

02122023 Valentine I am convinced I could spend every Sunday morning for the rest of my life sharing with you in every conceivable way I could...that God loves you...and still never adequately explain the scope of his love. But that is not really the hard part...the hardest concept for many people to grasp is the trusting of that truth. ..That God really does love you....

Fact number 1) God knew exactly what he was doing when he made you...there are no accidents or mistakes for God is infallible...incapable of making mistakes..

- Scripture tells us that God, being God, is incapable of lying

NLT Num. 23: 19 God is not a man, so he does not lie. He is not human, so he does not change his mind.

- **Which means he always speaks the truth.**
- **He is also immutable, unchangeable. He is the same, yesterday, today, and forever.**

NLT Mal. 3: 6 "I am the LORD, and I do not change.

- **If God always speaks the truth...and never changes, then so will be His Word, the truth and never changing.**

NLT Psa 19:7 The instructions of the LORD are perfect, reviving the soul. The decrees of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

⁸ The commandments of the LORD are right, bringing joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are clear, giving insight for living.

2) Since God is infallible incapable of making a mistake.. when he says He Loves You...He really does...

- **In fact He loved you before you were created And He chose you before you were made... determining our destiny...before we ever made one decision good or bad.**

NLT EPH 1:4 Even before he made the world, **God loved us and chose us in Christ** to be holy and without fault in his eyes.

- **And his love was so intense...he had already decided to take us into his family before you were made. And it made Him happy and he wanted to, because he loved us so much**

NLT Eph 1: 5 God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

- **And Jesus would be in the flesh our eldest brother..**

NLT Romans 8: 29 For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn^[n] among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory.

How did he do this? *1JN 4: 10* This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an **atonement sacrifice** for our sins.

- **This is love...God the Father says...None of you were born with a deep love of me....in fact rejection of me is just one of the things you have done wrong...**
- **But That is ok I love you...and my love came to you...in human form...Jesus and he took away all that is wrong with you....because I love you...**
- **the emphasis is upon God, The reconciling is the work of God bringing God's creation back to God....**

- **This was accomplished by Christ's atoning sacrifice to reconcile us to God...through forgiving our sin...**

NLT 2 Cor 5: 19 For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.

- **Second, this is the work of Jesus as man, it is the work of God as one of us, in which God makes our situation his own, rather than a work from the outside.**
- **So we are secure!! Sealed by the Holy Spirit**

NIV EPH 1: 13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

This is the Gospel... you are Christ Valentine!! it is the announcement, not about what we are to do for God, but about what he has done for us...He has come to rescue his people...

- **It is God the Holy spirit who proves the relationship and delivers us unto the Father and Son and into the Family...**

NLT Rom 8:16 For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children.

The word Gospel in Greek, was not an exclusively religious word. It simply means good news. When a Greek King would win a battle, he would send a "gospel carrier" around Greece to announce that he had won the battle, was in control again, and that the people were free! When that announcement was made the people were expected to believe it and live accordingly!!

- it was **God's the Fathers plan** to include you personally into his family...
- it was **God the son who provided the means**
- **it is GoD the Holy spirit who protects the deal** and delivers us unto the Father and Son and into the Family...

As a child in the family of God.... we have a great inheritance awaiting us that comes later, after this life is over.

NLT 1 Peter 1: ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,

- **but of an inheritance...being kept for us as children of the King!**

NLT 1 Cor 15: ⁵⁰ What I am saying, dear brothers and sisters, is that our physical bodies cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. These dying bodies cannot inherit what will last forever.

⁵¹ But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! ⁵² It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. ⁵³ For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.

Eternal life is needed to receive the inheritance...this is given to us... but we can add our own wealth to our inheritance!

NLT Matthew 6:20 ²⁰ Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal.

- **Service is the cash in heaven**

And Jesus Himself stands up for us against anyone or anything that tells us differently!!!

NLT Rom 8:31 What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? ³² Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? ³³ Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. ³⁴ Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.

³⁵ Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? ³⁶ (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") ³⁷ No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

³⁸ And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, ^[p] neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. ³⁹ No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is our Valentines gift...which means that our gift is what is His is ours!

End

- **Jesus describes himself as never lying...**

*NLT John 14:6 Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to **the** Father except through me.*

Romans 8:17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. **18** I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

**listen...God valentine card to us... the inside...most complete
Theology of the NT**

- **And our great valentine gift...we inherit all this with Jesus!!**

end

end

NLT Eph 2:4 But God is so rich in mercy, **and he loved us so much**, ⁵ that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!)

He loved you before you were made...How did he do this?

¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

- **suffering is for doing what is right is part and parcel of living on this earth...but in the completed Kingdom there is only glory... beauty/splendor /magnificence**
- **the plan born out of love the son provides the forgiveness and reconciliation**
- **and an eternal inheritance!!**

Now... Who doesn't like to know what they are going to inherit? So ...What is this inheritance... Lets take a minute to first look at the meaning of this word inheritance...

- While Jewish inheritance customs were linked to family blood lines, Greek and Roman laws also provided for the disbursing of family possessions through the adoption of an heir.
- The Scriptures transform the concept of inheritance to include the acquisition of spiritual blessings and promises from God. So to **inherit from blessings of God one must first be a child or member of the family** of God....
- **In the theological sense, to inherit means to "receive an irrevocable gift "with an emphasis on the special relationship between the benefactor and the recipients.**
- Unlike legal inheritance, the benefactor, God, does not die, yet he provides material and spiritual blessings for his people.
- **The concept of the believer's inheritance highlights the dignity of the family relationship of the believer in Christ. No higher position or greater wealth can an individual acquire than to become an heir of God through faith in Christ.**

Romans 8:15 the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

- **Jesus is our valentine ...His valentine card to us.... we are reconciled to God!**

1JN 4: 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

This is love...God loves us...

- **God the Father says...None of you were born with a deep love of me...in fact rejection of me is just one of the things you have done wrong...**
- **But That is ok I love you...and my love came to you...in human form...Jesus and he took away all that is wrong with you....because I love you...**
 - **This was accomplished by Christ's atoning sacrifice to reconcile us to God...through forgiving our sin...**
 - **in Scripture are the following two (closely related) verses:**

2 Cor 5:19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them

- **In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself**

*(Col 1:19-20)*¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

- **in Christ, God reconciling all things to himself.**
- **The beauty of this short statement is fourfold.**
- **First, the emphasis is upon God, The atonement is the work of God bringing God's creation back to God....**
- **Second, this is the work of God as man, as Jesus. it is the work of God as one of us, in which God makes our situation his own, rather than a work from the outside.**
- **Third, this is a work of reconciliation. One could say that God was in Christ, atoning (at-one-ing) all things to himself in Christ ...**
- **The final reason which makes this summary the best single statement in Scripture concerning the work of Christ is its comprehensive scope: *all things!* a comprehensive and indeed cosmic affirmation with no risk whatsoever of leaving anything out.**
- **Said another way:**
- **The triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, in whom the fullness of the divinity, was in Jesus Christ, the Messiah of Israel, is bringing all created things in heaven and earth to the fulfillment of their God-given purposes through reconciliation with God.**

This atoning sacrifice makes us children of God...which makes us co-heirs with Jesus...this is our Valentines gift...which means that our gift is what is His is ours!

Romans 8:17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. **18** I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

listen...God valentine card to us... the inside...most complete Theology of the NT

- **And our great valentine gift...we inherit all this with Jesus!!**

In Heb. 1:2, we learn that Christ has been "appointed heir of all things".

- **The saints as co-heirs will share in this inheritance,**

The believer's inheritance is described more specifically as eternal and joyful existence with God in his kingdom.... Believers are promised..

Isaiah 61 the scripture that Jesus used to describe his ministry.... takes us from bondage to freedom to Joy eternal...

Isaiah.61:1 The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,

- **that is suffering in this world...This is His valentines card for you!**

² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,³ and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.

And finally...that is why you were saved!

Titus 3: 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life

And in order to fully Receive our Valentines gift ...we also get a new and Resurrected body...

Jesus clarifies what the will of God is...

*JN 6:38 For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but **to do the will of him who sent me.** ³⁹ And **this is the will of him who sent me**, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁰ For my **Father's will** is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."*

- **The Father's will that Jesus came to do is... To keep all who look to the son and believes in him unto eternal life...belongs to the family and he will not lose one of them**
- **...not even allowing death to separate them...because he will raise them up, To become his children with new bodies...like our Lord Jesus**

*1 John 3:2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall **be like him**, for we shall see **him** as he is.*

Philippians 3:21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

- **And when he appears we shall resemble him with our new bodies...why? Were family!!**

- and they will be glorious...we cannot even grasp that Glory...

so what are we to do...until then? well Jesus is not going to lose anyone of us...so we better love us now, because we will see each other a lot in the future

one we love each other

*JN 13:34 "A new command I give you: Love **one another**. As I have loved you, so you must love **one another**."*

Two....as we journey toward our eternal destination..... the troubles, on our journey take on new meaning...our Trouble then become worth it!!

2CO 4: 16 Therefore we do not lose heart. (because of the difficulty of the journey) Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

- those troubles on the way to heaven are light (well worth it and can be carried) for the destination far outweighs the trouble along the way to it....
- and are achieving for us glory...they will bless us...

Three Keep our eyes fixed on the big picture..Eternity

18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

- You see the trouble on earth is totally mitigated because the joy of reaching our destination far outweighs the problems entailed in getting there.....
- there will always be something missing...this is not our home currently...in Chapter of 11 of Hebrews we are given a list of the greats of our faith...yet their lives were still incomplete....

*HEB 11: 13 All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, **admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth.***

- they realized this was not their home....Well what were they looking for?

*14 People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. 15 If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 Instead, they were longing for **a better country—a heavenly one**. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared **a city for them.***

- **By the way all descriptions of heaven in the Bible are of a physical nature!! Not some ghostly existence...notice right off... it is a country with a city...a location...a place...Apparently a PHYSICAL PLACE...**

HEB 11: 39 These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, 40 since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

- **they were commended for their faith...but life on earth lacked fulfillment Of God's promises? Why? Because his promises include all of us together with him...**
- **in fact it will only be when we are all together that we will be complete and fulfilled...and that will entail our final destination....as described in Revelation 21-22...the new heaven and the new earth....**

Rev 21: 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death'^[b] or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." 5 He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

Now that is a the best and eternal Valentines gift you could ever receive!

It comes straight from the Heart of God to us..

Love God, love our family, bless the world...

End

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God's valentine card to us..... what God thinks about you...

*1 John 4:9 This is how **God showed his love** among us(put in your name): He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.*

The word showed means manifested...became visible, tangible

- **God is Love and Love communicates**...it is not just verbal communication, it is active...Love is sacrificial and unselfish
- God's holy and righteous...ie light...(no hidden sin or motive) required Him to act... not only pronounce love act in accord with it
- **His act was to send his son...so that we might live through Him**
- **So godly love compels action on behalf the one loved.**

Our desperate need was for eternal life...so God motivated by love... addressing our need ...sent his Son

- This is love...God loves us...and he has a plan..
- God the Father says...None of you were born with a deep love of me....in fact rejection of me is just one of the things you have done wrong...
- But That is ok I love you...and my love came to you...in human form...Jesus and he took away all that is wrong with you....because I love you...
- so you ought to love others...the same way...forgive them...
- two things expressed in this valentine
- Love and forgiveness go together ...they are inseparable...

1John 4:10 **This is love:** not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

- This is Love...it does not wane....
- atone...the act by which God makes us at one with him again despite our sin...or breaking of the relationship
- sacrifice...it cost him...all forgiveness costs the forgiver...
- Much that passes for love in our day and age as well as in John's day...is love of self passed on as love of others...
- I love him because
- He/she treats me good
- Provides for me
- Protects me etc.

The problem with this type of love is that when the person fails to do those things for us that we love about them...we don't love them anymore.

But God's demonstrated love means that he holds out the opportunity to be forgiven our whole life, **at any point in time we can receive his forgiveness... because his love will not wane...**

***** **God choose you to be his valentine??...**

PH 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus:

EPH 1:2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- verses 3-14 are one sentence in the Greek...

EPH 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will-- ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, (blood exchange) the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. ⁹ And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment--to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

EPH 1:11 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.

- Now our Responsibility

¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory.

- The Holy Spirit seal...use Tape to Seal...
- it was God's the Fathers plan to include you personally into his family...
- it was God the son who provided the means
- it is Got the Holy spirit who protects the deal and delivers us unto the Father and Son and into the Family...

1. Jar...in Christ
2. Paper... HS in us
3. Tape ... sealed in him unto delivery to the Father....
4. to the Praise of his Glory...his glory is his love...shown in forgiveness..
5. the plan born out of love the son provides the forgiveness and reconciliation

6. if you are not sure you can be sure...if sure rest in that...

and God loves you.... so he will never break the command to love you....so that means he will always forgive us....there is no better Valentine than that....to us and there is no better valentine from us to others... end?

1 John 4:11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

- It is the outward demonstration of proof that God dwells in a person.
- It is sacrificial and unselfish.
- **We love like this not because we must but because we are compelled because His Spirit lives in us...**

It is important because, whatever our reputation in moral matters, we will never be free of the need of receiving forgiveness from God and from one another, and also of giving it to one another. In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus showed his recognition of this by including our request for God's forgiveness, and our offer of it to others, as part of our regular praying. **Without learning something of the meaning of forgiveness, we will never be able to form deep relationships.**

Do you realize...Your capacity to love is in direct correlation to the capacity to forgive...

Luke 7:47 Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven--for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little."

- A spiritual principle... little forgiveness...little love...great forgiveness...great love
- She knew what it meant to be a mess...so she could identify with the messy.
- She also knew what it meant of be forgiven.... Not being condemned any longer and the freedom it brought to her life...
- So to forgive others would bring freedom to tem...
- **Freedom to what?? Freedom to love and be around anyone...to longer less than but equal..**

It is interesting that the deeper our wounds the greater capacity to empathize with the pain of others followed by a deeper well of love toward God and others.....an understanding of the real human condition...

Why? Because all human relationships require ongoing forgiveness in order to thrive. Except one...our relationship with God...

- He never needs to be forgiven...for he neither wrongs anyone by commission of sin...by actions of wrong perpetrated against us
- Nor wrongs by the omission of sin.... By inaction of good toward us
- Though we may need to relinquish bitterness toward God for not acting as we believe he should have...not fulfilling our expectations of him...but the truth is he needs no forgiveness we simply do not see the complete picture of what is going on...

The one who never needs to be forgiven...is the source of forgiveness,,

- God's Mercy is based on his enormous capacity to love and to forgive.
- You see God's enormous capacity to forgive is based on his love for individuals....
- God knows of no undesirables.... Look at the lives of some of his greatest servants recorded in the Bible...

End?

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Moving on

*^{1 John 4 :12} No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, **God lives in us** and his love is made complete in us. ^{1JN 4:13} We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. ¹⁶ **And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.** God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.*

- The whole plan of Salvation is based on the premise of God's desire to live in us
- He is not satisfied simply to tell us He loves or even to show us that He loves us...

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