



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

1 JOHN 4:9 – THE WONDER OF THE GOSPEL...*HIS REDEEMING LOVE!*

COLORADO

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*It is absurd to claim to have been born of God and to know God if we do not love others. Remember that likeness is proof of relationship. If we have been born of God, then we will love one another because God is love. This is a distinguishing mark of true believers. This kind of love finds its' source in God alone. It is a love that comes only from God. But, if we have not been "born of God" (1 John 4:7), then there is no way we can love like God. Instead, we can only have the natural love of the world that will never be steadfast and loyal without end as God loves.*

## I. 1 JOHN 4:9: THE WONDER OF THE GOSPEL... GOD'S REDEEMING LOVE!

*(7) "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God." (8) "The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love." (9) "By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him." (10) "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." (11) "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another." 1 John 4:7-11*

As true believers in Jesus Christ, we are called to love as God loves us. This godly love is a command rooted in the soil of His redeeming grace through what He has done by providing salvation found only in His Son Jesus Christ. It is this godly love that ultimately constrains all believers to obedient love as true children of God. John challenges us to practice the love that is native to our new nature; the love of God. A mark of our new birth is love that is self-denying, sacrificial service for the sake of others. And now John moves into another reason for loving one another in this next set of verses, (1 John 4:9-11) because "God so loved us." (1 John 4:11)<sup>1</sup>

As we look at 1 John 4:9 in this next study we will find the wonder of the gospel as we see God's great love for us given in His Son Jesus Christ so that we could be saved and "live through Him."

### A. THE LOVE OF GOD MADE "MANIFEST" – 1 JOHN 4:9A

*"By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him."  
1 John 4:9*

John goes on to show how God revealed His love to us.

"manifested" Greek "ephanerothe" verb, means to make visible, make clear, come out in to the open.

John likes this term and he has used it multiple times. He is implying that before the Incarnation of Jesus Christ (Jesus come in the flesh), the love of God had not been displayed in such a personal and dynamic way.<sup>2</sup> We would never have known such redeeming love apart from the fact that God took the initiative to reveal His love for us in Christ. In Christ, God's message of love reached down to me! God acted to manifest, to reveal, to make visible, to make clear, *His love!*

### B. "GOD HAS SENT HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON"-1 JOHN 4:9B

*"By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him."  
1 John 4:9*

God's love for us was not an empty feeling or thought. In order that we might have "life", God the Father purposely and intentionally sent His "only begotten Son" into the darkness and sin of our fallen world. He did this for fallen humanity. For each of us. The Father gave what was most precious to Him, "His only begotten Son" to secure our everlasting good.<sup>3</sup> Think on this for a moment.

God gave His only Son. God gave the best there was to give. Nothing could be greater than this. Could anything ever exceed this gift? Jesus is the "indefinable gift" Paul speaks of in 2 Corinthians 9:15 with such thanksgiving!<sup>4</sup> So should our own hearts exclaim.

"His only Son" refers to a distinct status and marks out Jesus' deity as the Father's only Son. And here John calls our attention to the intimate Father/Son relationship, between the Sender and the One Sent.<sup>5</sup> Do not miss this.

John also refers to Jesus Christ as God the Father's "only begotten Son". This description is a very unique term he applies to Christ.

"begotten" Greek "monogenes" adjective that points to uniqueness rather than origin. One of a kind.

John is saying that as the Son of God, Jesus Christ has no equal! He is one of a kind. And as God's Son, Jesus Christ is able to fully reveal God the Father. And the manifestation of God's love was in sending His only Son personally into the world for us so that He might redeem us from our sins. There was no other option for us to be rescued. And God did not

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spare His Own Son (Romans 8:32) in His sovereign purpose and kind desire to save us. And we are so unworthy.

God became *one with us* and *one of us* in the Incarnation, through Jesus Christ born in the flesh, in order to rescue us from our sin and death and win us for eternal life. (Hebrews 2:14-18)<sup>6</sup>

John says that “*God has sent His only begotten Son*”, the perfect tense of the verb, “*has sent*”, in the Greek points to the abiding impact of that crucial sending of Jesus Christ. It was an action that was completed in the past but has continuing results into the future. And it embodies the idea of someone being sent forth as the representative of another.<sup>7</sup> Two simple words carry such incredible meaning. Jesus Christ came to this earth as the Divine representative of God the Father in order to provide redemption for any who would believe. This is the wonder of the glorious good news of the gospel! Jesus Christ was sent by God to “*the world*” for us. John had written earlier in his gospel, “*For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him.*” (John 3:17)

### C. “SO THAT WE MIGHT LIVE THROUGH HIM”-1 JOHN 4:9C

*“By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.”*

*1 John 4:9*

Here John makes precisely clear as to the purpose of Christ’s Divine sending, for redemption, “*so that we might live through Him.*” This phrase implies that those to whom the Son was sent were spiritually dead. As the Apostle Paul wrote, “*And you were dead in your trespasses and sins*” and then a few verses down, “*But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ.*” (Ephesians 2:1, 4-5) So all humanity is

spiritually dead, but Christ came to give us life. That was His mission in coming this first time. It was to give life with the resulting possession of eternal life.<sup>8</sup>

And then, John points to one more critical point in this verse about Jesus Christ. Using the words, “*through Him*”, John declares the Son Himself as the mediating agent of this bestowed eternal life. And important to note is that this God given life is not just for the future, but through Christ it is received here in this life and will continue into our eternal future!

Again, we would never have known such redeeming love apart from the fact that God took the initiative in revealing His love to us in Jesus Christ His only Son. God did not spare His Own Son in His sovereign purpose and kind desire to save us from judgement and condemnation our sin against Him deserved!<sup>9</sup>

We were dead men and women before God the Father sent Jesus to die for us “*so that we might live through Him.*” But when Christ died for us and we were born again by the work of the Holy Spirit, then we were made alive spiritually. It is only after believing on Christ are we able to recognize the love of God that stood behind His sacrifice. Our redemption came at such a high cost. The price paid for our salvation was God’s only Son Who came to this earth in the flesh and died a criminal’s death on the cross, rose again the third day all that we might be saved.

Christ’s redeeming love for us is the wonder of the gospel! Since God, in His sovereign mercy graciously revealed His love by sending His only Son Jesus Christ... dare we love less than Christ? Oh may the cross of Christ, His redeeming love and the love of our Heavenly Father compel us to this same love for one another.

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<sup>1</sup> Hamilton, Ian, *Let’s Study the Letters of John*. The Banner of Truth Trust: Edinburgh, UK, 2008. Pg. 59.

<sup>2</sup> Hiebert, D. Edmond, *The Epistles of John: An Expository Commentary*. Bob Jones University Press: Greenville, SC, 1991. Pg.199.

<sup>3</sup> Hamilton, Ian, *Let’s Study the Letters of John*. The Banner of Truth Trust: Edinburgh, UK, 2008. Pg. 60.

<sup>4</sup> Boice, James Montgomery, *An Expository Commentary: The Epistles of John*. Baker Books: Grand Rapids, MI, 1979. Pg. 115.

<sup>5</sup> Hiebert, D. Edmond, *The Epistles of John: An Expository Commentary*. Bob Jones University Press: Greenville, SC, 1991. Pg. 200.

<sup>6</sup> Hamilton, Ian, *Let’s Study the Letters of John*. The Banner of Truth Trust: Edinburgh, UK, 2008. Pg. 60.

<sup>7</sup> Hiebert, D. Edmond, *The Epistles of John: An Expository Commentary*. Bob Jones University Press: Greenville, SC, 1991. Pg.201.

<sup>8</sup> Hiebert, D. Edmond, *The Epistles of John: An Expository Commentary*. Bob Jones University Press: Greenville, SC, 1991. Pg. 201.

<sup>9</sup> Hamilton, Ian, *Let’s Study the Letters of John*. The Banner of Truth Trust: Edinburgh, UK, 2008. Pg. 60.