Opening Verse

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."

Romans 8:29

God's Everlasting Love for the elect, and their Eternal Union with Christ

The Greatest of All Subjects (1)

• This subject is the honey, nectar, marrow of the gospel.

God's love today is perverted to blasphemous folly.

High Calvinists e.g. John Gill exalted this dear truth.

Our current study including I John 3 and 4 will benefit.

It is a short, simple presentation of an infinite topic.

The Greatest of All Subjects (2)

God's love is everlasting in this direction – PAST.

God's love is everlasting in this direction – FUTURE.

• God's love is infinite in *DEPTH* – to reach sinful men.

God's love is infinite in HEIGHT – to make them sons.

God's love should affect all our thoughts and ways.

God's Love Is Conditional

Unconditional love is not special, for it is impossible.

God's love is 100% conditional on conduct and worth.

God's love is 100% conditional on His beloved Son.

Thus the importance of your eternal union to Christ.

God has never ... never will ... see you outside Him.

God's Love – Eternity Past

Loved you with an everlasting love (Jer 31:3).

Beloved of God ... from the beginning (II Thess 2:13).

God's Love – Eternity Future

Nothing can separate us from love of God (Rom 8:38-39).

Loved us for an everlasting consolation (II Thess 2:16).

God's Love – Depth to Sinful Men

- God commended His love by saving sinners (Rom 5:6-8).
- It is a faithful saying worthy of all acceptation (I Tim 1:15).

God's Love – Height to Adoption

Behold, what manner of love bestowed on us (1 Jn 3:1).

• As children, we are heirs, joint-heirs with Christ (Ro 8:17).

We Must Be In Christ

All spiritual blessings are in Christ (Eph 1:3).

There is no condemnation in Christ (Rom 8:1).

Wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, redemption.

• Eternal life is in Jesus Christ (1 John 5:11).

The promises to Abraham are in Jesus Christ (Gal 3:16).

In Christ - Eternally

Chosen in Christ before foundation of world (Eph 1:4).

• His purpose in Christ before world began (II Tim 1:9).

In Christ - Legally

• Our sins swapped for His righteousness (II Cor 5:21).

His own self bare our sins in his own body (1 Pet 2:24).

In Christ - Vitally

Raised and sitting together in heaven in Christ (Ep 2:6).

God sent forth the Spirit of Son into your hearts (Gal 4:6).

In Christ - Practically

Baptism into Christ puts on Christ (Gal 3:27).

• If any be in Christ, He is a new creature (II Cor 5:17).

In Christ - Finally

Book of life of the Lamb slain (Rev 20:15; 17:8; 13:8).

Behold, I and the children thou gavest me (Heb 2:13).

Comforting Verses (1)

- 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:
- 4 According as he hath chosen us <u>in him</u> before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him <u>in love</u>:
- 5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,
- 6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

Ephesians 1:3-6

Comforting Verses (2)

- 30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:
- 31 That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

I Corinthians 1:30-31

"Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times <u>for you</u>."

I Peter 1:20

Comforting Verses (3)

- 29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:
- 30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.
- 31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.
- 32 This is a great mystery: but <u>I speak concerning Christ</u> and the church.

Ephesians 5:29-32

Comforting Verses (4)

"Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called" (Jude 1:1).

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever" (Heb 13:8).

"We love him, because he first loved us" (I John 4:19).

Comforting Verses (5)

28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

John 10:28-29

Comforting Verses (6)

10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see <u>his seed</u>, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

11 He shall see of the travail of <u>his soul</u>, and shall be satisfied: by <u>his knowledge</u> shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear <u>their iniquities</u>.

Isaiah 53:10-11

Comforting Considerations (1)

• Human love requires existence, reflects lovable actions.

God loved us before existence, seeing only evil actions.

No separation from God's love ... How? ... In Christ!

After His Son, God is bound to give all else (Rom 8:32)!

• After His death, His life shall surely save (Rom 5:10; 8:34).

Comforting Considerations (2)

Election is the sweetest doctrine ... it puts us in Christ.

The head and body metaphor is very closely tied.

• You will soon get a new name on a white stone (Re 2:17).

God's love is as unchangeable as any other dimension.

What is the longest you have been loved by anyone?

Comforting Considerations (3)

Paul allowed us to use marital metaphors (Eph 5:29-32).

• Thus ... "set me as a seal upon thine heart" (Song 8:6-7).

• Or friends ... "loved him as his own soul" (I Sam 18:1,3).

You cannot be taken from Christ, or He from God!

You are loved unchangeably in both directions forever!

Closing Passage – John 17:20-23

- 20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;
- 21 That they all may <u>be one</u>; as thou, Father, art <u>in me</u>, and I <u>in thee</u>, that they also may <u>be one</u> <u>in us</u>: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.
- 22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:
- 23 I <u>in them</u>, and thou <u>in me</u>, that they may be made perfect <u>in one</u>; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

Closing Passage – John 17:24-26

- 24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.
- 25 O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me.
- 26 And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be <u>in them</u>, and I <u>in them</u>.

For Further Study

- Does God Love Everybody ... www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/does-god-love-everybody.pdf
- Unconditional Eternal Life ... http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/salvation/unconditional-salvation/sermon.php
- Five Phases of Salvation ... http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/salvation/five-phases-of-salvation/sermon.php
- **Dominion of God ...** http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/god/dominion-of-god/sermon.php
- Adoption ... www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/sons-of-god.pdf
- Before the World Began ... www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/before-the-world-began.pdf
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- Eternal Life Is a Gift ... http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/eternal-life-is-a-gift.pdf
- He Is Altogether Lovely ... http://www.letgodbetrue.com/bible/christ/he-is-altogether-lovely.php
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- John Gill, Everlasting Love and Eternal Union ... http://www.pbministries.org/books/gill/Sermons&Tracts/sermon 09.htm
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- Samuel Richardson, Justification By Christ ... http://www.letgodbetrue.com/bible/salvation/justification-by-christ-alone.pdf
- Songs of Zion (John Kent) ... www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/songs-for-worship.pdf
- Unconditional Love ... www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/lie-of-unconditional-love.pdf
- Knowing God ... not in e-format at this time.
- John 17 ... not in e-format at this time.

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