

The Doctrine of God – Lesson 11

Last lesson we learned that because God is Righteous, He must punish [**Nahum. 1:3**] our sin and He must save us from our sin [**Is. 33:22**]

Then we learned that the Gospel is the message that announces that God does both while remaining Righteous.

In **Rom. 1:16-17** we learned that the Gospel *...the power of God unto salvation...because in [the Gospel] the righteousness of God is revealed...*

How is God's righteousness revealed in the Gospel?

God's righteousness is revealed in the Person and work of the Lord Jesus Who is *...Jesus Christ the Righteous* [**1 John 2:1**]

This is why the Gospel is called:

- the *...Gospel of [God's] Son...* in **Rom. 1:9**
- *...the Gospel of the Glory of Christ, Who is the image of God...* in **2 Cor 4:4**.

Therefore, the righteousness of God is revealed especially at the cross when *...He made [Christ], Who knew no sin [Heb.4:15], to be [a] sin [offering] on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in [Christ the righteous]...*

Therefore, the Gospel reveals God's righteousness when He punishes our sin and saves us from the punishment in the death of Jesus, His righteous Son.

But why did God do this?

Let's allow the Scriptures to tell us why God sent His Son to save us:

Eph 2:4 *But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ...*

1 John 3:1 *See how great a love [what kind of love] the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are...16 We know [have experienced God's] love by this, that [Jesus] laid down His life for us...*

Rom. 5:5 *...the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us...*

These Scriptures tell us that God saves us because He loves us.

Now, let's consider the question:

Why does God love us?

He loves us for the same reason He loves Israel:

Deut. 7:7-8 *The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples... 8 but because the Lord loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers...*

Why did does God love His people?

But what did they do to elicit God's love? NOTHING... God loved them for one reason only: because ...*God is love*... **1 John 4:8, 16**

8. God is love

To say that ...*God is love*..., is to say that love is an essential attribute of the Divine Nature of God.

And because God is Self-existent, His love is also *a se* so that God's love is not the result of anything in the created order.

Became ...*God is love*..., all of His deeds are deeds of His love.

To affirm that ...*God is love*... is the answer to our Question.

Why did does God love His people?

God loves us because He is love.

God's love for us originates in Him, not in us.

1 John 4:10 *In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us...*

Therefore, God's reason for saving us is not found in us but in Him.

In fact, God loves us in spite of us.

Let's look at the following Scriptures to find anything in or about us that would have endeared us to God.

Rom. 5:6 *...while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly...*

Rom. 5:8 *...God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us...*

Rom. 5:10 *...while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son...*

With these four verses in mind, why did God pour out His love upon us?

God loved us because ...*[He] is love*...

I don't see anything in these verses that indicate that God looked down the corridors of time, and saw that we would accept Jesus which gave Him the reason to save us.

God does not need to find a reason or decision in us to save us.

It was God's e result of HIS reason and His decision.

Simply because God is love, He has decided to save us.

Titus 3:5-8 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness but according to His mercy [Eph.2:4], by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit [Ez. 34:25-27], 6 Whom He poured out upon us [Rom.5:5] richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by His grace [Rom. 5:1] we would be made heirs [Rom. 8:17] according to the hope of eternal life.

God does not need our decision to save us.

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Next week we will look at how God's love and righteousness co-exist as we seek to understand what God's love says about God