NO GREATER LOVE

John 3:16-17—“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.” (New King James Version)

During the time Martin Luther was having the Bible printed in the German language, a printer’s daughter encountered God’s love in an amazing way. No one had taught or told her of His great love. Toward Him she felt no emotion, save only fear. One day she gathered pieces of fallen Scripture from the floor near her father’s printing press. On one piece were the words “For God so loved the world that He gave...” The rest of the verse had not yet been printed. Still, what she saw was enough to move her. The thought that God would give anything moved her from fear to joy. Her mother noted the change in her attitude and asked her the reason for it. The young girl produced the crumpled piece of partial Scripture. The mother read it and asked “What did He give?” The child was perplexed and then answered “I don’t know. But if He loved us enough to give us anything we should not be afraid of Him.”

I truly believe that God’s love is utterly amazing and life changing! I John 4:8 simply says “God is love.” His love is so different than ours. Ours is selfishly motivated—His is totally sacrificial and selfless. Ours is partial and prejudiced—His love includes every human being-no matter what race or creed. He so loved the world that He gave His very best—The Lord Jesus Christ who is the way, the truth and the life. He is the bright and morning star, the light of the world, the good shepherd and the greatest lover of our souls! His love alone is perfect and can cast away all our fears and can dry our stinging tears.

When we were at our worst, God was at His best! Scripture teaches us that we all have sinned and have fallen short of the glory of God—Romans 3:23. We all have horribly missed the mark of living for His glory and instead have lived for selfish gain. The penalty for this nonsense and insanity? Death! Romans 6:23 tells us “The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” The great Hymn of the faith titled “The Love of God” is worth noting here. Verse one says “The love of God is great far than tongue or pen can ever tell, it goes beyond the highest star and reaches to the lowest hell. The guilty pair, bowed down with care, God gave His Son to win; His erring child He reconciled and pardoned from his sin.”

The only hope for all of us in found in Jesus Christ. He loved us so passionately that He suffered more than tongue or pen could ever tell! He died in our place so we could receive His amazing grace and one day see His holy face! Many are wondering if God truly loves them and can forgive all the horrible things they have done? Is there hope for those who appear hopeless? Romans 5:6-8 says “You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” Have you received this great
love? Are you relying on it and rejoicing in it? Are you sharing it with the many who don’t realize how
good God really is? If not, what are you waiting for? My prayer for all of us is what the Apostle Paul
prayed for the believers in the church at Ephesus:

“I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to
grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses
knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of the fullness of God.” Ephesians 3:17-19

Pastor Joe