



Pastor David's Weekly Devotional

God loves you.

Is there another phrase in our English language that is as wonderful, simple and utterly profound as “God loves you”? Just three little words, a total of eleven letters. We see it plastered on billboards and painted on signs at sporting events. Even little children confidently sing, “Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so!” And yet the depth of God’s love is infinite, and any pursuit to fully understand His love is endless. The Maker of heaven and earth – the sovereign, self-existing, holy and eternal God – loves you.

“God loves you” is a simple expression, but certainly not a shallow one. The euphoria of such a declaration must be grounded in serious contemplation. First, we might ask “Why does God love us?” Or, to put it more bluntly, “How can a perfectly holy and just God, love someone as unholy and sinful as me?” When we consider our own sinfulness and God’s infallible holiness, we cannot sanely conclude that we somehow deserve God’s love (no matter how badly we may want to believe that) nor can we rationally come to the conclusion that we can somehow earn God’s love.

God loves you not because you are so loveable, but because He is so loving. Scripture affirms that God loves because He is love (1Jn.4:8). He is not only the source of all true love (1Jn.4:7,19), but He Himself is inherently, perfectly and eternally love. Everything that God does is done in harmony with His sovereign love. God can no more cease to be loving than He can cease to be living.

The fact is, because of our sin, we deserve God’s just wrath and condemnation – not His love. But out of His love, He has made a way for us to receive His love and be forever freed from His judgment. He did this by sending His one and only Son to die on the cross for our sins. *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life”* (Jn.3:16; see 1Jn.4:9-10). The substitutional death of Jesus, God’s Son, is without question the greatest expression of love. In Christ Jesus, God has perfected us through His perfect love.

The punishment for sin is death. We read in Romans 6:23 that *“the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* God sent His Son to die on the cross for our sins to free us from the penalty and power of sin. Jesus was literally crucified in our place and for our sins (see Is.53:4-6; 2Cor.5:21). The glory of the Gospel is not that God demanded a sacrifice for sin, but that He provided it as well. He sacrificed His one and only Son for us. In the Bible we read that God did this *“because of the great love with which he loved us”* (Eph.2:4). That is, *“God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us”* (Rom.5:8). Our salvation in Christ is rooted in, and an expression of God’s divine love: *“But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy...whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior”* (Titus 3:4-6).

It was God’s love, and not the nails, that kept Jesus on the cross. On the basis of His sovereign love, God sent His sinless Son to die for our sins *“so that in him we might become the righteousness of God”* (2Cor.5:21). To receive the fullness of God’s love, one has only to receive God’s Son, Jesus Christ, as Lord and Savior (Jn.3:16-18, 36). No one can earn or merit God’s love. God’s saving love can only be received through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. God loves you. How are you responding to God’s love?

Together in and for Christ,
Pastor David

Scripture Readings for the Week (Monday – Sunday ~ Week #4):

Genesis 12-15; Joshua 16-20; Psalm 9-11; Job 7-8; Isaiah 18-22; Matthew 8-10; Romans 7-8

Recommended Reading:

“Loved by God” by RC Sproul

Calendar of
Events:

January 28

Shut-In's Ministry

Volunteer Meeting

January 28, 6pm

Business Meeting

February 7

The Sanctuary Play
Group

Looking Ahead....

February 21

AWANA Grand

Prix

For prayer requests,
email Amy Woodruff
at prayer@sbcnb.org
or call 541-404-0547

We're on the Web!

See us at:

sbcnb.org

Growth & Study.....

Men's Group Studies

Mondays ~

6:30pm "On the Christian Life" by John Calvin
w/Jeff Etzel

Wednesdays ~

6:30-7:30am "The Murder of Jesus"
Begins January 24th
w/Pastor David

8:15-9:30pm "Zechariah"
w/Pastor Josh

Thursdays ~

6:30-7:30am "Galatians ~ No Other Gospel"
Begins February 8th
w/Pastor Tim

Fridays ~

6:30-7:30am "The Murder of Jesus"
w/Pastor David

Adult Group Studies

Sundays ~

6:30-7:30pm "The Lord's Prayer"
Begins February 11th
At the Woodruff's Home (541-756-3311)

Young Adults

Thursdays ~

7:00-9:00pm At Skyline
w/Pastor Tim 541-756-3311

Women's Group Studies

Mondays ~

6:30pm "Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians"
w/Renee Middleton (541-297-2500)

Tuesdays ~

6:30-7:30am "The Sermon on the Mount"
w/Loy Huntzinger (360-607-0022)

8:30am "Isaiah, the Lord Saves"
w/Beth Wallstrom (541-404-0112)

9:00am "Live Out His Love"
w/Lois-Elaine Rencehausen (541-267-3106)

1:00-2:15pm "Romans"
w/Barb Young (541-404-6242)

7:00-8:15pm "Romans"
w/Barb Young (541-404-6242)

Wednesdays ~

9:00-10:30am "Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians"
w/Amy Woodruff (541-404-0547)

10:00am "A Woman of Wisdom, Proverbs"
w/Jeanette Murphy (541-266-7575)

6:30-8:00pm "Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians"
w/Amy Woodruff (541-404-0547)

Connect & Encourage.....

Shut-Ins Ministry Volunteer Meeting ~ January 28th, noon

Please join us after second service in the Annex Building if you are interested in learning more about volunteering to visit with our Shut-Ins & Homebound members.

Annual Business Meeting ~ January 28th, 6pm

Please email your annual commission report to office@sbcnb.org by January 17th for it to be included in the 2017 annual report. Contact the church office for more information.

"The Sanctuary" Play & Fellowship Time ~ February 7th, 9am

Moms & little ones are invited to come enjoy a time of fellowship and play in the Sanctuary on the first Wednesday of every month from 9:00am to 11:30am. Everyone is welcome with little ones from birth to age 5! Contact Anna Kintigh with questions 541-914-8013.

Children's Ministries.....

Save the date:

June 25 – 28 9am to Noon

Vacation Bible School

Open to children 3 years old (potty-trained) through 5th Grade

July 30 - August 3

Big G Summer Camp

Open to students entering 4th through 9th grade.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:



- Summer Sunday School Teachers and Helpers (this is our greatest area of need)
- 2nd Service Nursery Helpers (once a month)
- 1st & 2nd grade Sunday School Teacher (twice a month during second service)
- Awana helpers (Wednesday nights 6:30 to 8 pm – Summers off)
- Vacation Bible School Pre-School Director and Co-Director and leaders and helpers for other areas of VBS.

See Loy for more information. Training available.



Youth Ministries.....

Youth Group ~

High School youth group ~ Sunday nights 6 to 8pm.

Junior High youth group ~ Wednesday nights 6:30 to 8pm.