

GOD IS LOVE
1 JOHN 4:8

INTRODUCTION:

1. What is the greatest commandment? (Matt. 22.34-40)
2. Love is at the center of everything we do. [Read 1 John 4.8-11]

I. A DECLARATION

- A. **1 John 4.8:** “*God*”
1. God refers to Himself as the provider. (Gen. 15.1)
 2. God refers to Himself as the Lord. (Gen. 15.7)
 3. God refers to Himself as “*God Almighty*” (Gen. 17.1)
- B. **1 John 4.8:** “*God is*”
1. **Psalm 19.1:** “*The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.*”
 2. **Romans 1.20:** “*His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made*”
- C. **1 John 4.8:** “*God is love*”

II. AN EXPLANATION

- A. Out of love, God offers salvation.
1. **1 John 4.9:** “*God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.*”
 2. Do not remove God from salvation.
- B. Out of love, God offers propitiation.
1. **1 John 4.10:** “*He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*” Mercy, appeasement.
 2. We no longer face the wrath of God. (Rom. 5.9)

III. AN APPLICATION

- A. Out of love, we live to save others.
1. Spouses live to save each other. (1 Cor. 7.12,13,16)
 2. Parents live to save their children. (Prov. 23.13; Eph. 6.4)
 3. Brethren live to save each other. (Col. 3.12-14)
- B. Out of love, we put away our wrath. (Eph. 4.31-5.2)

CONCLUSION: The image of love is not the heart but the cross.

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST **MARCH 16, 2025**
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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

March 16, 2025

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:00 PM

WHEN WILL JESUS COME AGAIN?

It will be an amazing display. The heavens and earth will be on fire. All the buildings and man made structures will “*melt with fervent heat*” (2 Pet. 3.10). There will be a sound of a trumpet. And as we look up into the sky, we will see Jesus coming just as He promised (1 Thess. 4.16). We will begin to feel ourselves levitate as we rise up into the sky “*to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord*” (1 Thess. 4.17).

When will this take place? When will Jesus come again? Since the promise was made, men have been making predictions. Through the practice of eschatology, dates have been suggested which have come and gone. Some suggest that Jesus has already come, and we missed it. Others interpret the coming of Christ to be specific to the destruction of Jerusalem. The answer is simple. Nobody knows but God (Mark 13.32).

God has a specific day marked on His calendar (Acts 17.31). It is on that day that God will send Jesus, the dead will be resurrected, and all of humanity will stand before the throne of Jesus and talk and answer for the way they have lived their lives. (Matt. 25.31-46). Since no one knows the day of Judgment nor the day of their death, we must always be prepared (Matt. 24.44). If you are not right with God, don't wait lest the Lord comes when you are not ready.

CLP

JESUS THE PROPHET OF GOD

HEBREWS 1:1,2

INTRODUCTION:

1. A prophet is a spokesman for God. (Ex. 4.16-18; 7.1)
2. As a spokesman for God, Jesus communicates the message of God to His people. (Deut. 18.15,18; Acts 3.22)

I. A MESSAGE COMMUNICATED

- A. The Author of the message.
 1. **Hebrews 1.1,2:** “*God...spoke*”
 2. God spoke in times past. (Heb. 1.1; Gen. 3.9; Acts 7.35)
 3. God has spoken in these last days. (Heb. 1.2; Acts 2.17)
- B. The Agency of the message.
 1. **Hebrews 1.2:** “*has in these last days spoken to us by His Son.*” Through the indirect agency of Jesus.
 2. Jesus spoke as He was told to speak. (John 12.49)
 3. He delivered the message to His apostles. (John 16.12,13)
- C. The Audience of the message.
 1. **Hebrews 1.2:** “*spoken to us*”
 2. Contextually, this was a message to Christians suffering and finding it hard to remain faithful. (Heb. 3.6; 10.35)

II. THE MESSAGE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED

- A. Failing to listen to the message will lead to apostasy.
 1. We need to carefully listen to the message.
 - a) **Hebrews 2.1:** “*Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we we have heard.*”
 - b) How much time do you spend with your Bible?
 2. We need to obey the message.
 - a) **Hebrews 2.2:** “*every transgression and disobedience received a just reward*”
 - b) **Hebrews 2.3:** “*how shall we escape*”
- B. The message we need to carefully consider.
 1. It is a message about conversion. (Heb. 2.3)
 2. It is a message communicated by Jesus. (Heb. 2.3)
 - a) What did Jesus say about salvation? (Mark 16.16)
 - b) What did His apostle say about it? (Acts 10.43; 2.38)
 3. It is a message confirmed by others. (Heb. 2.3)

CONCLUSION: Where do you go to find direction that will teach you how to be saved? Only the message of Jesus.

DO YOU MEDITATE?

Meditation has become a popular practice and exercise in self-care. We are living during a time where there are constant distractions. Our phones are always notifying us. Social media posts are interrupting our day with reminders. With so many things competing for our attention, it is difficult to remain focused. Our attention spans have shrunk to nothing. Some have even pushed back against it by removing themselves from technology. One of the most popular recommendations to regain our focus is to meditate.

I'll be honest. I am not the kind to sit in the lotus position, hands face up on my knees, and meditate. But the Bible does teach us the value of meditation. However, the Bible concept of meditation is much different than the eastern Hindu practice so many are adopting today. In the Bible, meditation is synonymous with the idea of thinking. For example, Philippians 4.8 itemizes specific qualities and then says, “*meditate on these things.*” Some translations will read, “*think on these things.*” Actually, it goes a little further than giving thought to something. To meditate biblically is to literally, talk to yourself about something. Have you ever struggled to understand something and hashed it out in your mind? That's the concept of meditation.

Meditate on God. In Psalm 63.6, the psalmist writes, “*When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches.*” Before he fell asleep, David would spend some time thinking about God. In Psalm 8.3, he wrote how he considers “*Your heavens, the work of Your fingers.*” In Psalm 77.12, he wrote, “*I will also meditate on Your works.*” David meditated on God. What a great way to fall asleep at night thinking about God, His works, and being in awe of His creation. Think about the vastness of space, and the majestic mountains, and be in awe of “*His eternal power and Godhead*” (Rom. 1.20). Think about the way our bodies are designed and be amazed that “*I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works*” (Ps. 139.14).

Meditate on the Word of God. In Joshua 1.8, God commanded the children of Israel to “*meditate*” on the Book of the Law “*day and night.*” David wrote that he “*will meditate on Your precepts, and contemplate Your ways*” (Ps. 119.15). The very first psalm describes the godly and writes, “*his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night*” (Ps. 1.2). David meditated on the word of God. What a great way to wake up in the morning not just reading your Bible but thinking about it and reflecting on what it means to your life.

Meditation, thinking about God and His word, is encouraged and even commanded in the Bible. Set aside your phone. Turn off your notifications. Turn off the television. Give some thought to God, and contemplate the meaning of your Bible.