

Mar 12, 2017



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**

The measure of love is what you are willing to give up for it

**POEM FOR THE WEEK:**

Amazing love!  
How can it be  
That Thou, my God,  
Shouldst die for me? —Wesley

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**

*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us*  
(Rom 5:8 NKJV)

*(from "Our Daily Bread", Oct 31, 2014)*

**Series: The Love of God**

**UNIT: Nature of God's Love**

**NEXT WEEK**

**Manifesting God's Love**

(John 15:1-17)

## God's Overflowing Love Eph 2:1-10

**Aim and Application of the Lesson**

The lesson teaches how to get a clearer understanding of the nature of **God's Overflowing Love**. The **study's aim** is to realize that God's overflowing love moved Him to provide salvation for us. The **study's application** is to thank God daily for including us in His salvation plan.

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

**Lesson Introduction and Background**

"But wait, there is more! Not only will you get..." How many times have you heard that? It usually is spoken by someone trying to sell us something. The deal seems too good to be true. There is an offer of something free or some savings if you buy what is being sold right away. The tactic is used to convince us to buy the item. Most of the time we find out that the deal was not as good as we were told. We find out that the offer applies only if you buy multiple quantities or pay a certain way. Otherwise, the special "deal" does not apply. Somewhere in the fine print, the deal too good to be true was precisely that. We find that it was all a gimmick. Sadly, many Christians treat the Lord's love like a gimmick. They believe that they have been saved. They tell you that they will spend eternity in heaven with the Savior. After all, Scripture clearly tells us that. However, some followers behave as though we should not expect more than that. This attitude is sadly mistaken. In fact, God promises even more for His children. Our redemption is just the beginning of it all. He tells us that we, as His children, are given an unfathomable inheritance (cf. Heb. 9:15). We have a place in His kingdom prepared in advance (John 14:2). God has specifically designed that place for each individual who follows Him. How can we be certain of this? We can be certain because God promised it, and He cannot lie (Num. 23:19). What He promises He will deliver in His good timing. He is not like us. His Word does not perish; it is permanent (Isa. 40:8). Because His Word is forever and His promises are true, we do not need to wonder whether His grace is real or just another hoax. What is great about God's plan is that we do not have to do anything to earn it. There is nothing we can do to earn it (Eph. 2:9). Our inheritance comes to us through Christ alone. God handpicked us for His workmanship, choosing to lavish His love upon us even before we had a relationship with Him (vss. 5-6). Because of Jesus, we have been elevated from being God's enemy to being His beloved children. What does this mean? We serve a God of abundant generosity. How many people do you know who would purposely prepare something wonderful for an enemy? That is what He has done, though. His love reaches to every part of the earth and beyond (Ps. 36:5). There is no place His love cannot penetrate. God knows us more intimately than we know ourselves (Ps. 139:16), yet He still blesses us. Our response should be twofold. First, we need to be praising God for every instance of His love in our lives. Remember, He chooses to love us despite our unworthiness. That alone should draw us to our knees. Second, we need to be willing to extend God's love to others around us. When we choose to love others, our own blessings will only multiply (Luke 6:38). What a blessing it is when God's love is spilling over in our lives.

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **Love While Dead in Sin (Eph 2:1-3)**

#### *Dead in trespasses (1)*

Dead in trespasses because of being separated from the life of God (Eph 4:18)

Dead in trespasses because of living for pleasure (1 Tim 5:6)

Dead in trespasses because of not loving (1 John 3:14)

Dead in trespasses because of wicked deeds (Rev 3:1)

#### *Satanically influenced (2)*

Satanic influence through false teachings (2 Peter 2:1-3)

Satanic influence through spiritualism (Col 2:18-19)

Satanic influence through hypocrisy (Matt 7:15)

Satanic influence through a different gospel (Gal 1:6-7)

Satanic influence through fine-sounding words (Col 2:4)

Satanic influence through lies (Jer 23:32)

Satanic influence from within (Acts 20:30)

#### *Under God's condemnation (3)*

Condemnation for those who exploit others (2 Peter 2:3)

Condemnation for preaching a false gospel (Gal 1:7-9)

Condemnation for those who have not believed the truth (2 Thess 2:12)

Condemnation for those who deceive (2 Cor 11:15)

Disbelief that could lead to condemnation (Mark 16:16)

A consequence of unbelief is condemnation (John 3:18)

### **Love That Enables Life in Heavenly Places (Eph 2:4-7)**

#### *Beloved by God (4)*

Beloved by God because nothing can separate us from His love (Rom 8:37-39)

Beloved by God through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (1 John 4:15-18)

Beloved by God because love is one of the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22)

Beloved by God because the Holy Spirit is a Spirit of love (2 Tim 1:7)

Beloved by God because God's love is always before us (Ps 26:3)

Beloved by God because God gives comfort through His love (Phil 2:1-2)

Beloved by God because He provided Jesus as our sacrifice (John 3:16)

Beloved by God expressed in mercy (1 Tim 1:15-16)

#### *Alive with Christ (5)*

Alive in Christ because it pleased Jesus (John 5:21)

Alive in Christ through the Holy Spirit (John 6:63)

Alive in Christ through baptism in Jesus (Rom 6:4)

Alive in Christ in a mortal body (Rom 8:11)

Alive in Christ because of living by faith (Gal 2:20)

#### *Exalted with Christ (6-7)*

Exalted with Christ in the heavenly realms (Eph 1:3)

Exalted with Christ in glory (Col 3:2-4)

Exalted with Christ that was predestined (Rom 8:30)

Exalted with Christ because our citizenship is in heaven (Phil 3:20-21)

### **Love That Prompts to do Good Works (Eph 2:8-10)**

#### *Gift of grace (8-9)*

Gift of grace that saves (Acts 15:11)

Gift of grace that guarantees the promises of God (Rom 4:16-17)

Gift of grace that provides access to God (Rom 5:1-2)

Gift of grace that belongs to a remnant (Rom 11:5-6)

Gift of grace to teach (Rom 12:5-7)

Gift of grace that makes one work harder (1 Cor 15:10)

#### *God's creative work (10)*

Creator of things both visible and invisible (Col 1:16)

Creator through being the Word (John 1:1-3)

Creator through whom all things live (1 Cor 8:6)

Creator through whom all things were made (Heb 1:2)

Creator who built everything (Heb 3:3-4)