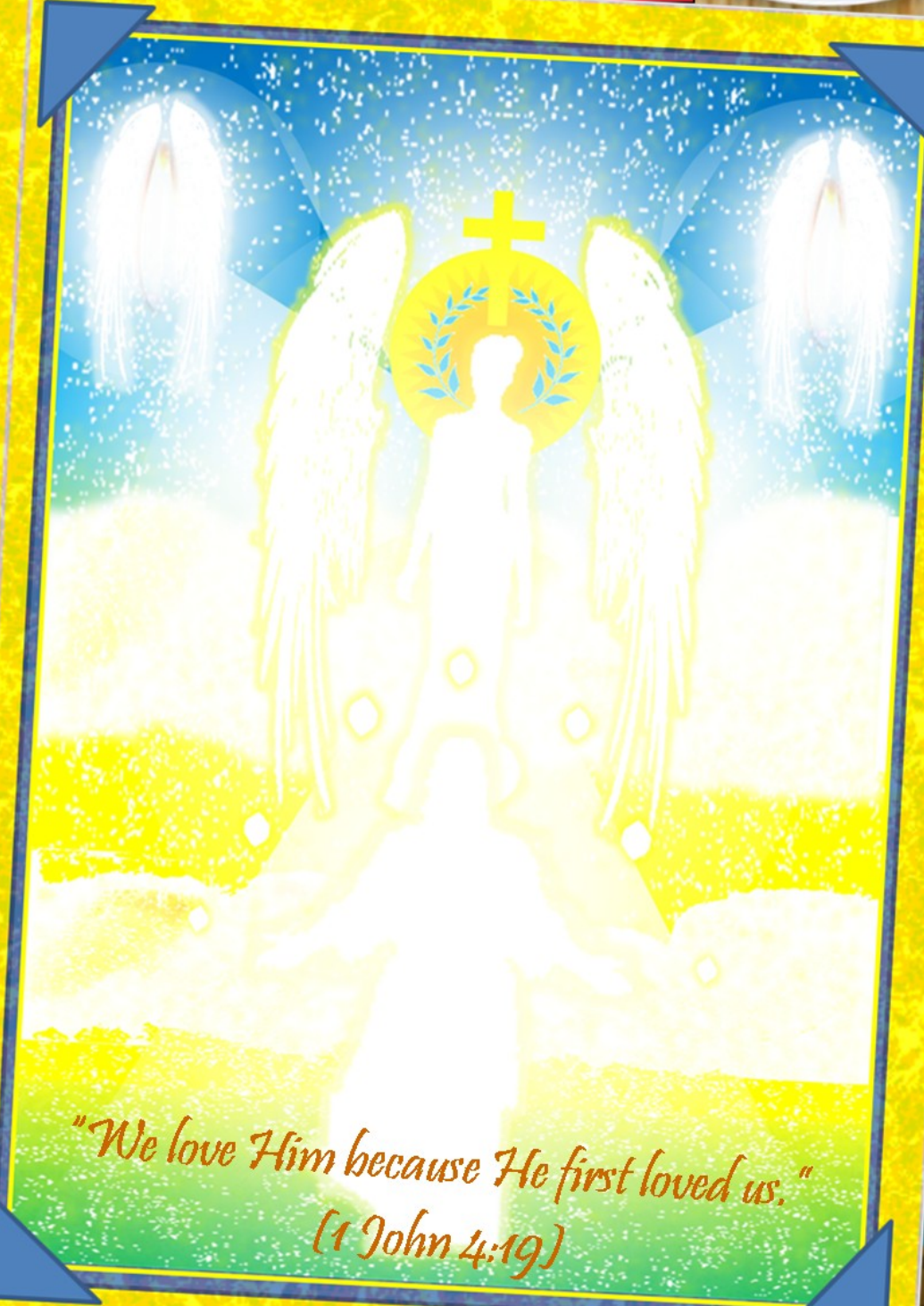


# LOVE

New  
Testament

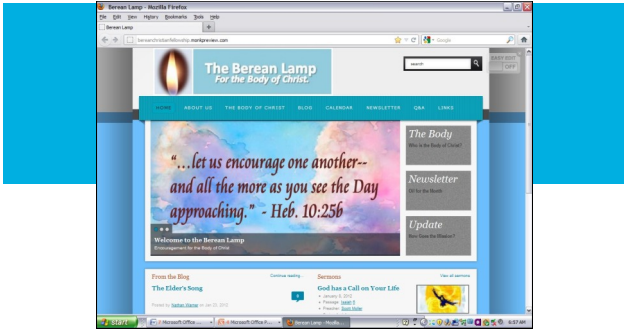


*"We love Him because He first loved us."  
(1 John 4:19)*



**The Berean Lamp**  
*For the Body of Christ.*

Vol. 5  
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The Berean Lamp Ministry seeks to:

1. Encourage and strengthen the Body of Christ by providing the means for each of its members to share their spiritual gifts with one another, rooted in the Word of God, thereby growing into deeper union with one another and with Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-31).
2. Minister to non-believers, be a witness for Christ and a testament to His Body in the world.

We would appreciate your help in contributing to the content and in spreading the work of this ministry. Thank you, and God bless.

- Pastor Scott Moller







## **The Love of God**

By Scott Moller

*“This is how we know what love is:  
Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.”  
(1 John 3:16a)*

The world today seems to have a fixation with the word “Love.” It is talked about much, and it is sought after with great effort often seemingly in vain. Few seem to understand love or are even able to describe it. It is commonly mistaken for something it is not. Most do not know its source or what it truly is, while some think they have found it then seem to lose it. The world does not recognize what love truly is. It does not understand that God is love, the demonstrator of love, and the source of love.

It is through the Bible that we learn that God is love, we see God’s love for us, and that He is the source of true love in our lives. In fact, one of the overriding themes of the Bible is love. It is here that we can see what love really is from God’s point of view, not the false view of love that the world so often holds. How has God demonstrated His love toward us?

God’s love is demonstrated in life and provision. In Genesis 2:7, we learn that God formed man from the dust and breathed life into man, causing man to become a living being. God showed His love for man by creating him and giving him life. Not only did God give man life but he also provided for him through His creation. Initially, we learn in Genesis 2:8 that God planted a garden to be man’s first home, and in Genesis 2:18, God provided a suitable helper and companion so that man would not be alone. For each one of

us today, God is still the provider of life and provision. He is the one who has given us our health, abilities, and talents. He has provided all of our resources that we so often take for granted until we don’t have them.

God’s love is also demonstrated in His patience with each one of us. We learn this in Psalm 103:8-18. He remembers how we were formed from the dust and that we are human. The Lord is compassionate and slow to anger. This passage says that He does not treat us as our sins deserve and that He loves those who fear (revere) Him. And lastly, He removes our sin and guilt from us.

Another way God demonstrates His love for us is through revelation and through His Word. God does not leave us without instructions or warning. In 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Paul describes the Scriptures as “God breathed,” signifying God as the source. Paul continues stating that the Scriptures are useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. We also see in Hebrews 4:12 that the Word of God is living and active. The Word of God judges the thoughts and attitudes of man’s heart so that nothing is hidden from God to whom man must give an account. God loves man and does not want him to be in darkness; therefore, God gave us His Word.

The greatest way in which God showed us His love was by sending His Son, Jesus Christ. Paul tells in Romans 5:5-8 that God sent His Son, while we were still powerless, ungodly sinners, to die in our place. It was by this act that God completely demonstrated His love for us, even though we were most undeserving of that love. The Apostle John reiterates this thought in 1 John 4:9-10 when he tells us that God sent His one and only Son that we might live (obtain salvation). Jesus Christ became an atoning sacrifice on our behalf for our sins. God provided the means of salvation through Jesus while we were still in opposition to Him.

**Editor in Chief:** Nathan Warner  
**Oversight Committee:** Pastor Scott Moller, Deacon Bob Larsen, Nathan Warner  
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God loves us in spite of ourselves.

Finally, God loves us by giving us the hope of eternity. Jesus tells us in John 14:1-3 not to let our hearts be troubled because He was going to prepare a place for us. In addition, He promised to come back and take us to be with Him. Jesus also promises in Revelation 22:12-13 that He is coming soon and his reward will be with Him. God will love those who follow Him for all eternity.

These are just a few examples of how God demonstrated His love for us. It is through God's love for us that we gain understanding of true love and that God is the source of love. As we begin to understand and appreciate God's true love for us, our love for God and others will begin to grow. In this, God will be glorified.

### On Wings Like Eagles

By Nathan Warner



And this I pray,  
that your love may abound  
yet more and more in knowledge,  
and in all judgment; that ye may  
approve things that are excellent;  
that ye may be sincere  
and without offense till the  
Day of Christ,  
Being filled with the fruits  
of righteousness which are by  
Jesus Christ unto the  
glory and praise of God.

Phil. 1:9-11



### Feed My Sheep

By Jani Lynn Warner

## What Should We Ask From Our Heavenly Father?

By Nathan Warner

The family unit is the earthly picture of the heavenly relationship God has planned for believers. God is our loving and compassionate Father, and we are His adopted children. God's only Son, Jesus, is our tender loving and defending Brother, who loves His adopted brothers and sisters and looks out for them. When we approach our Heavenly Father, do we demand things we think we need from Him, like a child that thinks a new toy will make them happy? Or do we recognize He is what we need?

"Lord, please give me Strength, renew my Hope, and restore my Joy." Who among us has not prayed such a prayer? So often when we pray, this is how we address God, requesting the Lord's provisions and asking for help to be sent along the way. Sometimes, though, when we pray like this, we pray as if we are addressing a God that is on the other end of the phone or across the country. Sometimes, we expect God's response to arrive as if by mail from somewhere far away.

I often used to ask God to give me things that I thought would help me be more like Him. Sometimes I even demanded them – "Why won't You give me the strength to deal with the things that I'm facing?" That changed one day, years ago, when I was walking the concrete sidewalks of Industrial Circle where our business was in Elk River during my lunch break. I was demanding an answer from Him about why I felt so weak towards sin. Couldn't He give me something better than what He was giving me to overcome the things I was facing?

Most of us have had these moments of wishing we had a little bit more help in our struggles. Maybe we ask for some larger spiritual muscles or maybe a new suit of armor? How about faster legs, so we can run the race with speed and endurance? Maybe we'd be able to deal with our struggles if we had some

Christian superpowers, or, better yet, couldn't God just vaporize our issues directly from Heaven?



Perhaps this is a bit of an exaggeration, but my simple prayer on that day was "Lord, give me strength! Why won't you give it to me?" I heard clearly in my heart on that warm August day, "I've given you more than you need in my Son Jesus. He is your Strength, your Hope, your Joy, your Help." I heard Paul echoing what God had told him – "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9). In that instant, Jesus opened the door and stepped into the dark, dingy lodgings of my heart. His light shone inside my heart.

I realized I hadn't felt His presence like that in a long time – I had been keeping my distance from Jesus! And when I did talk to Him, I had tried to keep it a long-distance relationship. I don't think that I could have verbalized it before. I think I thought I was doing what I was supposed to be doing in my relationship with God. But too often, I was keeping Him standing outside the door to His own House!

"Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy

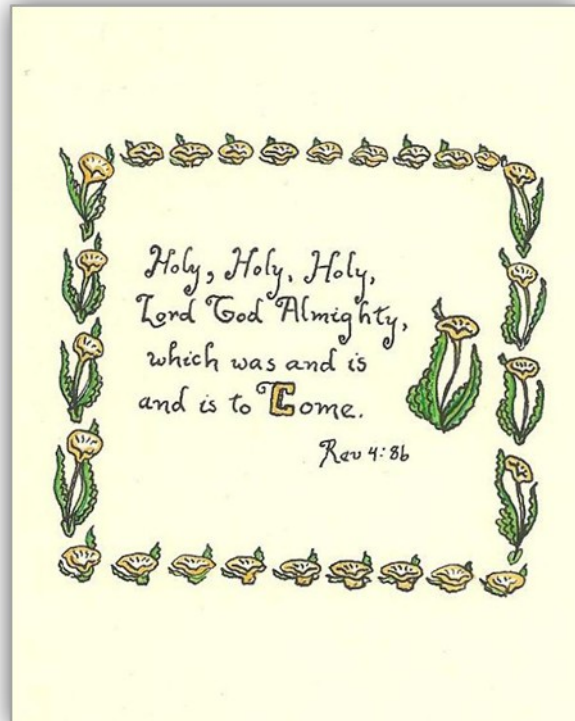
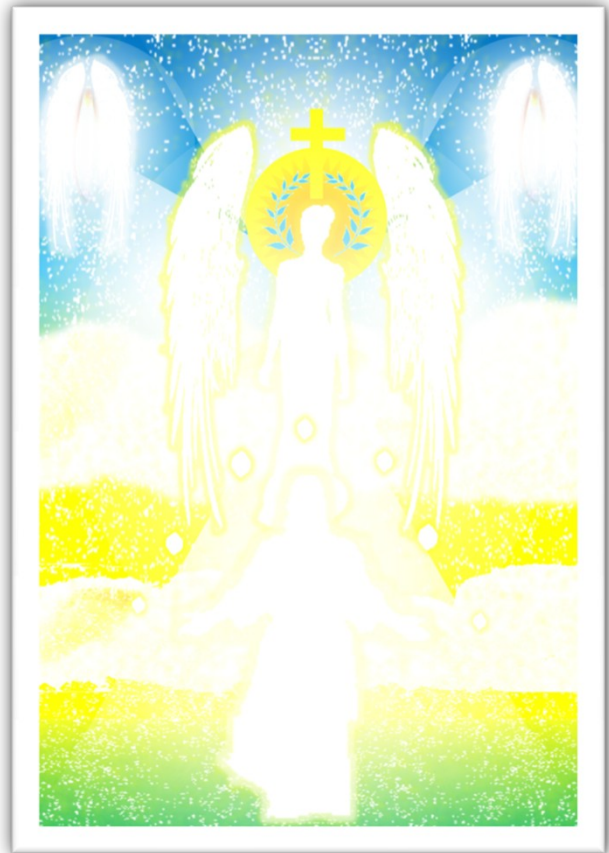


him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple" (1 Corinthians 3:16-17).

Perhaps we're afraid at times of what He might find inside our heart, His Father's House. Perhaps we subconsciously like the idea that God is sending "child-support" in the mail but never stops by to see how we're actually getting on. That imagined distance can make us feel more comfortable with our sin. But God is not an irresponsible father who walks away from His responsibilities. He is our perfect Heavenly Father who sacrificed Himself in human form to purchase us from our sins and is raising us up into eternity.

There can be no comfort in darkness when Jesus comes near, for it cannot inhabit the space where His light radiates. We are no longer living under the Old Covenant, but under the New. No longer do we live miles away from the Temple of God where His Spirit dwelt. No longer can we feel "safe" in that distance, knowing that we only have to go there and be near His presence once a year. As Christians, we are that temple! We are the dwelling place for the Spirit of God, and there is no escape from Him.

There is nothing wrong with asking things of God if we recognize His proper place in our hearts. For me on that lunch break, I felt the Lord telling me that He was what I needed in any and all situations I found myself in – "Lord, be my Strength! Be here with me now, be my Joy, my Peace, my Hope, my Love! Jesus be within me! Amen."



**He who is to come!**

By Jani Lynn Warner

## Lives of the Christians

R.C. Chapman

The Apostle

OF LOVE

Bear fruit IN

SEASON during

THE SE TIMES

Read "Agape Leadership" by Alexander Strauch



*"Humility is the secret of fellowship, and pride the secret of division." – R.C. Chapman*

Known during his life as the Apostle of Love, R.C. Chapman was born in Helsingør, Denmark, in 1803. Not long afterwards, the family came back to England and Chapman moved to London at the age of 15 to join the legal profession as an apprentice clerk. He became an attorney in 1823 and was born-again that same year. Prospering in his business and faith, Chapman spent much of his time visiting and tending the needs of the London poor. After becoming convinced he was called to full-time mission work, Chapman left the lucrative legal profession to become pastor of Ebenezer Strict Baptist Chapel in Barnstable, a step down in the social ladder. He accepted the post on the condition that he was bound by Scripture alone in his teaching. He championed the priesthood of all believers and refused to take a salary as pastor. Chapman became an influential figure with the Plymouth Brethren, was called the "saintliest man I ever knew," by Charles Spurgeon, and became so well known that a letter addressed simply to *R.C. Chapman, University of Love, England* would find its way to him.

## God's Love Contrasted to Ours

By Ginny Larsen

*"For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in your faithfulness."*  
(Psalm 26:3)

God's love is always steadfast, and I can always count on it. Because of that, I can walk in His faithfulness and pray, "Lord, keep my eyes on that steadfast love and faithfulness of Yours today through everything."

In a world full of self-absorption, where love means little more than desire, lust, and self-gratification, how do we as Christians walk in true "agape" love? How do we understand the love that is God's alone, which only we, His children, have access to? How do we learn to know it? How do we see it in contrast

to the self-love of our sinful nature? How do we realize our death to it is life in His love? Knowing God's love is so much more than head knowledge. It is so much more than our attempt to have the right "feelings" for someone. It is so much more than our efforts to do the right thing toward a brother or sister while at the same time our hearts are really focused on our own interests. God's love comes from faith in the new creation of love that God Himself has made us. He Himself must be living His life in us if we are to understand His love. It comes from faith in Him and the outpouring of that love through His Spirit in our hearts (Romans 5:5).

The very nature of the new creation is the nature of God Himself, and that is love. We see in our old nature an evident lack of love. This reality is brought out again and again when we are faced with a need for obedience to His law of love, and we find ourselves



unable to perform it. We see our self-love more and more as we try to love in our own way. We try to overcome it, squelch it, excuse it, and turn it around. We try every which way to make it into a Godly love, yet it remains what it always was: self-love.

When we see it, we should be very thankful that God has enabled us finally to see ourselves as we are. We should be so very thankful He has given us the grace to see our flesh for what it is in all its ugliness, in light of His perfect, selfless love that never fails under any circumstance. The more we see that perfect love, the more we also see the contrast to our own self-love. We should be so thankful when the Lord shows us the disgusting reality of our self-love. The more disgusted with that fleshly carnal self-love we become, the more thankful we should be, because it's only then that God can truly deliver us from it and teach us more of the power of His cross to deliver and raise us up to His love for others.

Friendships, family relationships, and relationships in the Body of Christ are God's way of teaching us how to love rather than as a means of getting love. Sometimes we get that priority backwards and try to get what we can out of each one. When that happens, there is carnal strife, hurts, divisions, and all sorts of footholds for the enemy. Every human encounter in our lives gives us opportunity in some way to learn of His love and to walk in it. Too often, we fail to see this. We judge relationships by how they benefit us, not by how we can learn to walk in God's love through them and demonstrate His love to those around us. We must see our relationships and every human encounter from God's perspective. We must see His purposes in us, not our own, and not how we can or cannot benefit from them.

Some people become a sort of "thorn in our flesh" in our lives, but even these people are in our lives for His purpose, so that we will learn more of His great love and how He practiced and demonstrated it to us when we were very unlovely. It is by God's loving us while we were very unlovable (even repulsive to Him) in sin that we saw a love that was so radically outside of our concept of love that we were

changed and overcome by it.

God is calling us to His kind of love. He is calling us for friendship that goes beyond our own interests. He's calling us to a love that looks beyond our offenses to His purposes. *"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity"* (Pr. 17:17). *"A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother"* (Pr. 18:24). He's calling us to a love that lets go when need be, so that He can do His work.



**We should be thankful when God shows us how ugly and destructive our self-love truly is.**

He's calling us to a love that won't let us climb a pedestal or usurp the place of His Spirit in another person's life. He's calling us to His Love that won't place another person on that pedestal in our lives. Our Calling is to love God with all our heart, soul, and strength, and then, and only then, love our neighbor, friend, brother, sister, enemy, as He Himself loves them and according to His desires for them. He's calling us to become vessels of His love. *"Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends"* (John 15:13).

These are the lessons I've been learning in



my own life over the years, through being a mother, wife, friend, co-worker, and in every relationship God has brought my way. God has taught me in my own yearning for love, in my own great need for friendship, in my times of loneliness, in my coming to the end of my own ability to love, and even in my times of greatest hurt.



### God's perfect Love fills us with His light.

I've learned to be so thankful every time I see my own jealousy, hurt, quickness to be defensive, and quickness to paint myself better than another in others' eyes. I've learned to recognize and despise my flesh and cling to His cross. I've learned to turn to His love to overcome and subdue any carnality and let Him fill me with His love. I've learned He is faithful and all-powerful to help me when I trust Him to! Oh what a great thing! What a joy to see His power to work in me and to know that in all my inability, He is able! He supplies what is needed to fulfill what He commands us to do if we simply acknowledge our inability and trust Him for it!

Thank You, Jesus, for Your great and perfect love and for showing us that You never called us to better our own or to try to turn our own lack of Godly love into something other than it is. You called us to see our self-love for what it is, bring it as a sacrifice to Your

cross, and there, in our emptiness, be filled with Your infinite, healing love. Thank You that Your *"love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things"* (1 Co 13:7). Amen.

### Marriage for a Lifetime

By Jim Poppenhagen

Nearly fifty-five years have passed since Marge and I first tied the knot, and we are still working on it. As we began this journey together, the honeymoon was over all too soon and the reality of daily living struck home. We fell back down to Earth with the routines of business and work, yet how different our lives were from before! From then on, the two of us were united to be one, and whenever any major decision was to be made, it was decided only after discussing it together. All of our resolutions have been done this way over the years.

Our love for each other has been a dominant factor in our marriage. Yet the most outstanding factor in our marriage has been the love God has for us. His love never fails. Whenever difficult times come, and they do, He is always there to see us through. As Peter told us, *"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you"* (1 Peter 5:6-7).

As we cast our cares on Him and wait on the Lord, He does see us through. *"But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint"* (Isaiah 40:31).

The Lord has seen our marriage through in so many wonderful ways. He gave us a precious family of four children, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren, so far. We are so thankful for each one of them and pray that they will live to please and serve the Lord. It's so good to know that the Lord will never leave us or forsake us and as we trust Him, He will usher us into glory at journey's end.



## MESSIAH

If God took form and dwelt among us  
 If Light was woven into mortal memory  
 What mantle would he bear before our eyes  
 To make us all agree?

Perhaps an angel, god, or king  
 Would please the expectation  
 Who'd kill, enslave the wicked  
 And build a mighty nation

In his hands no wounds of death  
 No suffering of agony and pain  
 Instead, he'd hold above a sword  
 Of vengeance, wrath, and gain

Trampling out the streets in blood  
 Of enemy and innocent alike  
 To build his perfect world  
 Of walls, and gates, and dyke

Those that rally round him  
 Like gods they grow in power  
 To gain the spoils of their efforts  
 In wealth and slaves that cower

Is this then man's messiah?  
 We've seen it all before  
 Arthur, Alexander, Caesar  
 Napoleon, Hitler, and more

They died and did not rise again  
 The power they had is now undone  
 The promises they gave have ended  
 Their hour on earth is done

What then do we look for,  
 When we look for God on earth?  
 What does He say about himself  
 For us to judge His worth?

"I was hungry," starving through my soul,  
 Ravenous with pain  
 My body slowly ate itself  
 Until I went insane

"I was thirsty," parched and dry  
 Seeing water everywhere  
 But no one gave me drink  
 And no one seemed to care

"I was a stranger," refugee  
 They took my child and my wife  
 And when I begged the law for help,  
 They came to take my life

"I was naked," and they laughed  
 Vulnerable and abused,  
 They took advantage of my body  
 And sold me to be used

"I was sick," too ill to even stand  
 Hardly bearing every breath  
 That racked my body with disease  
 And made my bed with death

"I was in prison," wrongfully accused  
 To set the wicked free  
 My hopes and dreams were taken  
 As they threw away the key



*This then is Messiah  
Knowing every pain and fear  
Bearing our infirmity  
And sharing every tear*

*This then is Messiah  
Glorious with grace  
His lover's love invested  
Upon the human race*

*That we should come to know Him  
Amongst us in disguise—  
The love and the compassion  
That filled his aching eyes*

*And when this age is over  
He'll wipe away our tears  
End the years of endless pain  
And bury all our fears*

*And then He will be King  
To those who loved the poor  
To those that clothed the naked  
And always loved them more*

*Those that visited the sick  
And entered the prison gate  
Those that tried to heal  
What others said was fate*

*This then is Messiah  
That makes our heart delight  
A witness to the horrors  
That tried to blind our sight*

*This then is the Messiah  
A flame that does not consume  
For the healing of the nations  
For the darkness of the tomb*

*Jesus is the Messiah  
The firstborn of the dead  
The faithful witness  
The cup and the bread*

*Jesus is Messiah!*

*By Nathan Warner*



### **Bleeding Hearts**

“Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently; Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”

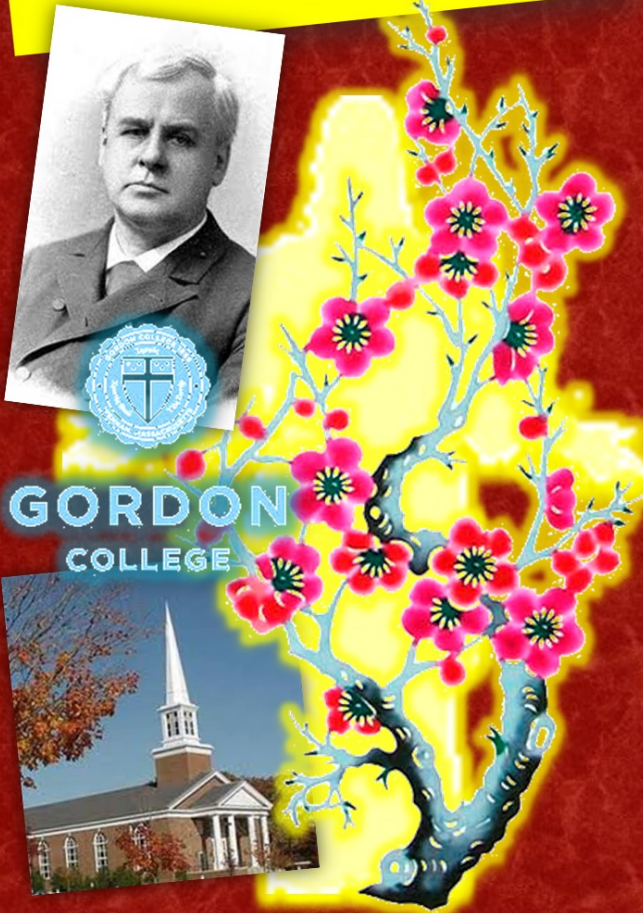
(1 Peter 1:22-23 KJV)

By Betty Harstad



## Sing A New Song

William Ralph Featherston & Adoniram Gordon



## My Jesus, I Love Thee

By Maggie Moller

Since the start of “The Berean Lamp” ministry in February, we have focused on the life of a different hymn writer every month. Many of the writers of our favorite hymns at Berean Christian Fellowship have been common, everyday people, quietly living their lives for their Savior. This month, as I was thinking of hymns with a “love” theme, I was immediately drawn to “My Jesus, I Love Thee.” As I studied the history of the hymn, I was touched by the life story of the writer of the words as well as the life story of the composer of the music. I thought to myself, *Why should I only focus on the writer of the words? Why not give the story of the music’s composer as well?* There-

**My Jesus, I Love Thee**

236  
London Hymn B Rev. A. J. Gordon.

1. My Je - sus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine; For Thee all the  
 2. I love Thee, be - cause Thou hast first lov - ed, me, And pur - chased my  
 3. In man - sions of glo - ry and end - less de - light, I'll ev - er a -

fol - lies of sin I re - sign; My gra - cious Re - deem - er, my  
 par - don on Cal - va - ry's tree; I love Thee for wear - ing the  
 dore Thee in heav - en so bright; I'll sing with the glit - ter - ing

Sav - iour, art Thou; If ev - er I loved Thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.  
 thorns on Thy brow; If ev - er I loved Thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.  
 crown on my brow, If ev - er I loved Thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.

fore, this month, and in the months to come, I hope to give you the complete stories of the lives of the men and women who gave us our hymns.

William Featherston was born on July 23, 1846, in Montreal, Canada. Very little is known about him except that he gave his life to Christ at an early age and penned the words to “My Jesus, I Love Thee.” He was most likely between the ages of twelve and sixteen when he wrote the beautiful words. Clearly, his young age did not hinder him from having a deep relationship with Jesus Christ. His love for Christ and His saving grace is evident in every line. Sadly, young William died of unknown causes on May 20, 1873, just before his twenty-seventh birthday. Although it is a tragedy in the world’s eyes for one so young to die, William Featherston was ushered into the presence of his beloved Jesus forever. As Paul



says in Philippians 1:21, “For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.”

Adoniram Judson Gordon was born on April 19, 1836, in New Hampton, New Hampshire. Educated at Brown University and Newton Theological Seminary, he was ordained a Baptist minister in 1863. He served in churches throughout Massachusetts, especially at Clarendon Street Baptist Church in Boston, where he ministered for 26 years.

During his years at Clarendon Street Baptist Church, he aided in reviving the congregation from being spiritually dead and worldly into a strong body of Christ, eager to serve their Savior. He edited many hymnals, and in 1876, he composed the music for “My Jesus, I Love Thee.” Besides editing hymnals, he was in charge of a monthly religious periodical called *The Watchword*. In 1878, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Brown University.

In early 1895, Mr. Gordon contracted pneumonia and died on February 2. Just days be-

fore his death, he requested “My Jesus, I Love Thee” to be sung at his funeral. How happy he would be to know that over 100 years after his death, “My Jesus, I Love Thee” is still treasured by so many.

Once again, we have two examples of men who lived their lives quietly serving their Lord. They were not famous or well-acclaimed – just everyday people. But the thing that sets them apart is their dedicated love and service to Christ. In Christ’s eyes, worldly accomplishments mean nothing. The only thing that matters is where your heart is when you die. We should not put off that important decision. We cannot count on always having tomorrow.

If you have not made the decision to put your life in Christ’s Hands and accept His free gift of salvation, don’t wait until it is too late. Once we die, there is no turning back. Trust in Christ’s saving grace just as William Featherston and Adoniram Gordon did, and sing with them for eternity, “My Jesus, I Love Thee!”



## Do You Love Me?

By Jani Lynn Warner

The first and greatest commandment is that “*you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind*” (Matthew 22:37). We are commanded to love God with our whole being. That love is often tested. Deuteronomy 13:3 states: “*For the LORD your God is testing you, to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.*” Our love is tested not so God knows who and what we love but so that we know who and what we love. God asks us what He asked Peter: “*Do you love me?*” (John 21:15-18)

Peter thought he knew his own heart when he told Jesus, “*I will lay down my life for you*” (John 13:37). But Jesus truly knew Peter’s heart and replied, “*Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times*” (John 13:38). In the Gospel of Luke, more detail is given to this exchange. The enemy of our souls, Satan, was involved and demanded to sift Peter as wheat, but Jesus said, “*I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers*” (Luke 22:32). Romans 5:5 reveals that “*God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*”

We can ask God to give us more love, but I believe God teaches we will love more by repenting more. Luke 7:40-43 describes a parable of two debtors who were forgiven their debts. The one who was forgiven the most loved the creditor the most. Jesus gave this parable to reveal the truth about the woman, a sinner, who washed His feet with her tears, wiped them with her hair, and anointed them with ointment. Jesus said, “*Her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little*” (Luke 7:47).

Jesus said that to love Him is to keep His commandments. As we have seen, the first

and greatest commandment is to love God. The second is like it: “*You shall love your neighbor as yourself*” (Matthew 22:39). Jesus added a new commandment in John: “*...that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another*” (John 13:34). But we cannot love using human love, because human love is of the old nature and rooted in “love of self.” God’s love both redeems and heals. Peter was healed by Jesus’ love, acceptance, and affirmation of his ministry as a shepherd of God’s people. Hosea 14:4 states: “*I will heal their apostasy; I will love them freely.*” The ultimate love of God was Jesus’ sacrifice at the Cross and His Resurrection.

God’s love does not prevent suffering, and we are often tested through suffering to learn obedience. Through testing, we may learn what is in our hearts and sometimes what is in the hearts of those around us. After Peter’s denial, Jesus asked him three times, “*Simon, son of John, do you love me?*” (John 21:16) We also are tested and in the tests are asked, “*Do you love me?*” Like Peter, we also fail at times, but Jesus restores us and asks again, “*Do you love me?*” Let’s pray that we can answer, “*Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.*” And when we fail, we can pray, “*Lord, I believe, help my unbelief*” (Mark 9:24).





**YOU ARE GOD**

You are God  
Over all my sorrow  
You are God  
Over all my strife  
You are God  
Today and tomorrow  
You are God  
Over all my life

Maker of my soul  
There's nothing I can't trust you  
for  
Lover of my life  
When my heart's in pain and  
my spirit's poor  
When I know no other way  
And I just can't seem to pray  
There's no one else who will  
understand  
And You take my hand  
Then you make me see  
Who you are to me

Father of my heart  
From the depths of love you  
come to me  
Prince of all my peace  
When I can't be all I'm meant  
to be

When I just don't have a song  
And everything I do seems  
wrong  
There's no one else who can show  
me the way  
Then to You I pray  
And You make me see  
Who You are to me

When the pain is more than I  
can bear  
And I just can't see you  
anywhere  
When the trial's hard and the  
road's so long  
You are the one Who makes me  
strong  
And I know....

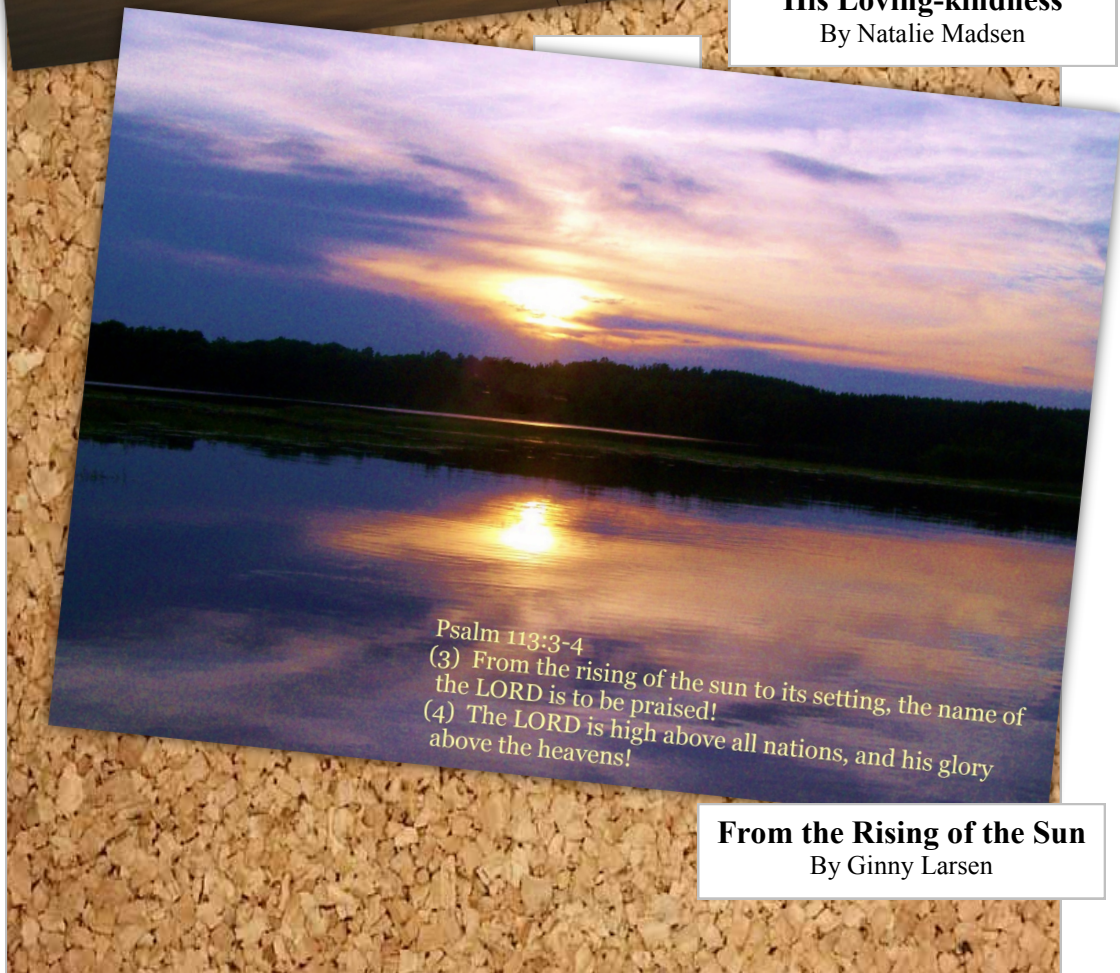
You are God  
Over all my sorrow  
You are God  
Over all my strife  
You are God  
Today and tomorrow  
You are God  
Over all my life

by Ginny Larsen





**His Loving-kindness**  
By Natalie Madsen



**From the Rising of the Sun**  
By Ginny Larsen



## Love Without Hypocrisy

By Jesse Larsen (written on May 2, 2007)

*"Let love be without hypocrisy."  
(Romans 12:9)*

How do we "let love be without hypocrisy?" (Romans 12:9) God Himself is kind to the unthankful and evil (See Luke 6:35), and such a love can only come **through Him** if we are to "*be merciful just as [our] Father also is merciful*" (Luke 6:36). If our love is in the flesh, then it can only be self-love.

Dave Hunt explained it this way in his April 2007 newsletter: that the man who persuades a woman to live with him without marriage tells her, "I love you." But what he may mean (perhaps unknown even to him) could be "I love myself, and I want *you*." Only too late they may discover that this is what both of them mean by "love" (Dave Hunt, from his newsletter titled *Why Everything Is the Way It Is*).

Any fleshly attempt at love will be a vain attempt. And if my love truly has come from Christ, then I have no reason to be thinking, "Oh, what a wonderful loving person I am." If I am in that state of mind and focusing on how great I am rather than **how great God is**, then I may be easily offended when someone does not see me as a loving person. In this situation, my focus will probably be self-defense rather than caring about what people think of God and **His love**. In this case of self-defense, my thoughts may be something like "How dare that person not see the love that I have for him! I am full of Christ's love!" That kind of love is obviously not for the other person but for self.

On the other hand, true love for God and others will have no burdens about self but many about others. We need to understand that this love comes **through God** and not from the flesh; only then will we love Him because He first loved us (See 1 John 4:19). Only the love flowing **from His heart** can love without hypocrisy.

*"A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; even as I have loved you..." (John 13:34).*



"Even as I have loved you" is the command of Him who asks nothing that He has not provided and now offers to bestow. It is the assurance that He expects nothing from us that He does not **work in us**. Paraphrasing this Scripture, Jesus is saying, "*Even as I have loved you and every moment am pouring out that love upon you through the Holy Spirit, EVEN SO do ye love one another.*" The measure, the strength, and the work of the true love that is in us will only be found **in Christ's love for us** (Andrew Murray, *Like Christ*, 1895, p. 127).

**July Newsletter Theme - SURRENDER**

**Submission Deadline: July 1**

**Publish Date: July 8**

**Theme:** Christ's Sacrifice, Sacrifice, Surrender, Idolatry, Giving all, Crucified with Christ, Present yourselves a daily sacrifice, Atonement, etc...