

Sunday, February 12, 2023

1 Timothy 4:13, “Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.”

Title: The Love of God

Series: Valentine's 2023

Text: Ephesians 1:1 – 10, John 17:1 - 26
and Revelation 19:6 - 10

Purpose: I want to PURSUADE my congregation that the LOVE of God for the REDEEMED was before all time and continues throughout all of eternity.

Introduction:

~ I suppose there are many great love stories: Joni Eareckson Tada and her husband Ken, Kelly Cottle and her husband Jesse are two of my favorite.

~ The greatest love story that I can think of is that of the Triune God and His love for a creation that rebelled against Him and continually seek to replace Him.

1. God So Loved the World:

~ John 3:16 – 18, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (17) For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. (18) Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”

Love has to be a voluntary act of our will
and not imposed upon us!

~ Romans 10:10 – 13, “For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. (11) For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” (12) For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. (13) For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

~ Romans 1:16 – 17, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. (17) For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.””

Love needs to be confessed!

2. God Loved Us Before...:

~ Ephesians 1:3 – 6, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, (4) even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love (5) he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, (6) to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.”

~ Ephesians 2:1 – 4, “And you were dead in the trespasses and sins (2) in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—(3) among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. (4) But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, (5) even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—”

~ Romans 1:4, “and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,”

3. God Loved Us While We Were Yet Sinners:

~ Romans 5:6 – 9, “For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. (7) For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— (8) but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (9) Since, therefore, we have been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.”

4. God is Preparing Us for a Wedding:

~ Ephesians 5:25 - 33

~ John 17:1 - 26

~ vs. 2, “all whom you have given him.”

~ vs. 6, “to the people whom you gave me out of the world.”

~ vs. 6, “Yours they were, and you gave them to me”

~ vs. 7, “Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you.”

~ vs. 9, “those whom you have given me, for they are yours.”

~ vs. 10, “All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them.”

~ vs. 11, “Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.”

~ vs. 24, “Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am,”

~ Revelation 19:6 – 10

Conclusion: