

FOR THE LOVE OF GOD

John 15:9-17

INTRO: Turn your Bibles, or turn them on, to John chapter 15. When you get there, find your place at verse 9. Today, I want to preach on the subject, "FOR THE LOVE OF GOD". What would you do for the love of God? Would you climb the highest mountain? Would you cross the deepest sea? What would you do? What is it worth to possess the love of God—to have the approval of God? What appraisal could we offer as to the value of God's love?

God's love is greater than any treasure we could ever hope to find. If only people would live their lives "For The Love Of God", what a different place this world would be. READ WITH ME...

John 15:9-17 "As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Remain in My love. 10 If you keep My commandments, you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and remain in His love. 11 I have told you these things so that My joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. 12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are My friends if you do what I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not understand what his master is doing. But I have called you friends, because everything I have learned from My Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will remain—so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He will give you. 17 This is My command to you: Love one another."

In light of the context of this passage, I want us to look specifically at v 16 today. Notice...

I) GOD'S PLAN: v 16 "You did not choose Me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will remain—so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He will give you. Jesus spoke these words to His disciples verbally, AND He is still saying the same thing to you and me today through His Word.

Before the foundation of the world, God chose you, and appointed you to be ambassadors for the Kingdom. God's plan for His children is that we "bear Fruit". That we should bring others to Jesus, and disciple those we lead to Him. God's plan and our goal, is to be a church that makes disciples who make disciples! MY JOB, AS YOUR PASTOR, is to make sure that we don't get so caught up with ourselves, and content with what we have, that we lose sight of the fact that there is a big lost world out there in need of a Savior.

We are about more than just gathering here on Sundays and listening to another fine message. Our greatest ministry effectiveness is not what I do in here, but what you do out there.

I've shared with you before...

That of the 40 miracles in the book of Acts, 39 of them happened outside the church.

Ephesians 4:11-12 "So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and He gave pastors and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for works of ministry..."

According to that verse, who does the ministry? Saints. Who are the saints? Not me. I'm a paid professional. I'm the pastor! I GET PAID TO BE GOOD. YOU'RE GOOD FOR NOTHING! Who are the saints? Say it: WE ARE

I) GOD'S PLAN: v 16 CONTINUED Here's a really practical consideration: People who are searching for God today don't usually start at church. Most people today are seeking spirituality outside the church. So the place where the power of Jesus first intersects with the world is not through me in here, but through you out there.

So, that leads me to ask a few questions: How much do you see this verse being played out in your life? Are you seeing God speak through you to others? If not, do you think God has an altogether different plan for your life than He does every other Christian in the world? That this verse doesn't apply to you?

I don't want C1C to be a shadow of my ministry abilities; I want this church to raise YOU up to change the world! THAT'S GOD'S PLAN FOR YOU. Now notice...

II) GOD'S PURPOSE: v 16 *"You did not choose Me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will remain—so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He will give you."* That is a promise from God that He will carry out His purpose in your life. When we do for God what He has called and chosen us to do, He obligates Himself to the results! I love that. That gives me incredible confidence. Boldness in our Christian witness comes from believing His promise for the results.

Jesus says: I chose you. I placed you in this family. This school. This job. That should give you confidence, even when it seems like their hearts are hard and closed, you just need to remember that the results are His to claim.

III) GOD'S PROMISE: v 16 *"You did not choose Me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will remain—so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He will give you."* WHAT???! What's He saying here? Some people think of this as a blank check. But if we keep this promise within it's context we see that He's actually speaking of fruitfulness in the spirit life. Not in terms of physical needs.

Jesus desires to give us those we love in this world. He wants to give you your family, your friends, those you work with. How long has it been since you asked the Father about giving them to you, putting them on your account? His promises are good!

Can we really believe what the Bible tells us about Heaven and Hell, the place God has prepared for His children, and the fate of others that die without Christ, and do nothing?

Church, we are God's plan. We are the only way they will ever hear.

Charles Spurgeon was once approached by someone in his congregation who said, "Pastor, I'm having trouble with understanding how people who have never heard about Jesus can't be saved." Spurgeon said "That is a troubling question. But here's an equally troubling one, "How can those of us who have heard about Jesus, and do nothing to take the gospel to those that haven't, How can we be saved?"

Romans 10:14-15 *"How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"*

John 15:8 *"By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove that you are my disciples."*

CONCLUSION: Do your kids know? Do your parents know? Do your classmates know? How can we do nothing?