

# GOD IS LOVE

2008 Puget Sound Bible Students Convention

Dear friends, let us love one another; for love has its origin in God, and every one who loves has become a child of God and is beginning to know God. He who is destitute of love has never had any knowledge of God; because God is love. God's love for us has been manifested in that He has sent His only Son into the world so that we may have Life through Him. This is love indeed--we did not love God, but He loved us and sent His Son to be an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, if God has so loved us, we also ought to love one another. — 1 John 4:7-11 (Weymouth).

## RECOMMENDED READING

- R880 "GOD IS LOVE"
- R1789 LOVE THE ESSENCE OF DIVINE LAW
- R2202 THE SUM OF ALL GRACES IS LOVE (see also R5668)
- R2328 MERCY REJOICETH AGAINST JUDGMENT
- R2648 "KEEP YOURSELVES IN THE LOVE OF GOD"
- R3150 "LOVE IS THE PRINCIPAL THING"
- R4442 "THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE"
- R4662 "THAT HE MAY ESTABLISH YOUR HEARTS"
- R5124 THE KINDNESS, HUMILITY AND PATIENCE OF LOVE
- R5209 QUALITIES AND ATTRIBUTES OF JEHOVAH
- R5417 THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTAINING BALANCE OF MIND

Why is this quality of love made so prominent in the Word of God? We answer, Because it is the first thing, the most important thing, the principal thing. It is the fulfilling of God's Law; and, indeed, the sacrificial love enjoined upon God's saints of this Age goes even beyond the requirements of the perfect law. But why is Love put first? It is not because God arbitrarily so placed it, not because He exercised His power of fiat and declared that it should be first. No. It is because no other quality of character is so lovely, so beautiful, so productive of happiness and joy, so great a blessing to all upon whom it operates. It is the very essence of God's character. "GOD IS LOVE!" This quality particularly represents His personality. While God is all-just and all-powerful, we do not say that God is Justice or that God is Power, but that God is Love. He uses His great Power only as Love dictates and approves. He uses His Justice only in fullest harmony with His glorious attribute of Love. Love is the mainspring of all His doings. (R5668.13)

O bliss of the purified! bliss of the free!  
I plunge in the crimson tide opened for me;  
O'er sin and uncleanness exulting I stand,  
And point to the print of the nails in his hand.  
O! sing of his mighty love,  
Sing of his mighty love,  
Sing of his mighty love!—  
Mighty to save.

— Hymn 194, Mighty Love