY MULTITUDE; THE WHOLE MASS OF HUMANITY ALIENATED FROM GOD, AND THEREFORE HOSTILE TO THE CAUSE OF CHRIST.” THIS IS THE WORLD THAT GOD LOVED, THE UNLOVABLE WORLD. ONLY CHRISTIANITY DARES TO PROCLAIM THAT GOD’S LOVE IS UNCONDITIONAL, A LOVE WHICH IS CALLED “GRACE.” THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN DO TO MAKE GOD LOVE US MORE, AND THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN DO TO MAKE HIM LOVE US LESS.

II. THE LOVE OF GOD IS SACRIFICIAL

“THAT HE GAVE”. GOD LOVES US SO MUCH THAT HE GAVE. THIS IS NOT SOME MERE SENTIMENTAL FEELING, IT IS A LOVE WHICH REQUIRES ACTION. IT IS A LOVE WHICH COSTS SOMETHING. GOD IS GIVING US SOMETHING WHICH IS COSTLY IN ORDER TO SATISFY HIS LOVE FOR US.

III. THE LOVE OF GOD IS VALUABLE

“HIS ONLY.” WE ALSO SEE THE VALUE OF THE GIFT OF HIS LOVE. NOT ONLY WAS GOD OUR FATHER WILLING TO GIVE US A COSTLY GIFT, BUT WE SEE HE WAS WILLING TO GIVE US THE ONLY ONE HE HAD. GOD HAS MANY ANGELS, BUT HE ONLY HAS ONE SON! HE LOVED SO MUCH THAT HE WAS WILLING TO MAKE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE TO SATISFY HIS LOVE FOR US—HIS ONLY SON.

IV. THE LOVE OF GOD IS PERSONABLE

“SON”. GOD’S LOVE IS NOT SOME ABSTRACT PHILOSOPHY OR FORCE WE SPEAK OF—IT IS REAL AND IT IS PERSONABLE. HE CAME TO EARTH IN THE PERSON OF HIS SON JESUS CHRIST IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY HIMSELF WITH US IN EVERY WAY. WHEN WE SEE JESUS, THEN WE SEE GOD. HE CARES ABOUT EVERY DETAIL OF OUR LIVES.

V. THE LOVE OF GOD IS ACCESSIBLE

“THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM.” THE GREAT NEWS ABOUT GOD’S LOVE IS THAT IT IS NOT LIMITED TO A SELECT FEW. NOR IS IT DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN. IT IS ACCESSIBLE TO “WHOSOEVER BELIEVES.” NOTHING COULD BE EASIER THAN THAT! GOD THE FATHER, THE CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE, HAS COME DOWN TO OUR LEVEL. NOT IN THE SENSE THAT HE HAS LESSENED HIS HOLINESS OR LOWERED HIS STANDARDS, BUT ONLY IN THE SENSE THAT HE HAS MADE HIS GREAT LOVE FOR US ACCESSIBLE TO THE AVERAGE, ORDINARY, EVERYDAY PERSON LIKE YOU AND ME.

VI. THE LOVE OF GOD IS NONJUDGMENTAL

“SHOULD NOT PERISH.” GOD’S GOAL IN SENDING HIS SON WAS NOT TO CONDEMN US BUT TO SAVE US, TO RESCUE US FROM HELL AND ETERNAL SEPARATION FROM HIM. HOWEVER, THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT HE IS NOT A GOD OF JUDGMENT. THERE IS A DIFFERENCE IN JUDGING THE UNREPENTANT SINNER AND BEING JUDGMENTAL. BEING JUDGMENTAL MEANS HAVING A CRITICAL SPIRIT AND THEN BEING QUICK TO CONDEMN. GOD DOES NOT WANT ANY ONE TO “PERISH.”

Presented by Dr. Jimmy Hilton

**SOUTH POINT
BAPTIST CHURCH**

Finding God's Direction for Life



VII. THE LOVE OF GOD IS BENEFICIAL

“BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.” THE SOUL IS IMMORTAL; IT GOES ON LIVING BEYOND LIFE ON THIS EARTH. “ETERNAL LIFE” MEANS THAT WE CAN LIVE IN HEAVEN—THE MOST BEAUTIFUL, THE MOST WONDERFUL PLACE IMAGINABLE. AND WE WILL BE WITH THE LORD FOREVER—WE WILL BE WITH THE ONE WHO LOVES US THE MOST! FOREVER!

GOD LOVES YOU. WILL YOU LOVE HIM BACK?