

# *The Gospel Herald*

---

“As the truth is in Jesus” (Ephesians 4:21)

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS

by

Donald E. Martin, Sr.

## *The Love of God*

*“Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sin. We love him, because he first loved us.”*

*I John 4:10 & 19*

*My dear beloved Brethren and Sisters in Christ, blessed with hope: If God be pleased to give a season of spiritual thought, I would like to attempt to express some aspects of Gods unchanging and everlasting love toward the divine heirs of sovereign and free grace.*

*Love is an interesting word and often used as a repetitious phrase to express affection toward our loved ones as we depart by saying, “I love you.” Yet, love in the divine realm, far exceeds any affection the human creature can muster up. I remember a family upon every occasion as they departed each others’ company would always express an “I love you.” Yet, when the young family members were called upon to do a certain chore, there would be comments such as “Oh! Do I have to do it now?” “I’ll do it later.” “No, I don’t have time,” etc., etc. I recall the father of the family saying to a particular son, “Do you love me?” The son replied, “Yes, I love you Dad,” then the father responded by saying, “Then if you love me you will do as I requested.” The son proceeded to do the father’s will as he was shamed that love was truly not initially demonstrated. This is a good illustration of how “lip service” to the aspect of LOVE is mere words which fan the air. True LOVE is evidenced by DEVOTION, COMMITMENT, and BENEVOLENT ACTION; not from obligation, but from earnest heartfelt desire.*

*This is the LOVE which emulates from the SPIRIT of the God of the scriptures. God’s determined sovereign love is continually demonstrated to the elect heirs of divine grace as He has provided us a PROPITIATION for our sin! The word PROPITIATION defined as follows; To appease, to satisfy, to make favorable, to provide a sacrifice. This*

*operation of PROPITIATION is one of the ultimate demonstrations of Gods unchanging love.*

*Beloved, to love God as lowly depraved creatures of sin and woe is CAUSED by God FIRST LOVING US, and calling us from a state of spiritual death, quickening us and transforming us into the spiritual kingdom of Gods dear Son. And experiencing the New Birth wherein “Old things pass away and behold, ALL things become new”. As stated in the scriptural text above, “We love God, because (This is the CAUSE) He first loved us”. God is the FIRST CAUSE of any Adam born sinful creature made able to love and adore the God and Saviour of the scriptures as manifested in his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Now, if God permit, allow me to get to the core of the matter. Divine LOVE, which God alone first initiates CAUSES Gods adopted heirs of sovereign, free and irresistible grace to LOVE and OBEY him. Gods LOVE is the CAUSE of our affection, devotion and inward unction to follow him in righteousness. If man, by the acts of DUTY, OBLIGATION and humanistic WORKS of goodness are attempting to appease and satisfy the Holy God of heaven’s realm: STOP! STOP and consider your calling and election. Our Lord Jesus stated, “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I WILL GIVE YOU REST” (Matt.11:28). Rest from what? REST from striving to keep the Law and the Commandments. “For they which have entered into Christ REST has ceased from their own works” (Heb.4:10). For the FRUIT of righteousness manifested in the Christian life is by and through our Lord Jesus Christ (Phil. 3:9). For it is HE which worketh in you both to WILL and to DO of his good pleasure (Phil. 2:13).*

*Beloved of God, LOVE, God’s infinite and sovereign LOVE, is the FIRST CAUSE of undeserving sinners being able to see their need for a Saviour; and that LOVE by divine grace alone draws ALL that the Father has given the Son, that they may be the recipients of faith, repentance and blessed with supernatural HOPE that all the New Covenant promises are ours to possess in TIME and ETERNITY. Look, dear child of God! Look! And behold the Author and Finisher of our faith. See HIM high and lifted up! See HIM as our HIGH PRIEST! See HIM as our ADVOCATE. See HIM as our MEDIATOR. See HIM as our ALL-in-ALL, sufficient Saviour.*

*March 28, 2009*