



# WEEKLY SERMON

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**Sunday** April 17, 2022

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**Message:** Easter Sunday - 2022

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**Text:** Jeremiah 31:3; John 3:1-16; Romans 5:8

Mary Magdalene is the most significant "**first**" at the Resurrection! After the days of darkness, marked by the knowledge that the Lord of life was buried in a tomb, she is the first at the gravesite, and she will be the first to see the risen Savior (John 20:11).

She comes brokenhearted. It's important that we realize Mary had not come believing, but hurting. She had not come with a sense of anticipation, but with brokenness and grief.

The death she had witnessed had been disturbing. The disappearance of the body was even more distressing. Mary, brokenhearted by her loss, wept at the side of the tomb. At first she was oblivious to the presence of two angels (John 20:11-16). As she looked into the tomb where the body had laid, through her tears Mary saw them! Their appearance was fascinating, for they were seated at either end of the burial slab - looking very reminiscent of the Ark of the Covenant of old, where angels guarded the mercy seat. They responded to her weeping, and her only thought was that they might know where Christ had been taken.

When Mary turned away from the angels, there before her was Christ Himself! In that most tender of moments, Jesus called her name, and she immediately recognized Him (John 20:16). She was shocked with joy!

She faced Him, and as she looked at Him, she turned from death to life, from grief to joy, from despair to belief. She responded, "Rabboni" - teacher, master, the equivalent of "my dear Lord" - the title only a believer can utter about the Christ. Her emotional roller coaster had settled in peaceful calm.

She has seen Jesus alive. Mary of Magdala, once demon-possessed but now set free, once grieving but now joyful, was the first person to see the risen Christ! For the first time in days, darkness had been overwhelmed by light. Death had been thwarted by the resurrection of Christ.

**Not only was she the first to see, she was the first to tell.** Mary Magdalene was richly privileged because she deeply loved. She ran back to the disciples and did what we are now to do. She told what she saw, and she told how it felt. He is alive, and because of that we have life forevermore! Joy has come where weeping had endured, for Jesus was, and is yet today, alive!

For two thousand years, men, women, boys, and girls have stood up - for many of them on pain of death - to be witnesses for Christ. We are invited to join them in this grand, eternity-transforming enterprise of telling people about the risen Christ.

Like Mary, our call is to go into the world and tell them what has happened in our lives because Jesus conquered death. Like Mary, we are not called to eloquence, brilliance, or cleverness. We are called to tell what has happened and how it felt.

When Jesus Christ came into the world, He declared that His mission statement was not about death but about life. Hear His words:

**"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."** (John 10:10)

**"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."** (John 14:6)

Christ kept His Word and provided the rescue He had promised. In fulfilling His mission, He did the impossible by taking dead people and making them living persons. This is the victory of Calvary. The victory of love and the victory of life-changing grace is secured and made possible by the love that holds us in its arms and won't let go.

Pause for a few moments **"Beneath the Cross of Jesus."** May you determine to live the truth of the phrase, **"My glory all the cross."**

**Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand -  
The shadow of a mighty Rock Within a weary land;  
A home within the wilderness, A rest upon the way,  
From the burning of the noon-tide heat, And the burden of the day.**

**I take, O Cross, thy shadow For my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine than The sunshine of His face;  
Content to let the world go by, To know no gain nor loss,  
My sinful self my only shame, My glory all the cross.**

In ***HIS*** Amazing Grace from Calvary,

**Pastor David Miklas**

# "God's Everlasting Love at Calvary"

**INTRODUCTION:** Again on this Easter Sunday 2022 we come to remember those events of Calvary and the Resurrection of Christ 2000 years ago.

I have for some 45 years believed **Palm Sunday** began the Passion Week of our Lord followed by the **Last Supper** being celebrated on **Tuesday** evening which would be the beginning of the **Jewish Wednesday**.

The events leading to the cross, the crucifixion and Jesus' death being carried out on **Wednesday** with the burial on **Wednesday** evening which would be the beginning of the **Jewish Thursday**.

The resurrection would then be on **Saturday evening**, which for the Jews would be the beginning of the **First day of the week**.

Again we are going to look at Calvary.

In Jeremiah 31:3 we read, "The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee."

In Romans 5:8 we read, "But God commendeth his LOVE toward us, in that, while we were yet SINNERS, Christ died for us."

In John 3:16-17 we read, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (17) For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

The love of God found in verse 16 is the greatest story ever told to a listening ear. The Hymn writers wrote,

Could we with ink the ocean fill, and were the skies of parchment made,  
Were every stalk on earth a quill, and every man a scribe by trade  
To write the LOVE OF GOD above would drain the ocean dry,  
Nor would the scroll contain the whole,  
Though stretched from sky to sky.

Most of you have known this verse by heart from a child.

One said that John 3:16 is "The greatest sentence ever written."

Another said that John 3:16 is the "Gospel in miniature."

Another said, "There is enough Gospel in this verse to save the world if the world would hear and believe it."

Someone expressed it this way:

FOR GOD, who is the perfect, unchangeable, source of life,  
SO LOVED, the one who has longed to see forgiveness,  
THE WORLD, which lives in sin and pleasure mad,  
THAT HE GAVE, the greatest gift He had,  
HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, the one who had taken our place,  
THAT WHOSOEVER, Oh, the matchless grace,  
BELIEVETH, which is the placing of our simple trust,  
IN HIM, this one shall not perish, but have everlasting life.

Together, let's discover **SEVEN TRUTHS** told to us about **GOD'S EVERLASTING LOVE** found at Calvary in John 3:16.

**FIRST: The ORIGIN of His love - "FOR God."** John 3:16 begins where Genesis 1:1 began "In the beginning GOD..." In the beginning of creation **there is GOD**. In the

beginning of redemption **there is GOD.**

Without **GOD** there would be no **CREATION.**  
Without **GOD** there would be no **REDEMPTION.**  
Without **GOD** there would be no **LOVE.**

**SECOND: The TENSE of His love - "For God so LOVED."** It is not God loves, but He "loved." That He loves us now that we are His children, we can, in measure, understand; but that He loved us before we became His children, passes knowledge. The Greek word for love in this passage is the word **AGAPE.** Here in is the word for **CALVARY.**

This is the love of the will, rather than the love of the emotions.  
This is an eternal love, an everlasting love.  
This is a love that is spontaneous, sovereign, uninfluenced.

Please listen! A sinner will go to hell unsaved, but he cannot go to hell unloved. In this verse we have an exposition of divine love.

Its origin is in the **HEART** of **GOD.**  
Its extent has reached to all the world.  
Its power is so strong that it gave the only begotten Son.  
Its forever to whosoever believeth, and  
Its effectiveness should not perish but have everlasting life.

**THIRD: The MAGNITUDE of His love - "God SO loved."** The little word "**SO**" signifies there are not enough words in all the languages of the world to explain the love of God. Over in Ephesians 3:14-19 we read these words about the love of God.

"For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, (15) Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, (16) That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; (17) That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, (18) May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; (19) And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God."

Notice that words cannot explain:

the DEPTH of God's love as He, in Psalms 40:2-3, "**brought me up out of an horrible pit out of the miry clay and set my feet upon a rock.. and He hath put a new song in my mouth even praises unto our God.**" nor can words explain:

the HEIGHT of God's love earned for the saints to come, nor can words explain:

the LENGTH of the love of God which at Calvary stretched from eternity to eternity, and neither can words express:

the BREADTH of the great love of God. Which according to Psalm 103:12 removed our sins "**as far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.**"

Do you really want to know the HEIGHT, the DEPTH, the LENGTH, and the BREADTH of God's love for sinners?

Then go to the cross of Calvary and write on the TOP of that cross, "**The height of God's love.**"

Stoop down BENEATH the nail pierced feet that never walked in sin and write at the bottom of the cross, "**the depth of God's love.**"

Then walk around to the LEFT of the cross to the side where the heart of God beats in the bosom of His Son, to the place where the heart weeps over sinners, and at the finger tips of the bruised and bleeding hand of the Saviour write, "The breadth of God's love."

Now walk around to the RIGHT-HAND side of Christ, that everlasting hand that not only cradles the universe, but which also holds the blessed little children, and which lifts up the fallen ones, and write there, "The length of God's love."

When you have completed that task, and walked around the cross of Calvary with that picture in mind, you have just begun to understand John 3:16.

**FOURTH: The SCOPE of God's Love - "For God so loved the WORLD." God is the subject, love is the verb and you and I are the object.** Isn't that marvelous? This hunk of clay molded by his hand, and marred by sin is now an enemy, alienated and separated from God. Yet by His Grace and Mercy, God LOVES me, from the creation of man in the past to the end of time.

In I John 4:14, we read "**And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the WORLD.**"

In II Corinthians 5:19, we read, "**that God was in Christ, reconciling the WORLD unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them...**"

In John 1:29, John seeing Jesus said, "**Behold the LAMB OF GOD, which taketh away the sin of the WORLD.**"

By the "World" God means every one of us. Hebrew 2:9 says, "**that he (speaking of Christ) by the grace of God should taste death for every man.**" Every man includes all of us from creation past to creation present as well as into the future.

**FIFTH: The NATURE of God's love - "God so loved the world that He GAVE."** God proved His love by giving His very best. Christ on the cross is the **RESULT** of God's love for the world, not the **CAUSE** of His love.

**God does not love us BECAUSE Jesus died on the cross, rather Jesus died on the cross BECAUSE GOD LOVED US while we were yet sinners.** Or let's say it this way, "**The suffering of Jesus on the cross did not cause God to fall in love with man; the love of God for man ALLOWED Jesus to suffer on the cross.**"

There is no way to estimate the cost of our "**so great salvation.**" God did not send angels, nor cherubim's, or any heavenly creatures to pay the price of redemption: "**He gave His only begotten Son.**"

"I do not know the depth of Jesus,  
That brought Him down to earth from Heaven above.  
Nor why He bore the cross on Calvary,  
And shed His precious blood so willingly.  
BUT this one thing I know,  
That when the crimson flow  
Dropped to earth below,  
It fell on me.  
My eyes were opened wide,  
I saw Him crucified,  
And know for me He died on Calvary."

There is no way to estimate the cost of our "**so great salvation.**" In I John 4:10 we read, "**Herein is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us.**" Listen carefully to this unbelievable story of love.

**One Saturday the long-awaited trip of a little boy with his father was finally a reality.**

The father was an engineer responsible for the operation of a revolving bridge across a river where passenger trains would cross. On this day the father was working while the boy was off playing. The span was open as it should have been. All of a sudden the father heard the horn of a train in the distance. This was an unexpected train. The engineer raced to the control room, knowing he had to close the span.

As he grabbed the lever to bring the span back into place, He looked down into the huge gear box, and there he saw his little boy playing. Grief and fear came over Him, realizing that he had an unbelievable decision to make. Either he had to bring that span around to close it so the train with 100's of passengers would safely cross the tracks and in the process crush his son; or he could save his own son and the train would plunge into the river and all the people would die.

That father stood there for what almost seemed an eternity to Him. His mind racing, and shaking from head to foot, he knew what he had to do. He grabbed the lever, and as he did the gears began to move the span into place. The train went thundering across the tracks. All the people were saved, TOTALLY OBLIVIOUS TO THE PRICE THAT HAD JUST BEEN PAID. This father, in the process of saving the train load of people, CRUSHED his own son in the gear box.

God had only one option. It was either His Son or us. He chose to close the gear box on His Son. Herein is AGAPE LOVE, the Love of God on Calvary, where "He spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all..." Oh! What love was shown!

Notice again Jeremiah 31:3, "The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee."

Now notice three things about God's "everlasting Love."

#### **Number 1: God's love never had a beginning.**

Before man was created, and Adam had fallen, He loved us.

Before the mountains were erected or a lake was poured, or the sky was stretched, or the earth's foundation was laid, He loved us.

Before a star twinkled at dusk, the sun was plugged in, or the moon turned on, He loved us.

He never began to love us. He has always loved and will always love us. His love is eternal.

#### **Number 2: God's love never pauses. His love for us never has an INTERMISSION, nor is INTERRUPTED nor takes a RECESS.**

Ask Peter when he cursed, if the love of God ever ceased.

Ask David when he sinned in adultery and murder, if sin could separate him from God's love.

Ask Jonah if depth at sea can separate us from the love of God.

Ask Paul if tribulation can separate us from the love of God.

Please listen. You will never enter into **SIN** that is deep enough to go beyond the love of God. You'll never go so far from God that God's love isn't waiting for you when you get there - **to love you back.**

Oh, LOVE of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong.  
It SHALL forevermore endure, the saints and angels song.

Think about it:

God the omnipotent all powerful one loves the weak one.

God the omniscient all knowing one loves the ignorant one.

God the omnipresent all present one loves the finite one.



God the perfect one loved the imperfect one.

Think about it, dwell on it, mediate on it, and sing about it:

I stand amazed in the presence, Of Jesus the Nazarene.  
And wonder how He could LOVE me, A sinner, condemned, unclean.  
How marvelous! How wonderful, and my song shall ever be,  
How marvelous! How wonderful, is my Saviour's LOVE for me!

Hear me! Hear me! God loves you with an **everlasting love**, a love that had no beginning, a love that has no pause, and a love that has no ending. Oh, thank God you can go to the depth of sin or to the height of respectability, yet God still loves you with an everlasting **LOVE**.

**Number 3: God's love never ends.** God's love never had a beginning, nor does it ever pause. It also never ends.

When the world has passed away, the LOVE of God shall endure.

When time shall be no more, the LOVE of God shall be sure.

When the sun has been unplugged and the stars refuse to twinkle, He shall still LOVE me.

When kings have perished and thrones have melted, Gods LOVE will stand secure.

When the great white throne is history and the millennium is only a fond memory, and

When we walk the golden streets through gates of pearl and live with the angels of God forever, God's LOVE will still be fresh.

Again from Jeremiah 31:3, notice two pronouns, "I" and "**THEE**." "I have loved Thee."

Who is this who loves me? He who has Heaven for His throne and earth for His hassock. He loves me.

Who is this who loves me? The timekeeper of the sun, the energy of the moon and stars, the giver of life. He loves me.

Who is this who loves me? The maker of the universe loves me, the Great Omniscient Creator, the Omnipotent King of Kings, the WAY the TRUTH and the LIFE, the BREAD OF LIFE, the GOOD SHEPHERD, the great I AM loves me with an everlasting love.

Please notice the phrase, "I have loved **THEE**." Who is that? Why, that's you! The greatest need of the human heart is to be loved. Yes,

God still loves you this morning, even if you have turned away from Him.  
God still loves you this morning, even if you're practicing sin.  
God still loves you, fellow sinner. He loved you enough to give His Son, and Jesus loved you enough to die for you. And yes,  
God still loves you this morning, even if you are a backslider and have turned away from Him.

Now returning to John 3:16 we come to the sixth truth of God's love.

**SIXTH: The DESIGN of God's love** - "That whosoever believeth on Him should not PERISH." Listen to those words again, "whosoever believeth...should not perish." "Whosoever believeth shall not be condemned." In John 3:17-18 we read,

"For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. (18) He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

Here, my friends, is the difference between HEAVEN and HELL:

A person who dies and goes to hell goes there for one reason, unbelief.  
A person who dies and goes to Heaven goes there for one reason, his faith in the crucified,  
risen and living Lord Jesus.

**SEVENTH: The BENEFIT of God's love - "But have EVERLASTING LIFE."** This is what God imparts to each and every one of us who by faith takes Jesus as our Saviour - **"EVERLASTING LIFE."** Please notice with me the last verse of this great chapter, verse 36, **"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."**

One of the most glorious phrases that was ever uttered is that which was so often upon the lips of our Lord Jesus Christ, **"eternal life."** One of the most awful and appalling phrases ever uttered is in verse 36, **"the wrath of God."**

This morning, it is between these two, the undeniably glorious, **"eternal life"** and the unspeakably awful, **"wrath of God,"** that each of us is called to make his choice: **"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."**

The question then that confronts each of us is this: **"eternal life or the wrath of God?"** Which shall it be? Which shall you choose? I made my choice over 60 years ago. Which shall be your choice? This is not a difficult matter. There is one simple step between you and Jesus. In dozens of scriptures all through the Bible, salvation is promised to those that believe.

Acts 16:31, **"BELIEVE on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved."**  
John 1:12, **"But as many as received him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that BELIEVE on His name."**  
John 6:47, **"Verily, Verily, I say unto you, He that BELIEVETH on me hath everlasting life."**

Oh, my friends, there are two possibilities available to you this hour, one infinitely glorious, the other inconceivably appalling. **"Eternal life"** or the **"wrath of God,"** which will you choose? You need to come to Him and trust Him right now without delay.

**Come to Jesus:**

**"Just as I am without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me,  
And that thou biddest me to come to thee, O' Lamb of God , I come."**

Again, I challenge you to take a fresh look at Calvary and see the everlasting love of God. Then pray, **"Lord help me to see the value of a lost soul, and through me, help that lost soul to see God's Everlasting Love at Calvary."**

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If God has spoken to your heart after reading the sermon, **"God's Everlasting Love at Calvary,"** then right now talk to God about what He has spoken to you.

Do you have the assurance that one day you will go to heaven? If you have no assurance that you know Jesus Christ, then I trust you will decide to accept Him as your personal Savior. The Bible tells us in

Acts 16:31, **"...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved..."**  
Romans 10:13, **"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."**

This prayer is here for those who need to ask Jesus to be their personal Savior: **"I do want to go to Heaven. I know I am a sinner, and I do believe Jesus Christ died for me. I realize I cannot buy**



**this great salvation, nor can I earn it. Knowing Jesus died on the cross and arose from the grave to pay my sin debt and to purchase my salvation, I do now trust Him as my Savior, and from this moment on I am completely depending on Him for my salvation.”**

If you made the decision to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, please let me know. Please send an e-mail to [\*\*pastormiklas@aol.com\*\*](mailto:pastormiklas@aol.com) and I will send you some literature that will help you in your Christian life.

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