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## A Letter To Our Sons and Daughters

This book was written exclusively for you, our dear Texas Bible Institute students. You have Pastor Tommy's and my highest admiration, for you have postponed your college, career, and ministry aspirations to spiritually "lay a strong foundation." May God honor you and accelerate you far beyond your colleagues. The decisions you are making during these treasured nine months determine the course of your life, marriage, and future.

Determine today to become a student of the Bible. Ask the Holy Spirit to create in you a love for His Word. During your young, formative years, read and re-read this book until you've "made it your own." As you mature, these writings will serve as a reference for your own Sunday School classes, pulpits, books and missions fields. What joy!

Remember that we believe in you and "all scripture is inspired of God."

**Pastors Tommy and Rachel Burchfield**



"And all your (spiritual) children shall be disciples —  
taught of the Lord (and obedient to His will),..." Is. 54:13 Amp.



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# Introduction

The Beatles' 1967 sensation "All You Need Is Love" stirred up many emotions, but the same teeny-boppers who sang it before their date found themselves later that night sobbing when their boyfriend broke up with them. The title was right, but they were singing about a different type of love; the man-made version.

The man-made version is limited and available only to those deemed deserving. That type of love is conditional and dispersed only if feelings and circumstances are in your favor. Much of the time, your cry for love will be denied.

Your cry for love is not new. From the first gasp of breath, your newborn lungs cried for physical love. Your mother's embrace was probably the first answer to your prayer. Then came Grandma's hugs and BFF times. Yes, life was good.

As you matured, however, a greater need arose. The gnawing realization that even the purest of human love was not fulfilling. It pushed you to look elsewhere for something more.

And so the Father's wooing began. His love began to draw you to Himself. Perhaps it was a song that touched your heart or a testimony at Discovery Camp. The hope of not living with emotional pain and the concept of being valuable seemed surreal, yet God's love kept reaching out. Then, it happened. You became a child of God.

An encounter with God's Great Love will change you forever. And it's not a "one-night-stand." It's a lifetime revelation of God Himself and the amazing reality that you are the focus of His love forever.

*"Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love. Therefore with loving-kindness I have **drawn** you." Jer. 31:3*



### *A PERSONAL INVITATION TO A LOVE AFFAIR WITH LOVE **HIMSELF***

- ✓ Moses recorded it as a **Merciful LOVE**. Ex. 20:6
- ✓ The Exodus revealed a **Redeeming LOVE**. Ex. 12:13
- ✓ Song of Solomon kisses a **Romantic LOVE**. Song of S. 2:10
- ✓ Jeremiah wrote of an **Everlasting LOVE**. Jer. 31:3
- ✓ Lamentations sings of a **Steadfast LOVE**. Lam. 3:23
- ✓ Hosea learned about His **Drawing LOVE**. Hos. 11:4
- ✓ Jonah suffered His **Chastening LOVE**. Jon. 1:17
- ✓ Zephaniah rejoices over His **Quiet LOVE**. Zep. 3:17
- ✓ Matthew reveals the **Father's LOVE**. Mat. 6:32
- ✓ The Prodigal Son embraced a **Restoring LOVE**. Luke 15:20
- ✓ Romans explains an **Unconditional LOVE**. Rom. 5:5
- ✓ Paul described it as God's **Great LOVE**. Eph. 2:4
- ✓ Paul was controlled by a **Consuming LOVE**. II Cor. 5:14
- ✓ Hebrews warns of a **Chastening LOVE**. Heb. 12:5
- ✓ John referred to it as **Perfect LOVE**. I Jn. 4:18

## Chapter

## 1

**In This Chapter  
You Will Learn:**


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 Word Studies  
and Pictures
 

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 Human Love  
vs. God's Love
 

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 Case Study: Jesus
 

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 About the Most  
Evil People of the  
20th Century
 

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A Love Letter

**Respond to  
His Love**


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# GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE

God's STEADFAST love reveals His unconditional acceptance and value-instilling approval based on His character, not your behavior. It causes you to recognize your self-worth.

**WORD PICTURE:**

- A predictable, daily sunrise

God's love is the ultimate satisfier. It settles the restless heart. Your true value is only discovered in His love. Until you are secure in God's love towards you, you'll find yourself in a frantic juggle of religious demands which supposedly appease or impress Him. But juggling is not necessary. Lay all of the religious things down and let His love scoop you up into the Father's heart.

God's Great Love is like an orange. Each section you separate represents the different '*tastes*' of His love. As you trust Him with your life, you'll experience each expression. Each one is important and reveals a different facet of the Father, but the peeling that holds it all together is His steadfast love.

God's steadfast love. Accepting. Approving. Unconditional. All inclusive. Perfect love. Oh! How I want you to experience His steadfast love. Let's get started.

**Bible Study Tip:** Use a dictionary and thesaurus to get accurate definitions of key words.

**Steadfast, Defined** - unwavering, firmly established, changeless, constant, fixed, never-failing, single-minded, sure, unmovable, unflinching, relentless, loyal.

**Bible Study Tip:** Read the same scripture in different versions to gain a different perspective.

**Eph. 2:4 | NKJV**

*“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,...made us alive...”*

**Eph. 2:4 | Amplified**

*“But God – so rich is He in His mercy! Because of and in order to satisfy the great and wonderful and intense love with which He loved us...”*

**Eph. 2:4 | Message**

*“It’s a wonder that God didn’t lose His temper and do away with the whole lot of us. Instead, immense in mercy and with an incredible love, He embraced us.*

**LIST 3 WORDS THAT DESCRIBE GOD IN EPH. 2:4:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**LIST THE FOUR ADJECTIVES FOR HIS LOVE IN THESE DIFFERENT VERSIONS**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE IS PREDICTABLE**

**WORD PICTURE:** A Predictable, daily sunrise

I'm sure that you've worried about your grades or being late for an event, but have you ever worried about whether the sun will rise? Think how foolish it would be if I found you tonight crying and wringing your hands with worry that the sun might not rise in the morning.

*"Oh dear, oh dear, it might just happen tomorrow. It might just happen on Friday."* You sob. *"What might happen?"* I ask. You reply, *"The sun. It might not come up."*

It's foolish to worry whether the sun will rise. It's predictable. It's changeless. It's dependable. Lamentations 3:23 describes God's love as *"new every morning."* It's also unchanging. Whether you see the morning sun or not, it's there. Perhaps it's hidden by clouds, yet its presence brings light to the world. God's love for you sometimes might seem hidden, but its presence is a reality.

**Morning Mercies**

Lam. 3:22-23 NIV *"Because of the Lord's great love, we are not consumed. For His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness."*

Lam. 3:23 Amp *"...His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great and abundant is Your stability and faithfulness."*

*"God has moods,  
but He is not moody.  
You can go to sleep  
tonight knowing that  
in the morning, both  
the sun and God's  
love will be there."*

Q. Describe God's thoughts towards you.

A. \_\_\_\_\_ Ps. 139:17

Q. How often does God think about you?

A. \_\_\_\_\_ Ps. 139:18

## **HUMAN LOVE VS. GOD'S LOVE**

Human love has conditions; a measure-up mentality, but God's love is unconditional.

Human love is picky and exclusive.  
God's love is accepting and all inclusive.

Human love says, "What's in this for me?"  
God's love says, "What's in Me for him?"

Human love is limited.  
God's love is unlimited.

Human love is dependent on their behavior.  
God's love is dependent on His character.

Human love needs to be earned.  
God's love needs to be spent.

Human love says "I'll love you if..."  
God's love says "I love you regardless."

**HUMAN LOVE SAYS: "IF YOU'LL \_\_\_\_\_,  
THEN I'LL LOVE YOU."**

- **Wear the right clothes**
- **Make good grades**
- **Keep your bedroom clean**
- **Lose 25 pounds**
- **Get a job and make some money**
- **Get a better job and make more money**
- **Give me what I want sexually**

## Perfect Penelopes

Some of you are perfectionists. Your clothes, grades and bedroom have to be perfect. You are the ones who rewrite your research papers three times and beat up on yourself if you say something dumb. Why? You're a perfectionist.

Being a perfectionist is different from having a standard of excellence. A perfectionist depends on his "perfections" as a stamp of approval or a proof of value, while the latter simply tries to achieve the best they can with what they have been given.

### Attention, ALL Perfect Penelopes!

You don't need to be perfect for God to declare you valuable. God's great love accepts you, puts His stamp of approval and declares you are valuable simply because He's God. *"I release you from the bondage of perfectionism right now, In Jesus name."*



**BIBLE EXAMPLE: JESUS**

If you want to know what God looks like, look at Jesus. He came to represent God and demonstrate His love. His love was not based on people's perfection or performance. He loved both the godly and ungodly equally. Jesus Christ's love for humanity was unconditional.

Notice these encounters that Jesus (God in human form) had with different people:

<b>JESUS' UNCONDITIONAL LOVE</b>			
<b>WHERE</b>	<b>WHO</b>	<b>WHAT</b>	<b>JESUS' RESPONSE</b>
Mark 5:1-20	Demoniac of Gadera	Demon Possessed	Compassion and Deliverance
Mark 1:41	Leper	Terminally ill	Compassion and Healing
John 8:11	Adulterous Woman	Immorality/guilt	Compassion and Forgiveness
Luke 23:34	Soldiers of Golgotha	Unfair crucifixion	Compassion and Forgiveness
John 21:15	Peter	Denied and Cussed Jesus	Compassion and Commission
Acts 9:15	Paul	Murdered Christians	Compassion and Commission

*"God's demonstrated His love towards us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Rm. 5:8*

*"He loved you before you got your act together."*

RB Paraphrase

**Why are you trying to earn what you already have?**

**PONDER THIS...**

**Q** **WHAT MUST YOU DO TO BE LOVED BY GOD?**

**A** Nothing.

- You can't earn it.
- You can't buy it.
- If you change for the better, He won't love you any more than He does now.
- If your life creates pleasure or pain, He won't love you any more or less than He does now.

**Q** **Does a parent's love change when their baby has a dirty diaper?**

**A** No! Their love rushes towards them to wash them clean.

**PRAY THIS...**

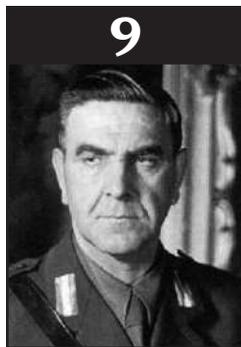
*"Heavenly Father, It's hard for me to truly believe You love me unconditionally. When I mess up again and again, I expect You to respond like my earthly dad sometimes does-- to be disgusted with me, or at least disappointed. Help me to receive Your perfect love. Help me not live trying to EARN it, but to live out my days in GRATITUDE for it."*

Its okay to  
ask God questions,  
but just don't  
question God.

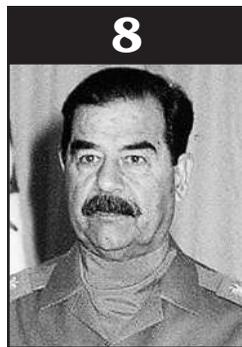
# The Most Evil People of the 20th Century



**10**  
**Idi Amin**  
(Uganda)  
Killed 300,000  
People  
1971-1979



**9**  
**Ante Pavelic**  
(Croatia)  
Killed 300,000  
People  
1941-1944



**8**  
**Saddam Hussein**  
(Iraq)  
Killed 2 Million  
People  
1979-2003



**7**  
**Pol Pot**  
(Cambodia)  
Killed 1.4 Million  
People  
1925-1929



**6**  
**Theoneste Bagosora**  
(Rwanda)  
Killed 1 Million  
People  
April-July 1994



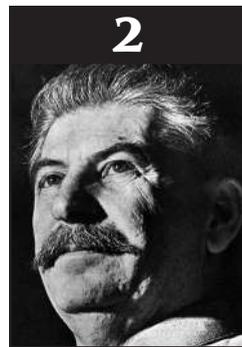
**5**  
**Mohammed Suharto**  
(Indonesia)  
Killed 2 Million  
People  
1967-1998



**4**  
**Kim Il Sung**  
(North Korea)  
Killed 3 Million  
People  
1948-1994



**3**  
**Adolph Hitler**  
(Nazi Germany)  
Killed 11 Million  
People  
1939-1945



**2**  
**Joseph Stalin**  
(USSR)  
Killed 20 Million  
People  
1929-1953



**1**  
**Mao Tse Tung**  
(China)  
Killed 35 Million  
People  
1949-1976

**God loves these men... just as much as He loves YOU.**

# Love Thoughts From Your Father

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

**You may not know Me, but I know everything about you...**

Psalm 139:1

**I am familiar with all your ways...**

Psalm 139:3

**You were made in My image...**

Genesis 1:27

**You are My offspring...**

Acts 17:28

**I knew you even before you were conceived...**

Jeremiah 1:4-5

**I chose you when I planned creation...**

Ephesians 1:11-12

**You were not a mistake, for all your days  
are written in My book...**

Psalm 139:15-16

**I determined the exact time of your birth  
and where you would live...**

Acts 17:26

**I have been misrepresented by those who don't know Me...**

John 8:41-44

**I am not distant and angry,  
but am the complete expression of love...**

1 John 4:16

**I offer you more than your earthly father ever could...**

Matthew 7:11

**For I am the perfect Father...**

Matthew 5:48

**Every good gift that you receive comes from My hand...**

James 1:17

**For I am your Provider and I meet all your needs...**

Matthew 6:31-33

**My plan for your future has always been filled with hope...**

Jeremiah 29:11

**Because I love you with an everlasting love...**

Jeremiah 31:3

**My thoughts toward you are countless as the sand on the seashore...**

Psalms 193:17-18

**I will never stop doing good to you...**

Jeremiah 32:40

**For you are My treasured possession....**

Exodus 19:5

**Delight in Me and I will give you the desires of your heart...**

Psalms 37:4

**For it is I who gave you those desires...**

Philippians 2:13

**I am able to do more for you than you could possibly imagine...**

Ephesians 3:20

**I am also the Father who comforts you in all your troubles...**

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

**One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes  
and will take away all the pain you have suffered on this earth**

Revelation 21:3-4

**I am your Father, and I love you even as I love my Son, Jesus...**

John 17:23

**He came to demonstrate that I am for you, not against you...**

Romans 8:31

**And to tell you that I am not counting your sins...**

2 Corinthians 5:18-19

**Jesus died so that you and I could be reconciled...**

2 Corinthians 5:18-19

**His death was the ultimate expression of My love for you...**

1 John 4:10

**I gave up everything I loved that I might gain your love**

Romans 8:31-32

**If you receive the gift of my Son Jesus, you receive Me...**

1 John 2:23

**And nothing will ever separate you from My love again...**

Romans 8:38-39

**I love you,  
your Father, God**

**P.S. As you meditate daily on these love thoughts from Me, your  
pain and insecurities will be replaced with My great love for you.**

Chapter

2

**In This Chapter  
You Will Learn:**

Word Studies  
and Pictures

Redemption  
Revealed

A Slave's Life

A Bible  
Principle

Case Study:  
Onesimus

Respond to  
His Love

## GOD'S REDEEMING LOVE

God's REDEEMING love paid your sin debt, delivered you from the power of sin and transferred your position from slave to son. It makes you internally free and forgiven.

### WORD PICTURES:

- A master releases his slave to a new life of freedom
- A conqueror releasing his captives
- A bond officer says "Someone paid your bail, so you're free."
- A guitarist walks into a pawn shop and buys back his Gibson which was stolen from him the previous month

Today we will study one of the Bible's strongest words:

### REDEEM

#### REDEMPTION DESCRIBED: FREEDOM FOR SLAVES

The word redeem comes directly out the world of slave markets. To properly understand this principle of redemption and explore its richness in meaning, let's meditate on a slave's world during the peak of the Roman Empire:

#### A Slave's World

Chains

Shackles

Auction Block

Flogging

Iron grips

Abuse

Slave Market

Lutroo

**Bible Study Tip:** Use a Bible concordance to gain understanding on key words from their original Hebrew or Greek roots. I use 'Strongs.' concordance.

**Redeem** - There are four different words used, each has similar picture of freedom.

1. *Padah, Hbw. – liberate, free, release*
2. *Ga'al, Gr. – repurchase, buy back*
3. *Apolutrosis, Gr. – a ransom*
4. *Exagoridzo, Gr. – out of the slave market*

### A Slave's Life

The people in Jesus' and Paul's day understood slavery. Some sixty million slaves were living at that time throughout the Roman Empire. In the Imperial City alone, it is estimated that 350,000 slaves dwelled and worked among the socially favored. That's 25% of Rome's population; 1 out of every 4 people!



Let's imagine that you were one of those slaves. You were owned by someone who doesn't even know your name. You have no life of your own. Your master determines what time you awake, if you get to eat, how hard you work and if you have any free time. Periodically, after a beating for a trivial mistake, you consider running away, but if a slave catcher finds you, the penalty is death.

25%  
of Rome's population  
during Jesus' time  
were slaves

**Slave Markets**

Slave markets were disgusting places where human beings were bought, sold and traded like animals. Here's how it was done.

**How to Purchase a Slave**

1. Go to slave market early before the good ones get sold.
2. After the selection, inspect him by beating on him to observe his stamina and response.
3. Look at his teeth and examine his general health.
4. Go to the auction and bid.
5. Slave is sold and becomes the personal property of the highest bidder.
6. That slave is now owned by, under the control of, and at the mercy of a new master.

Imagine the humiliation of being stripped in public while on an auction block. Feel the agony of a father watching his daughter surrounded by lust-driven men and being made a spectacle. Their personal destiny was condensed to endless days of manual labor; often mingled with unjust treatment from an angry master. There was one hint of hope for a slave: a luroo might arrive and purchase your freedom!



<b>YEBAY - SLAVES FOR SALE</b>			
<b>GENDER</b>	<b>AGE</b>	<b>SKILL</b>	<b>PRICE</b>
Male	30	Aqueduct Manager, Strong, Good teeth	875,000 Denari
Male	22	Loyal, No skills, Good for errands, Sickly	500 Denari
Female	30	Nurse, Compliant, Back injury healed	1,800 Denari
Female	20	Musician, Pretty, Healthy	4,000 Denari

## Jesus Was Our Lutroo

At times, a caring and compassionate individual, called a lutroo, would come to the slave market and pay an exceptionally high price for the sole purpose of purchasing slaves out of slavery and liberate and set them free. In this case, the payment offered was viewed as a ransom. It's safe to portray Jesus Christ as our lutroo.

- The world is Satan's slave market.
- Jesus came looking for us.
- Jesus longed to purchase us for His Father.
- Jesus paid the ultimate price: His blood
- His blood liberated us from Satan's power forever.

"Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem (lutroo, Gr) us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." Titus 2:14

*"Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ He entered in once into the holy place,  
having obtained \_\_\_\_\_ redemption for us." Heb. 9:12*

### **REDEMPTION ALERT! YOU WERE BORN A SLAVE**

For you to appreciate God's redeeming love, you must realize the dreadful, hopeless state that you were in before you accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior. Forever separated from your Father. No love from Him. No guidance. No friendship with Him. Why? You were a sinner by birth, by nature and by choice. In fact, you were born a slave.

All mankind is born under the curse of sin. Until you were born again, you were all slaves to sin. That's difficult to believe when you meet well-meaning, morally strong, educated people. The truth is, however, that their spirit man is dead and they are slaves to sin. A quick study of Romans Ch. 6 reveals more about our sin nature. Before salvation, sin was our cruel master. Your sin-master made you wear different hats: a selfish hat, addiction hat, guilt hat, fear hat, or perhaps the self-pity hat.

**“Your Father is Satan”**

That was the title of Jesus' Sermon-For-The-Day. It didn't go over too well with the religious leaders who were his intended targets.

**Jesus:** *If you listen to My words, instead of your religious rules, you'll be totally free!*

**Religious Leaders (RL):** *We're descendants of Abraham. We've never been slaves to anyone.*

**Jesus:** *Anyone who chooses a life of sin is trapped in a dead-end life and is, in fact a slave, who can't come and go on his own accord.*

**RL:** *Who do you think you are? Abraham is our father.*

**Jesus:** *I know that, but I also know that my message hasn't penetrated your thick skulls and you're trying to kill Me.*

**RL:** *Grrrr...*

**Jesus:** *You're not doing the works of Abraham, so perhaps you're not really Abraham's children.*

**RL:** *We are not bastards. We have a legitimate father: the one and only God.*

**Jesus:** *Well, you're right about one thing... you do have a father.... and your father is Satan. In fact, 'your' father Abraham, with jubilant faith, looked down the corridors of history and saw My day coming and cheered.*

*“That did it – pushed them over the edge. They picked up rocks to throw at him. But Jesus slipped away, getting out of the Temple.”*

John 8:31-44 Msg., RB paraphrase

*“Work hard for sin your whole life and your pension is death. But God's gift is real life, eternal life, delivered by Jesus, our Master.”*  
Rm. 6:23 Msg.

**REDEMPTION REQUIRED BLOOD**

**Bible Study Tip:** There are principles, or fundamental doctrines, that can be found throughout the Bible. They are your backbone.

**BIBLE PRINCIPLE:** Blood has always been the payment for sin.

From Genesis to Revelation, we can find this truth portrayed. Here are a few key examples, but there are many more that I trust you will discover.

**PAYMENT FOR SIN – BLOOD**

**Gen. 3:21** – Blood was shed so the Lord could cover Adam/Eve's sin with animal tunics.

**Gen. 22:8** – Blood of ram became substitute for Abraham's son, Isaac.

**Ex. 12:13** – The Blood of a lamb caused death to "pass over" Israel.

**Lev. 16:8** – Blood of many animals offered by High Priest annually to cover sins of Israel Day of Atonement.

**Lev. 17:11** – The life of the flesh is in the Blood. (Heb. 9:22)

**John 1:29** – John acknowledged Jesus as the Lamb of God.

**Col. 1:14** – Blood of Jesus purchased our redemption and forgiveness of sins.

**Heb. 9:12** – Jesus, our High Priest obtained our eternal redemption with His own Blood.

**Rev. 5:9** – Heaven's song honors the Blood.

**The Final Solution to Sin**

*"Everyone has to die once, and then face the consequences. Christ's death was a one-time event, but it was a sacrifice that took care of sins forever." Heb. 9:27-28 Msg.*

Did You Know...

When Jesus cried on the cross "It is finished," He used the same word which was stamped across bills when they were "Paid in full."

**Bible Study Tip:** Read the same scripture in different versions to gain a different perspective.

**REDEMPTION RECORDED**

Rm. 3:24 NKJV *"...being justified freely by His grace through the redemption (apolutrosis) that is in Christ Jesus..."*

Rm. 3:24 Msg *"God sacrificed Jesus on the altar of the world to clear the world of sin."*

Eph. 1:7 NKJV *"In Him we have redemption (apolutrosis) by His blood, the forgiveness of sins."*

Eph. 1:7 Msg *"Because of the sacrifice of the Messiah, his blood poured out on the altar of the Cross, we are a free people ---free of penalties and punishments chalked up by all our misdeeds. Abundantly free!"*

I Pt. 1:18 NJKV *"...knowing that you were not redeemed (apolutrosis) with corruptible things, like silver or gold... but with the precious blood of Christ..."*

I Pt. 1:18 Msg *"It cost God plenty to get you out of that dead-end, empty-headed life you grew up in. He paid with Christ's sacred blood, you know"*

Rev. 5:9 NKJV *"...and they sang a new song, saying: You are worthy to take the scroll, for you were slain and have redeemed (apolutrosis) us to God by your blood..."*

Rev. 5:9 Msg *"...and they sang a new song, worthy! Slain! Paying in blood, you bought men and women back for God..."*

Strongs # 629 Apolutrosis, Gr. --- A super-sized version of 'Lutro' implying a permanent release secured by the payment of a ransom, deliverance, setting free. In the New Testament, it designates deliverance through Christ from evil and the penalty of sin. The price paid to purchase that liberation was His shed blood.

Your salvation is free,  
but it didn't come  
cheap.



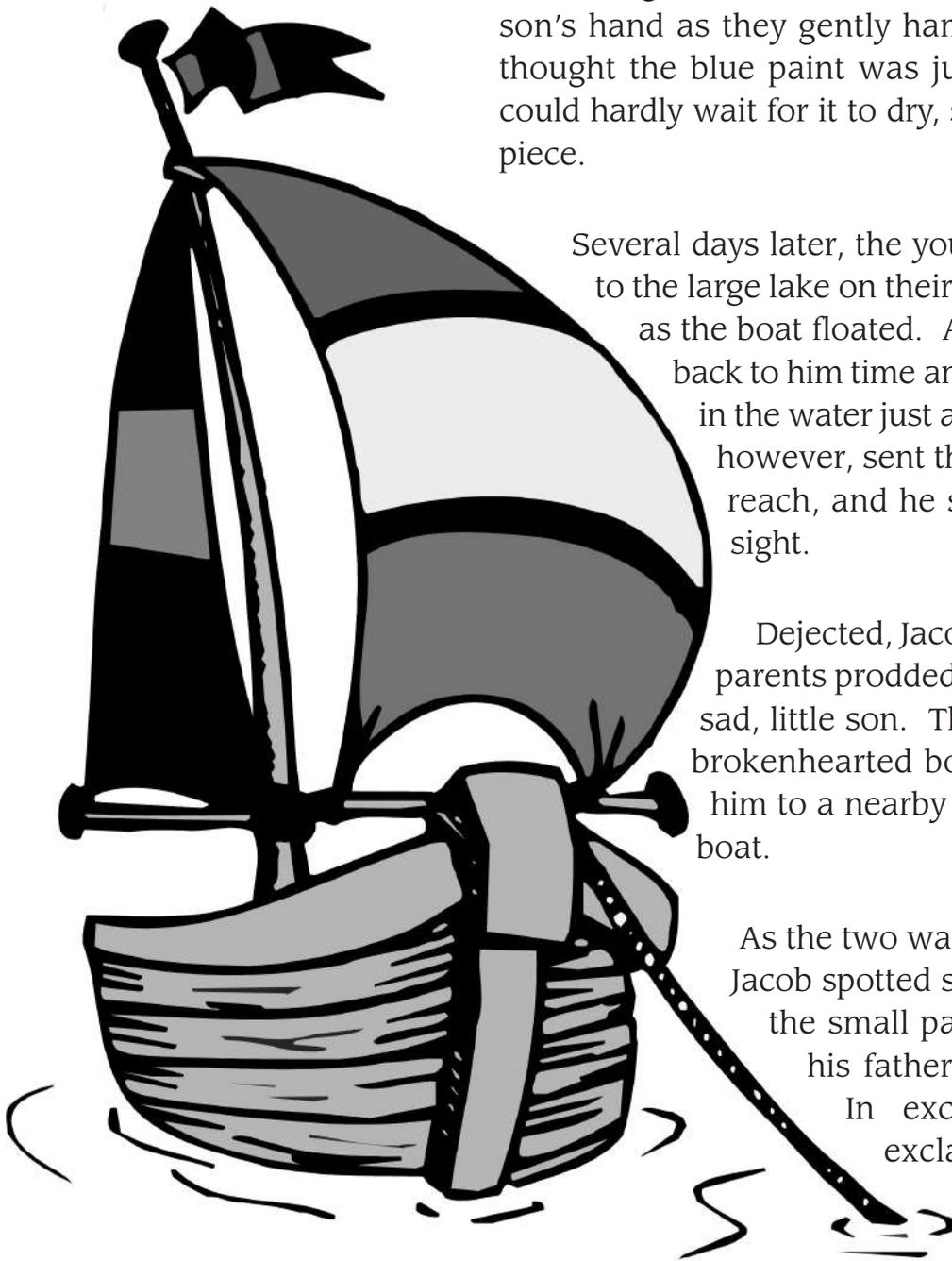
### THE SAILBOAT

Jacob worked side by side with his father in the workshop. His loving dad taught his young son how to build a tiny boat. The small fellow worked hard at his task. He listened carefully how to cut pieces of wood and how to use the right nails. His father put his large hand over his son's hand as they gently hammered together. The boy thought the blue paint was just the finishing touch and could hardly wait for it to dry, so he could sail his masterpiece.

Several days later, the young master builder sat next to the large lake on their farm. He clapped with glee as the boat floated. As the blue treasure bobbed back to him time and again, Jacob pushed it out in the water just a little farther. One big push, however, sent the boat way out of the boy's reach, and he sadly watched it sail out of sight.

Dejected, Jacob went into the house. The parents prodded the story out of their silent, sad, little son. The father, trying to ease the brokenhearted boy's pain, promised to take him to a nearby town to buy an even better boat.

As the two walked the street the next day, Jacob spotted something in the window of the small pawn shop. He quickly took his father by the hand and went in. In excited childish fashion he exclaimed to the owner of the



shop, *“That’s my boat in the window! The blue one in the window is my boat! I made it!”* The gruff proprietor was not moved. *“Listen, that boat was found on the lake and brought in this morning. If you want it, you gotta pay for it.”* Wide-eyed, the boy queried, *“Pay for my boat? The one I made? But it’s mine!”* Irritated, the owner answered, *“As far as I know, it was a lost boat that someone found and brought in. If you want it, you gotta pay for it.”*

Jacob reluctantly gave all the money he had to the man, and the store owner gave the small blue boat to the little boy. As Jacob and his father left the pawn shop, he clutched his boat and said, *“You belong to me twice. Once ‘cause I made you and twice ‘cause I bought you back.”* That’s a beautiful picture of God’s redeeming love. When God made His creation, He was prepared to pay whatever price to buy us back. And He did. Paid in full.

## REDEMPTION RELEASES YOU FROM THE POWER OF SIN

Let’s remember that Lazarus was raised from the dead, but still bound by grave clothes. (Jn. 11:44) Many believers are like that today. Redemption releases you, not only from eternal death but from the power of sin that would try to keep you bound by its unholy, addictive, destructive appetites.

### Did You Know...

The Bible  
has been the  
best-selling book  
since  
Johannes Gutenberg  
invented the  
printing press  
550 years ago.

## Bless This Dumb Ol' Goat

In *"Sparkling Gems,"* Rick Renner tells a funny story about a friend's goat that got kidnapped, legs bound together and then dumped into a ditch to die. The owner was thrilled to find the dead goat, only to discover that it was still alive. Jubilantly, he leaped into the bottom of the ditch, pulled out his pocketknife, cut the ropes, slapped the goat on its backside, and said, "Get up!" But the goat just lay there with its legs still clinging to each other as if they were still bound with rope. He hit her several more times, but she wouldn't move.

His friend mused to Himself, *"Bless this dumb ol' goat! It's free and doesn't even know it."* The owner had to reach down and pull apart the goat's legs and set it on its feet. Only then did the goat realize it wasn't bound anymore.

Many believers are like that dumb 'ol goat. They've been gloriously saved from (eternal) death, yet still live bound and paralyzed in fear. You don't have to live that way. God's redeeming love rescues and releases you into a new life.

### What imaginary ropes hold you paralyzed?

- \_\_\_\_\_ Fear of failure
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fear of people's opinion
- \_\_\_\_\_ Emotional soul ties
- \_\_\_\_\_ Cultural stereotypes
- \_\_\_\_\_ Past mistakes
- \_\_\_\_\_ False responsibilities
- \_\_\_\_\_ Addictions
- \_\_\_\_\_ Complacency

## What's Wrong With This Picture?

- Imagine if three American soldiers were held hostage in the Middle East for six years. Their rescue is complete and they are on Continental Airlines coming home. They are wearing blindfolds.
- Construction on I-10 has forced you to detour an inconvenient twelve extra miles for three months. A new toll road is now open (and free) for 90 days, but you continue on the same lengthy detour.
- Ashley escaped from her abusive boyfriend by moving to another city, but her heart stops every time someone knocks at your door. No one ever told you that he died.
- The warden opens your jail cell and you are free! You sit there for two weeks until he shouts, *"My God, man, you're free! Get outta here!"* You walk out a free man, but six months later, you apply for a job still wearing the same orange prison uniform.

*"Christ has redeemed us from the \_\_\_\_\_ of the law, being made a curse \_\_\_\_\_; for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangs on a tree." Gal. 3:13*

## **REDEMPTION APPEALED: ONESIMUS**

The true story of this guilty, run-away slave can be found in the one-chapter-postcard called Philemon. Perhaps my fictional story can help lay the groundwork for this touching picture of God's redeeming love.

### **A Wild Night in New York City**

Picture this. Your cousin steals some money out of your mom's purse and runs away to New York City. At 2am, he runs into a store to buy some beer and bumps right into your pastor! What are the odds? (With God? Pretty high.) Your cousin talks to your pastor, prays the Sinner's Prayer and gets sent home. Before he arrives home, your pastor calls your mom and says, *"Welcome him with a hug and, after you add up the amount of theft, send me the bill."* That is Onesimus' story.



Josh Joines  
(TBI 2000)

*"As a youth pastor,  
I've learned that  
God's love trumps all  
of my sermons and  
cool ideas."*

### **BIBLE EXAMPLE: ONESIMUS** Philemon 1:1-25

- Philemon's run-a-way slave
- His name means 'useful'
- Philemon, Christian leader in church in Colossae
- Stole master's money, escaped to Rome
- Encountered Paul and got saved
- Roman law required his return/beatings/death
- Returned with Paul's letter pleading to Philemon to *"Receive him as brother in Christ and charge any wrong to his account."*

Onesimus was rescued from his master's wrath because of His new Master's love. His debt to his man-master was paid for by his new Master. His wrong to his man-master was made right by his new Master.

## **REDEMPTION SUMMARY**

### **GOD'S REDEEMING LOVE**

- 1) COVERED YOUR GUILT ETERNALLY
- 2) TRANSFERRED YOUR POSITION FROM SLAVE TO SON
- 3) DELIVERED YOU FROM THE POWER OF SIN

## **REDEMPTION SONGS**

### **He Paid a Debt**

He paid a debt He did not owe  
I owed a debt I could not pay  
I needed someone to wash my sins away  
But now I sing a brand, new song  
Amazing grace! Christ Jesus paid the debt  
that I could never pay.

### **There's Power in the Blood**

Would you be free from your burden of sin?  
There's power in the Blood, power in the Blood?  
Would you o'er evil a victory won?  
There's wonderful power in the Blood?

### **CHORUS**

There is power, power, wonder working power  
in the blood of the Lamb  
There is power, power, wonder working power  
in the precious blood of the Lamb.



Chapter

3

**In This Chapter  
You Will Learn:**

Word Studies

You Are Not  
A Lost Cause

What the Word Says

Auto Restoration

Six Basic Needs

Case Study:  
The Prodigal Son

Respond to  
His Love

## GOD'S RESTORING LOVE

God's RESTORING Love reaches into your past to retrieve, reverse or replace all areas of loss with hope. It brings wholeness into your life.

### WORD PICTURES:

- A 100 year old shack restored to its original beauty
- A burn victim receiving skin grafts
- A 1967 Camaro with a new 2010 engine
- A 75-year-old woman after multiple face lifts

It heals what is broken and brings it back to its original purpose. Sometimes, restoration has a literal fulfillment, such as a stolen car being located and returned to its owner. Other times, restoration releases a supernatural 'replacement' that compensates for that which was lost. Such is the frequent case of our TBI students who grew up in a home without a father, yet now experience a close bond with a spiritual dad. Their earthly dad was not returned, yet the dysfunctional results are reversed and the painful loneliness and need for a male role model is replaced.

### **Bible Study Tip:**

A 'word study' is called Exegetical Study which is "dissecting" that word in its original language. Old Testament words will usually be in Hebrew. New Testament words are in Greek.

**Restore, Defined:**

1. *shun (shoov)*, *Hbw.*, Strongs #7725 - To retrieve or reverse, return, bring back
2. *katartizo*, *Gr.*, Used in secular Greek for setting broken bones and in Mt. 4:21 for "mending nets."

**Store, Defined:**

1. A supply or stock of something, especially for future use.
2. To accumulate or put away, especially for future use.

**Restore, Defined:**

1. To bring back to a former, original, or normal condition, such as a building, statue, or car
2. To bring back to a state of health, soundness, or vigor
3. To give back: make return or restitution of anything taken away or lost

**Bible Study Tip:** Read the same scripture in different versions to gain different perspective.

## A LOST CAUSE BECOMES A TREASURE

Although my father was a pilot by occupation, he spent his spare time restoring old houses in our neighborhood. An apparent "lost cause" to others was a treasure to him. I can still hear his cousin saying, "Raymond, you've got to be kidding...this old shack?" But, while others saw a run-down house with an overgrown yard, he saw a quaint, starter home.

God's restoring love  
heals what was  
damaged and brings  
it back to its Creator's  
original intent.

Daddy ripped out the acoustical tiles only to discover high ceilings. Sometimes when he tore up filthy carpet, beautiful wood floors were found. He spent his weekends replacing wiring and plumbing, painting and pruning. He recruited my mom to sew kitchen curtains and prune the overgrown bushes. Throughout my teen years, they worked very, very hard on this “lost cause” hobby. Our holiday dinners often consisted of my father bragging about the money that his “lost causes” were bringing in.

I didn't do one thing to help. Occasionally, I might have swept some sawdust that cluttered his path, but I was too self-absorbed to realize that it was his love for me that motivated these exhausting labors. You see, these restored rental homes eventually paid for his three daughters' college tuition. They have also provided finances for my mom's twenty-plus years of widowhood. What a father I had. What a Father you have!

## **YOU ARE NOT A LOST CAUSE**

What a picture of your Father's restoring love. Though society might have labeled you a “lost cause,” you are not! God remembers His original purpose for allowing you to exist and labors to accomplish that goal. You don't have to do one thing to help, either, because the Father already did all of the work by sending His only Son to Calvary. He had you on his mind. He knew there was treasure in you and He was willing to pay the price to obtain it.

Restoration begins with vision. My dad had a vision to restore those old shacks to their former beauty. The Father's vision for His children goes beyond restoring you to what you lost through earthly circumstances. His desire is to restore you to his original blueprint: communion with the Designer and cooperate with Him as the Master Architect. Let Him strip your bad attitudes, re-wire your thinking and heal your disappointments. He will make you His very own treasure—a guaranteed result of God's restoring love.

**RESTORING LOVE** is for those of you who:

- Mourn the missed years of childhood
- Were robbed by circumstances beyond your control
- Regret your sexual sins?
- Feel that life has been unfair

God's restoring love works backwards through time, returning to you what you never had and restoring to you what you lost through earthly circumstances. You might never know the joy of swimming in your Grandpa's lake, but He'll give you the childlike joy that experience would have produced.

#### **HAVE YOU BEEN ROBBED?**

- Your innocence
- Missed years of childhood
- Your ability to trust
- Your ability to believe in yourself
- A positive image of marriage
- A wrong perception of God
- Your dreams

#### **WHAT DOES THE WORD SAY?**

Ps. 51:12 *"Restore unto me the joy of my salvation..."*

Ps. 23:3 *"The Lord is my Shepherd...  
He restores my soul..."*

Joel 2:25 *"I will restore the years that the locusts have eaten..."*

Jer. 30:17 *"For I will restore health unto you, and I will heal  
you of your wounds..."*

Acts 3:21 (Jesus won't return until)  
*"...the restoration on all things..."*

Gal 6:1 *"Brothers, if a man is overtaken in a fault, you  
which are spiritual, restore such as one..."*  
(fellowship)

## **GOD'S GREAT LOVE**

BEFORE



AFTER



**"The miracle of  
God's restoring love  
is that He can make  
the past as though  
it had never been."**

## **BIBLE EXAMPLE:** The Prodigal Son – Luke Ch. 15

- Wealthy son
- Younger of two sons
- Enjoyed the world's best, but not satisfied
- Demanded inheritance and left
- Wasted on sinful living and left with nothing
- Returned and restored into his father's love
- Position and wealth restored greater than before

## **HUMAN'S SIX BASIC NEEDS**

1. Physical Needs --- food, water, sleep, sexual intimacy
2. Emotional Needs --- affirmation, trust, security, self-fulfilled
3. Social Needs --- companionship, relational exchanges
4. Intellectual Needs --- challenging thoughts, learning new things, mind stimulated
5. Spiritual Needs --- a connection with God to receive inner peace and purpose
6. Creative Needs --- to express oneself through productivity, imagination and inspiration

## **THE INVALUABLE ROLE OF THE FAMILY**

The family is God's design for men and women. It is a place where you are loved, cared for, receive affirmation, learn trust and experience safe intimacy. It is the place where one receives their name, their identity and a fulfillment of the inner longings to belong. The family is both a refuge and a launching pad.

Psychologists have now confirmed what the Bible has taught for generations: The family was designed to fulfill all of the basic needs of a human being. Your childhood years are designed to "store up" everything you'll need for physical and emotional wholeness. Those who receive these repetitive experiences tend to have an inner wholeness that will carry them through life.

God's RESTORING Love  
works backward  
through time returning  
to you what life's  
circumstances  
destroyed.

## CASE STUDY FOR EMOTIONAL WHOLENESS

(Ashley at 2 years old)	Emotional Effect
Mother: Nurturing homemaker	10
Father: Travels/salesman	6
Bubba: 13 years old & thinks Karen is a brat	-5
Grandma: Adores her "baby girl"	<u>10</u>
	21

(Ashley at 5 years old)	Emotional Effect
Mother: Now divorced with full-time job	7
Father: Remarried & busy with step-children	-10
Bubba: 16, Plays cruel pranks	-5
Grandma: Adores her "baby girl"	<u>10</u>
	2

(Ashley at 13 years old)	Emotional Effect
Mom: Happily remarried, Ashley's soccer coach	10
Father: Absent except for a belated birthday card	-5
Bubba: Joined army, no contact	0
Grandma: Deceased, but memory lingers	<u>5</u>
	10

Emotionally Healthy = 20 pts.

\*non-scientific study

## **YOUR CHURCH FAMILY**

*Ps. 68:6 "God sets the solitary in families; He brings out those who are bound into prosperity."*

It's interesting to note that, when families are dysfunctional, the Holy Spirit will use the family of God to compensate. The authentic love and mentors that you longed for as a child can be found within the walls of a healthy church. Actually, the church is the fulfillment of God's plan to have a family for Himself. No one is left out. The broken, the hurting, the single person and the widow all have a place. All ages belong. It is in the church that your Father trains you about real manhood and provides strong role models. It is a godly grandmother's embrace that compensates for those you missed out on during your adolescent years.

### **Restoring Love...**

- **Replaces what is missing.**
- **Heals.**
- **Releases you from your "If only's."**
- **Erases your regrets.**



**THE CHURCH IS  
GOD'S SOLUTION  
FOR EVERYTHING.**

Chapter

4

**In This Chapter  
You Will Learn:**

Word Studies  
and Pictures

An Overview

OT Case Study:  
Jonah

NT Case Study:  
John Mark

The Word

Personal  
Examples

**Respond to  
His Love**

## GOD'S CHASTENING LOVE

God's CHASTENING love is an instructional, corrective love, experienced only by God's children, for the purpose of spiritual maturity and provides guidance.

### WORD PICTURES:

- A stallion wears a bit in his mouth to be trained
- A florist inserts a stake in a pot to train the ivy to grow upward
- A coach requires repetitive drills to assure success
- A father spansks a three year old for disobeying him
- A mom glaring at her giggly kids in church

### Chastening, Defined:

*Corrective discipline as in training a child, never harshly, but always controlled and in love with the well being of the child in forefront thoughts of the father.*

### DESCRIPTION OF GOD'S CHASTENING LOVE

- Corrective discipline as in training a child
- Controlled, never harsh
- Motive is son/daughter's well being
- Repetitive until response chosen
- Internal reprimand

## THE OBJECTIVE OF GOD'S CHASTENING LOVE

- Protection—pride, anger, physical safety
- To adjust your perspective
- To achieve spiritual maturity

## WHAT GOD'S CHASTENING IS NOT

- Sickness – not initially, however, if unrepentant, sick could be the result
- Tragedy, crisis, calamity – God is a good God; A giver, not a taker *Jn. 10:10*
- God is not trying to teach you a lesson.  
Would a loving father give his son Leukemia?  
*Ps 119:68 "You are good and do good..." NKJV*  
*"You are good and what You do is good..." NIV*

## THREE GREEK WORDS FOR DISCIPLINE

1. **Chastening**, *Gr. paideia – to instruct*
2. **Rebuke**, *Gr. elegcho – to verbally reprove*
3. **Scourge**, *Gr. mastigoo – to flog (which translates to sensible physical discipline, not beating)*



Anthony Rios  
(TBI 1999)

"God loves us  
through spiritual  
fathers & mothers.

Whether their words  
comfort, confirm or  
correct, LISTEN!"

**APPROPRIATE RESPONSE**

- Don't despise it. Prv. 3:11
- Don't detest it.
- Don't harden your heart.
- Repent, defined – *Literal meaning is to reject or shrink from; to feel sorry for an action, to regret and prove it by turning 180\* and going the other direction.*

Rev. 3:18 Amp *"Therefore I counsel you to purchase from Me gold refined and tested by fire..."*

Rev. 3:19 Amp *"Those whom I [dearly and tenderly] love, I tell their faults and convict and convince an reprove and chasten [I discipline and instruct them]. So be enthusiastic and in earnest and burning with zeal and repent [changing your mind and attitude]."*

- Rejoice that your Father loves you. Prv. 3:11

Don't question the goodness of God. That is certainly Satan's strategy to ponder on, *"If God really loved me, why did this happen?"*

Nahum 1:7 *"The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and He knows those who trust in Him."*

**"I took you the easiest way that you would allow Me to."**

(Jesus' words to my friend who endured many setbacks).

## FACTS ABOUT CHASTENING

- Proves you're a son
- For spiritual maturity
- For your profit
- Yields a peaceable fruit of righteousness
- Releases you to be a partaker of holiness

## WHAT DOES THE WORD SAY?

Pr. 3:11-12 *"My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor detest His correction; for whom the Lord loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights."*

Nahum 1:7 *"The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and He knows those who trust in Him."*

Heb. 12:5-11 *"And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons:*

*"My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord,  
Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;  
For whom the Lord loves He chastens,  
And scourges every son whom He receives."*

*If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?*

*For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.*

## PERSONAL EXAMPLES

### Correcting My Husband

Pastor Tommy was telling a story from the Sunday morning pulpit about buying me some strawberries and I said, *"It was blueberries."* OUCH. Everyone chuckled some, but the Holy Spirit reprimanded me about correcting him publicly. The Holy Spirit lovingly asked me, *"What does it matter if it were strawberries or blueberries? It didn't change the story in any way. Your role is to honor him; publicly and privately."*

### Jealousy

Heather was able to attend an exciting Black Gospel choir contest in Houston's Toyota Center. Two days later, I said, *"Heather, if I didn't love you so much, I would have been jealous."* We both laughed. Ten minutes later, the Holy Spirit pushed the rewind button in my head and I heard that statement again. His instructions were *"We don't do" jealous. It's not wrong what you said to Heather, but wouldn't a kinder comment be "Heather, I am so happy that you were able to attend that exciting concert."* This was no big reprimand which required repentance. It was simply a heavenly slap on the wrist as He continues to instruct me in His wonderful ways.

### Spiritual Assignment

It was a Sunday service at the OMNI Hotel while beginning Believers World Outreach Church. I had ignored some promptings to fast and pray. Things were bumpy that morning and He said, *"I've designed a special piece of armor exclusively for your part of this assignment, but you'll need to shape up in order to fit in it."* The words still sting in my heart if I'm not obedient to the prayer and fasting He was referring to.

— Holy Spirit's reprimand to Pastor Rachel (April 2004)

God is Your Father.  
You are His son or  
daughter.

His will for you is to  
enjoy His company  
and He wants to  
share His very best  
with you.

**Bible Study Tip:** Over 6,000 years, God has dealt with man with different sets of laws. (Dispensations) Think Pre-Calvary and Post-Calvary. Generally, God revealed Himself externally in the Old Testament, while New Testament Believers experience Him internally.

### OLD COVENANT VS. NEW COVENANT

**Pre-Calvary:** God chastened His people externally.

**Post-Calvary:** God chastens His people internally.

## OLD TESTAMENT CHASTENING

### JONAH: AN O.T. CASE STUDY OF THE CHASTENING LOVE OF GOD

Jonah is much more than a cute story for Children's Church. Even Jesus made reference to him in Matthew 12:40-41. This is an agonizing story about the repetitive dealings of God in the life of an uncooperative man. Four times God dealt with Jonah, yet he definitely clutched his rebellious anger. Had Jonah seen the bigger picture from the beginning, things might have been different.

Let's start the book of Jonah with this paragraph, just to help reveal the heart of God:

*"Once upon a time, God wanted to astound the world by revealing His mercy and sending a great revival to an evil city. He could have chosen anyone to participate in the miracle, but he chose Jonah. Jonah didn't want to fulfill God's deepest dream, so he ran from His presence."*



**Bible Study Tip:** Read the same scripture in different versions to gain different perspective.

**JONAH: (CONT'D)**

- 1:17 God prepared a fish to deal with Jonah's disobedience.
- 4:6 God prepared a plant to deal with Jonah's anger.
- 4:7 God prepared a worm to deal with Jonah's self-pity.
- 4:8 God prepared a wind to deal with Jonah's self-righteousness.
- 4:9 Jonah defiantly defends his anger.
- 4:10-11 God attempts to correct Jonah's perspective:

Jonah's priority was temporal.

God's priority was eternal.

Jonah's concern was his comfort.

God's concern was convictions.

Jonah's focus was the withering plant,

God's focus was the sinful people

Jonah's priority was the heat.

God's priority was the harvest.

What you are becoming is more important than what you are doing.

## NEW TESTAMENT CHASTENING

God's predominant way of chastening (training) believers today is through the written Word of God. As you read, the Word will instruct you in four different ways. Let's read II Tim. 3:16:

*"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." II Tim. 3:16*

### God's Word is inspired and profits you in:

- 1) Doctrine --- teaching, spiritual backbone, foundational truths
- 2) Reproof --- a slap on the wrist, refuting error, internal red alert
- 3) Correction --- giving guidance, for amendment, adjustments required
- 4) Instruction in righteousness --- "for resetting the direction of a man's life", training him in good living

**Bible Study Tip:** Read the same scripture in different versions to gain a different perspective.

God's Word  
is as a mirror.  
It doesn't reflect  
your face.

It reflects  
your heart.

**Benefits of Responding to God's Corrections:**

***"That the man of God may be perfect," KJV***

*"...so that the man of God would be complete"* ASV

*"...to make the man of God proficient..."* Mof

*"... so that the man who belongs to God  
... may be efficient* NEB

*...will be adequate* Gspd

*...may be perfectly fit* Wms

*...well-prepared at every point* Tay



Brittney McCleary  
(TBI 2008)

*"God's love released  
me from the  
need-to-measure-up  
mentality."*

***"...thoroughly furnished unto all good works."***

*...unto every good word being well-prepared.* Rhm

*... thoroughly equipped for every good enterprise.* Wms

### JOHN MARK: A N.T. CASE STUDY OF THE CHASTENING LOVE OF GOD

Acts 12:12, 25 Acts 13:13 Acts 15:36-39 Col 4:10-11  
Phm. 24 II Tim. 4:11 I Pt. 5:13

Mark, also known as "John Mark"

- Lived in Jerusalem
- Mom was a godly well-to-do widow
- He and his mother provided their home as one of the main meeting places for the early Christians.
- Was assistant and traveling companion to Paul and his Uncle Barnabas
- Deserted ministry team and went home to Mama
- Paul refused to let him rejoin the ministry team.
- Cooperated with God's chastening love
- Paul requested his help (twenty years later) just before execution.

**Key verse:** *"Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is useful (helpful) to me for ministry."*

II Tim. 4:11 (*Apostle Paul just before execution*)

- Q.** How do we know that Mark experienced and responded correctly to God's chastening love?
- A.** Because he demonstrated the fruit of it: spiritual growth, wrote the gospel of Mark and became key person in the growth of early churches

**SPIRITUAL MATURITY BELONGS TO THOSE WHO UNDERSTAND AND EMBRACE GOD'S PERSPECTIVE, THEREBY ALLOWING GOD TO ACCOMPLISH MORE.**



Chapter

5

**In This Chapter  
You Will Learn:**

Word Studies  
and Pictures

What Controls  
You?

Giver or Taker?

Good Samaritan

Paul's Motivation

15 Ways

Case Study: The  
Good Samaritan

**Respond to  
His Love**

# GOD'S COMPELLING LOVE

*"For the love of Christ compels (controls, urges, impels) me."*

II Cor. 5:14

God's COMPELLING love is an intense, passionate, all-consuming impartation of the heart of God towards a person, place or cause. It releases purpose.

**WORD PICTURES:**

- Two Magnets in two different locations

So, what controls you? You want God to use you, right? You've been asking Him to use you, right? This chapter will radically rearrange your routines and interrogate your priorities. It will cause you to be stretched and inconvenienced, but, if you can hang in there, it will also introduce you to the adventure of your life.

\_\_\_\_\_ physical appetites; (food, water, sex, sleep)

\_\_\_\_\_ need for acceptance

\_\_\_\_\_ fear & worry

\_\_\_\_\_ your calendar

\_\_\_\_\_ your music

\_\_\_\_\_ financial demands

## NEWS FLASH! IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU

As long as you remain self-absorbed you will never be able to live a life consumed by the compelling love of God. Why? Because it's not about you. Your needs. Your wants. Your schedule. Your image. You. You. You. Yes, you're born again and you will live in heaven someday, but you've lowered yourself to self-centered living. Just the thought of considering someone else *first* tilts you!

## ARE YOU A GIVER OR A TAKER?

God wants you to live from the inside-out. Become God-inside-of-you-conscious. Christ-in-you-conscious. Even as you are obligated to live in the natural realm with daily responsibilities, you can allow God's consuming, compelling love to guide you.

**When you walk into the Blue Jean Café, do you:**

- a) look for your best friend
- b) sit with someone eating alone

**When you read your texts, do you:**

- a) have a few good laughs
- b) check on a friend who hasn't text lately

**When you attend church, do you say:**

- a) "Lord, bless me today."
- b) "Lord, use me to share Your love with someone today."

God's Great Love  
can heal you of  
C.A.D.

Constantly  
Annoyed  
Disorder.

## GOD'S COMPELLING LOVE IS A PERSON

**Chastening, Defined:** *"Your hurt in my heart"*

1. A feeling of deep sympathy and sorrow for another who is stricken by misfortune, accompanied by a strong desire to alleviate the suffering.

Compassion is a verb. Notice that it's compassion that moves people to action.

Matthew 9:36 *"But when He saw the multitudes, He was **moved** with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd."*

Notice that compassion moves.

Mark 1:41 *"And Jesus **moved** with compassion, stretched out His hand and said to him, "I am willing, be cleansed." (Leprosy)*

### LOVE IS A FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The source of compassion is love, which is the fruit (or the result of) the Holy Spirit.

Fruit grows. Gradually. Not a ta-dah! Every time you put others first, the Holy Spirit waters His love in you and it grows... Choice by choice.

### THE BIG TURN

Many of you are being challenged by the Holy Spirit to live dynamic, adventurous lives controlled by the love of God. It happens as you make that big step into the ways of a giver. Give yourself over to the compelling love of God and watch Him begin to use you to help others. It happened to Paul, it's happened to me and it can happen to you. Turn your back on selfish living and begin to be a giver, not just a taker.

COMPASSION  
is a Verb.

**THE GOOD SAMARITAN**

Read Luke 10:29-37 and compare the stark contrast of a religious man consumed with self and a “he’s-not-as-good-as-us” Samaritan who was filled with compassion.

**The Levite saw wounded man  
and crossed the street**

- a) Religious rules made him rigid
- b) Didn't want to get involved
- c) Didn't want to get dirty/defiled
- d) Didn't want to get robbed

**The Samaritan saw the wounded man  
and had compassion**

- a) Compassion changed his priorities
- b) Compassion changed his schedule
- c) Compassion shared his transportation (donkey)
- d) Compassion cost him some food and medical supplies
- e) Compassion cost him a few hotel bills

*“Those of us who are strong and able in the faith need to step in and lend a hand to those who falter and not just do what is most convenient for us. Strength is for service, not status. Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, “How can I help?”*

Romans 15:1 Msg.

## **PAUL'S MOTIVATION FOR MINISTRY**

As we study the Apostle's life, we can't help but wonder what compelled him to such evangelistic extremes and fueled him through his tortures and trials. Before he met Jesus, he had such an impressive life of prestige; schooled in the most respected academic institutions earning the equivalent today of three doctoral degrees. He could have lived a comfortable life teaching God's Old Testament Law to inquisitive young, adoring students. But then he met Jesus! (Acts 9:3-6)



### **A Punchy Poem with a Potent Point About a Powerful Man Named Paul**

II Corinthians 4:7-18

**What did Paul possess?** (II Cor. 4:7)

**What put him to the test?** (II Cor. 4:8)

**And what did he confess?** (II Cor. 4:13)

**What was his constant pest?** (II Cor. 4:17)

**Why did Paul never digress?** (II Cor. 4:18a)

**From his thirty-year heavenly quest?** (II Cor. 4:18b)

**The secret of his great success?** (II Cor. 4:18c)

### **PAUL'S SOURCE OF FUEL**

*"For the love of Christ constrains me..."* II Cor. 5:14KJV

*"For the love of Christ controls and urges and impels us..."*

II Cor. 5:14 Amp

Paul was consumed, controlled, constrained, urged and impelled by Christ's love for him and for people. His life was radically changed and so will be yours.

**PAUL'S "LIGHT" AFFLICTIONS**

"We are \_\_\_\_\_ on every side, yet not  
\_\_\_\_\_; we are \_\_\_\_\_, but not in  
despair; \_\_\_\_\_, but not forsaken;  
\_\_\_\_\_, but not destroyed..."

II Cor. 4:8-9

"For our **light affliction**, [slight distress of the passing hour-  
Amp] which is but for a moment, is working **FOR** us..."

II Cor. 4:17

**PAUL'S SECRET TO STRENGTH**

"While we do not look at things that are \_\_\_\_\_,  
but at things that are \_\_\_\_\_. For the  
things that are seen are \_\_\_\_\_, but the  
things that are not seen are \_\_\_\_\_."

II Cor. 4:18



Laticia Pace  
(TBI 2002)

"God's love changes  
everything."

# 15 FIFTEEN WAYS TO DEVELOP COMPASSION FOR PEOPLE

1. Meditate – Say out loud  
*“Christ-in-me the hope of glory.” Col.1:27*  
 Christ-in-me, the hope of health  
 Christ-in-me, the hope of purpose  
 Christ-in-me, the hope of love  
 Christ-in-me, the hope of deliverance
2. Meditate –  
 Jesus said, *“The kingdom of God is within you.” Lk. 17:21*
3. Pray Eph. 1:18  
*“Father, let the eyes of my understanding be enlightened...” KJV*  
*“Father, let the eyes of my heart be flooded with light...”*  
 Amp.
4. Pray *“Father, let me see people through Your eyes.”*
5. Stare into people’s eyes.
6. Give a dollar to a homeless man on the street corner.
7. When you hear about someone’s bad news, respond with a hug, text or card.
8. Donate your time to an organization that helps people.
9. Watch the nightly news with pen and paper, knowing that your prayers will make a difference.
10. Ask your pastor to supply you with a list of shut-ins; pray or send cards.
11. Read the obituary and send a card and written prayer to the grieving families.
12. When driving, pray for those who cut into your lane or display anger towards you. They must be totally stressed out!
13. During offering, give something...anything...just to stir up compassion.
14. Sit alone in a busy mall and think about how many people are lonely.
15. Re-read #1 and realize that you have what people need: God’s great love

**“IF YOU DON’T  
 GROW UP,  
 I CAN’T  
 SHOW UP!”**

Holy Spirit  
 September 2009

## **THE WORLD IS WAITING**

*"For God so loved the world that He gave...."* John 3:16

### **POPULATION**

**USA - 308,924,835**

**World - 6,810,327,110**

**Almost 7 Billion people on the earth!**

### **POVERTY**

- Almost ½ the world (over 3 billion) live on less than \$2.00/day
- At least 80% of humanity lives on less than \$10/day
- According to UNICEF, 25,000 children die each day due to poverty.
- For the 1.9 billion children from the developing world, there are:
  - 640 million without adequate shelter (1 in 3)
  - 400 million with no access to safe water (1 in 5)
  - 270 million with no access to health services (1 in 7)

### **ORPHANS**

- Every day 5,760 more children become orphans
- Every year 14,050,000 grow up as orphans and age out of the system
- Every 2.2 seconds, another orphan child age out with no family to belong to and no place to call home
  - In Ukraine & Russia 10%-15% who age out of an orphanage commit suicide before age 18
  - 60% of the girls are lured into prostitution
  - 70% of the boys become hardened criminals

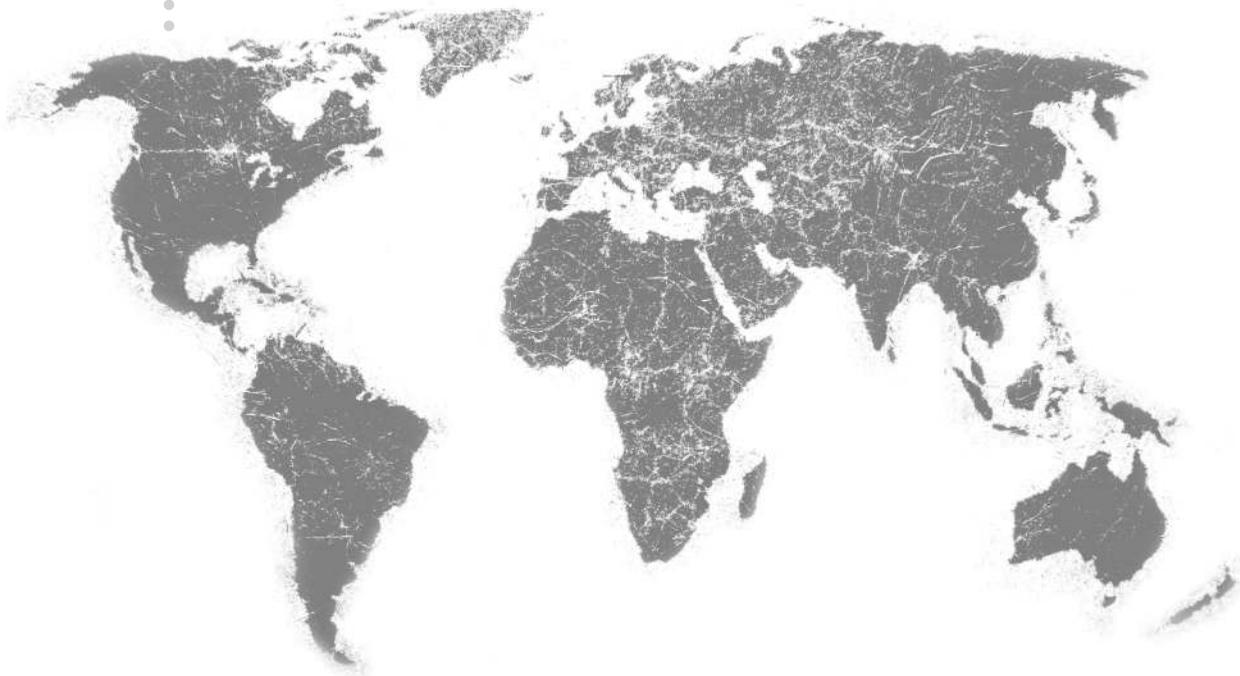
## HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- It's the fastest-growing criminal industry in the world
  - Total annual revenue USD \$7 billion
- An estimated 2.5 million people from 127 different countries are being trafficked around the world
- 2 million children are forced into prostitution every year. Half of them live in Asia.

## A CLOSING CHALLENGE

Get a world map. Lay your hands on it and begin to pray. Pray 10-15 minutes in English and in your supernatural prayer language which are called "*tongues*." Over a period of days, you'll sense God leading you to pray for one specific nation or people groups. This is a great clue for your next adventure with God.

And whether God leads you to minister to your ten co-workers or shake a nation, the key is to continually experience and demonstrate **GOD'S GREAT LOVE**.



***FOR GOD SO LOVED THE...***

- Addict & Alcoholic            [www.christianrecoveryministries.com](http://www.christianrecoveryministries.com)
- Athlete                            [www.FCA.org](http://www.FCA.org)
- Children with Cancer        [www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org)
- Children                         [www.discovery\\_camp.org](http://www.discovery_camp.org)
- College Student               [www.campuscrusadeforchrist.com](http://www.campuscrusadeforchrist.com)
- Cowboy                         [www.cowboychurchministries.org](http://www.cowboychurchministries.org)
- Depressed, Grief-stricken [www.jcchristiancounseling.com](http://www.jcchristiancounseling.com)
- Domestic Violence  
  Victim Family                 [www.focusonthefamily.org](http://www.focusonthefamily.org)
- Financially Desperate       [www.crown.org](http://www.crown.org)
- Homosexuals                   [www.exodusinternational.org](http://www.exodusinternational.org)
- Jewish People                 [www.jewsforjesus.org](http://www.jewsforjesus.org)
- Katy-Houston, TX Area      [www.bwoc.cc](http://www.bwoc.cc)
- Military                         [www.navigators.org](http://www.navigators.org)
- Orphans                         [www.missionfinder.org/orphanes](http://www.missionfinder.org/orphanes)
- Pastor                           [www.summit.org](http://www.summit.org)
- Prisoners                       [www.prisonfellowship.org](http://www.prisonfellowship.org)
- Single Moms                  [www.singlemomm.org](http://www.singlemomm.org)
- Unwed Mothers                [www.mercyministries.org](http://www.mercyministries.org)
- Victims of  
  Natural Disasters            [www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org)
- Youth                           [www.texasbibleinstitute](http://www.texasbibleinstitute)
- Widows                         [www.widowsministry.org](http://www.widowsministry.org)

***...THAT HE SENT THESE MINISTRIES TO DEMONSTRATE GOD'S GREAT LOVE.***

The above websites are not necessarily endorsed by TBI, but printed only to demonstrate God has strategically placed His representatives in all strata of society with the message of His Great Love.

# Respond to His Love

*“What manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us,  
that we should be called the sons of God...”*

1 John 3:1 NKJV

**God's steadfast love gives you value.**

**God's redeeming love gives you freedom.**

**God's restoring love gives you hope.**

**God's chastening love gives you guidance.**

**God's compelling love gives you purpose.**

*“...Freely you have received, freely give.” Mt. 10:8*

The Message  
Is The Same  
In Every  
Translation:  
God's Redeeming Love.

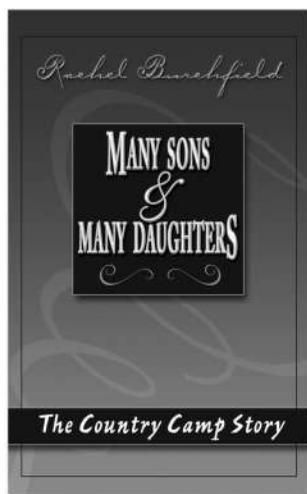
# Foundations For Life Curriculum for T.B.I.

Following Jesus  
Recognizing God's Voice  
The Bible Story  
How To Study Your Bible  
God's Great Love  
Life's Four Greatest Choices  
Leadership Secrets Of David  
The Force Of Forgiveness  
Christianity 101: Romans  
Possessing God's Promises  
Foundations Of Faith  
Effective Altar Ministry



## Other Recent Works of Rachel Burchfield

**Many Sons  
& Many  
Daughters**



**God's Great 8  
(CD)**



**Miracle  
Moments**

