

So. May - June 69 P.M. WXR I  
June 69 A.M.

One of the staggering things about human mind is how it loses all sense of proportion. It can magnify things until they fill the whole horizon.

Set aside things that are of eternal importance. LOVE IN FOUR DIMENSIONS - Trifles should be seen as trifles.  
Get things in the proper perspective -

Ephesians 3:14-19

### Introduction:

Did it ever occur to you that the English language in many respects seems to be lazy or often is used to express different meanings. The same word may be used for example - the word "Love". I love football. I love apple pie. I love beautiful music. I love my friends, my wife. I love God. I love school. Etc.

Now what do these expressions say to a person who is studying the English language for the first time. Do they mean that you love God the same way that you love football. Or that you love the wife the same way you love apple pie. Or you love school the same way you love music.

Now this is not so in the Greek language. For we often find in the Greek that there is one word for a certain expression. Now when it comes to the idea of love, there are three words that are used to express the idea. One word is not in the New Testament - expresses the sexual expression of love. Then there is another word that speaks of the warm love of friendship. Now the highest form of love is expressed in the third word agape. It was the word used in I John 4:16. God is love and it is also the word used in John 3:16. For God so loved the world.

This love has its source in God. It is God's love for man. It is a love which is in faith that a man gives to God. Now in Christian love it is extended to all men. It is basically the love of God which was expressed on the cross.

Eph. 3:16, we find this to be Paul's prayer. That in your heart there is being in Christ, by faith literally, that a man be rooted and grounded. Now this is a figure of speech. That he may have a firm foundation. That he may be fully able or with full capacity, have strength enough to lay hold of. To literally take hold of with all the saints. Now you want to be careful to see here that the whole church is to grasp the

spiritual mysteries, not just a gifted individual. But the whole church is to grasp the mystery of fore-measurers and considered together. Now there have been certain men who have tried to extract the ultimate meaning of these verses here. One of the early church fathers suggested that the four dimensions signified the cross. Yet, another scholar has worked it out on this basis and has said that the diety of Christ is the height of his incarnation.

Now in all relations man has sought to express this. In 1878 men who were digging and searching for old relics found in the sand of Egypt a giant granite shaft, which was called Cleopatraneedle. This made such an impression that a group of men decided that there might be a day when London would no longer be in existence. And there would be nothing to remember it by. Therefore, they worked out a vault at the base of a shaft and sealed it with things for the future civilization. They put in coins, currency, newspapers, clothing, toys, photographs and then as a record of the religious faith of the people, they decided to put a copy of the most important verse in the Bible. And so they decided that the greatest single verse in the Bible was "for God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whosoever believes in Him, should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16.

This is a majestic prayer recorded in Eph. 3. Paul wrestles with his problem of the knowledge - that here is a love that in Verse 19 surpasses all knowledge.

It is no wonder that he perhaps got his inspiration from Job 11:7-9. Can you find out the deep things of God. Can you find out the limit of the Almighty. It is higher than Heaven. What can you do. Deeper than sheol - what can you know. It's measurer is longer than the earth and broader than the sea.

Now Paul holds up some kind of reality of the love that he is pleading. That every saint, every member of a church, should understand and take hold of, in the dimensions which he mentions. That Christ might dwell in their hearts, by faith.

Now there is a popular religious song whose words are actually old. In fact, they date back to about 1050 A.D. They were written by a Jewish writer. But you will

recognize them - I quote: "Could we with ink the ocean fill, With every blade of grass a quill, Were the world of parchment made, And every man a Scribe by trade, To write the love of God above, Would drain the ocean dry, Nor would the scroll contain the whole Though stretched from sky to sky."

It was this love that Paul wrote of in our text. It naturally outlines itself in breadth, length, height, and depth. Someone has called this a perfect cube. The four dimensions of God's love. Such an expression defies understanding or comprehension and yet it is worth our examination of the different areas mentioned here.

### I. The Breadth Of God's Love.

How wide is God's love. How wide is the universe. Well, from modern science we discover it is almost infinite in expanse. That God's love in breadth is expressed here and also in that noble text - (For God so loved the world.) Remember in Psa. 8:3-4 David stood on the roof of his house looking out at the heavens. "When I consider the Heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars which Thou has ordained, what is man that Thou art mindful of him. But David could see only with his natural eyes." What infinite wonder would have filled his soul had he known what we know today.

An astronomer recorded an impression coming from an unseen or unknown star out in space. Traveling at the speed of light, 186,000 miles per second, it was said to have left that star about the time that the earth was created. Now such a thought does not undo the message of the Bible. It only decorates it with greatness of God beyond our understanding and it speaks volumes about the love of God.

When Paul spoke of the breadth of God's love, he meant that there is no limit to it, in space. It seems that in the glorious expanse of the universe, in the beauty of the earth, that every experience of joy and sorrow in the human heart speaks of this.

Now this love is extended both to Jew, Gentile, rich and poor, educated and ignorant, child and man, saint and sinner. It is as broad as the universe. Let its focus be upon you.

Ben Franklin wrote in Poor Richard's Almanac "If you would be loved, then love & be lovable" - To be loved - 1. Love, 2. Be lovable. ~~Some~~ people (Nobody loves me, Nobody cares about me) try loving people & your life will be different. -4-

Alexander (McClarin) once said that the breadth of the love of Christ is as narrow as myself.

God's love to the world is most startling - it is more startling than people imagine. (Martin Luther) once said, if I were as our God, and these vile people were as disobedient as they now be, I would knock the world to pieces. Thus, we cannot think of God as being explosive or limited. As a woman was once asked about her 10 children. Did she not have difficulty in keeping up with them. Did she neglect them or leave them unnoticed. No, she said, I never forget one of them. Because they are all precious to me. Now you multiply the affection of the Mother's heart by the great compassion of God and you'll get an idea of the breadth of his love. I John 4:10.

It is a painful experience however, when <sup>one</sup> love does not receive love in return. For example, when a parent feels the agony of a child whom they have loved, turned coldly away from them in indifference and in scorn.

## II. The Length Of God's Love.

The length of God's love is bound up in the second part of that wonderful verse and (he gave his only son.) Now that is a very sobering word. "Only". He gave Heaven's fairest and best treasure. It is as eternal as God is eternal. God's nature is characterized by love. I John 4:16.

The being of God knows no beginning, or end. So likewise his love.

It never changes. As Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. So does God's love in Christ abide. So long as Christ and God is - so long is his love.

Another aspect is, that his love never lapses or falters. It is strong in endurance. There is no element in the nature of man that can defeat it. The highest form of human love may waver. Even die. But not God's love. Though difficult to imagine, a Mother may cease to love her child. But God never ceases to love you.

Isa. 49:15 reminds us - can a woman forget her sucking child. That she should not have compassion upon the son of her womb. Yeah, they may forget, yet will I not forget Thee.

Here is something speaking of the length of God's love.

Now God's love is not only eternal but it goes through eternity. And this speaks that it will last through all time. Now you might take time to count every grain of sand on the beach or seashore. But when you have finished the count, it would be but a second in eternal things. You cannot measure eternity and neither can you measure the love of God in this way.

And when you remember, your soul is eternal, it is only such a love that can suffice for your needs. Suppose that God should love you for a thousand or million years. And then forget you. How tragic, would be your fate. But since he is from ever lasting unto ever lasting - his nature is love, there's no change in his way.

A greater love has no man than this, than a man can lay down his life. John 15:13. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them til the very end. John 13:1. The hymn states <sup>"</sup> there is a green hill far away without a city wall, where the dear Lord was crucified, who died to save us all. Oh dearly, dearly has he loved. And we must love him too. And trust in his redeeming blood, and try his works to do. <sup>"</sup>

Calvary was that moment when in the fullness of time, Christ showed us this unforgettable glimpse of His love. And the length of it.

A little boy walking with his father at sunset noticed a service flag in one of the windows. The father explained that each blue star represented a son who had been given in the service of his country. Farther along the little boy noticed a flag with a gold star. And he was told that this meant that a son had been killed in the service of his country. Just then as the evening star began to twinkle in the twilight, the boy tugged at his father's hand with these words. Look Daddy, there is a star in God's window. And it is gold, isn't it? And so it is -- for Heaven looks down upon human wretchedness and was moved with compassion, and was willing to give the greatest gift to rescue mankind.

III. The Depth of God's love.

Now Paul speaks of this. And to understand this, that (whosoever believes in him should not perish,) tells us that he goes to reach the most deprived person. What is the deepest spot on earth. Well, one of the deepest places ever recorded was recorded in March, 1959, by the Russian ship Vipyaz, in the Pacific Ocean. A depth of 36,198 feet. Now a steel ball weighing a pound dropped into the water above this depth - would take almost 63 minutes to fall to the ocean floor. Six miles and 85 tenths below.

But such a dimension does not begin to ~~show~~ God's love. Because this is so deep as to go down into the depths of human sorrow. Even in our deepest sorrow underneath are the arms of God to support and sustain.

No matter how deep you may sink in sin, God's love reaches down to save you. Even if a soul goes to the depths of Hell and seems to be lost. Even there, God's love is present. You may sin beyond God's justice. But you cannot sin beyond his love. For even though you may in sin and unbelief sink below God's mercy and forgiveness -- you can never get beyond his great love.

When you look at the cross you see to what depth God's love has gone to save you. Paul says, Phil. 2:6, and 8 - who being in the form of God thought it not robbery to be equal with God but made himself of no reputation and took upon him the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men. And being found in fashion as man, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

He went where men were perishing. He went where men are hopeless. A man once came in to talk with a Preacher. And he poured out his problems with alcohol. His divorce, his loss of his business, the loss of his reputation. And then he said, to the Preacher, you don't really understand, what I am talking about. I've been in Hell. Well, it is true that his record of a sinful life had gone to great depths. But it is also true that there is someone who can bring a man like that back. And he has to start at Calvary. As Psa. 139:8 says, if I make my bed in Hell behold thou art there. He

could not stay away from the love of God. Jesus determined to go to Jerusalem and there to give his life that he might save men from their sins.

Though you are deep in sin, Christ the altogether sinless one, the righteous of God has descended from the highest heights to the lowest depths that he might redeem you. 2 Cor. 5:21.

In Carlsbad Caverns in N. Mex. a group were going under ground in the cave and to give them an idea what it would be like with the lights turned off - the guide decided that everyone would stand still for a moment and he would show them what it would be like without a single ray of light from the sun. And it was overwhelming darkness. A little girl began to cry. And her brother took her by the arm and whispered, don't you cry. There is someone down here who can turn the lights on. No matter how dark the night of sin may be in your life, Christ comes to flood your hearts with the light of his love. For with the Lord there is mercy and with him there is plentiful redemption. Psa. 130:1-7.

#### IV. The Height Of God's Love.

This is the concluding dimension of love. Many men have ever yearned for the heights - standing in the valleys of the earth, his soul longs for the lofty peaks. The highest mountain - such a Mt. Everest towering 29,028 feet above sea level. They tell us when they scaled it back in 1953, that they climbed a while and time after time they reached a point thought to be the summit. Only to find other peaks rose before them and there was always a height beyond yet to climb.

In the 18th verse Paul expresses this thought - the love of Christ which passeth knowledge. Literally the casting beyond knowledge, the love of Christ, rise as high as you will - but there is still a higher level of love. It is as high as Heaven. As the Throne of God, as the very heart of God. For in his heart we have the love universal and eternal coming down and yet raising men to the very Heaven of Heavens, to the Throne of God.

This text then helps us to see God's love as Paul tries to describe it -- it is as wide as the limits of the universe. It is as long as all the ages of eternity. It is as deep as Hell from which we have been redeemed. And it is as high as the Throne of God.

Paul certainly leaves us a great idea, of the love of God and what it can avail by a man committing his life to the Saviour. This is what Paul means when he says that Christ might dwell in your hearts by faith. And that you might be rooted sufficiently to grasp this as an individual and as a church.

God loves all men without measure. But he can bestow his mercy and forgiveness only upon those who in turn will have faith in Christ. So we would pray today that you will open your life to God's in measurable love. And that you would let him make your life complete. And the height of it is that you might have eternal life. David Livingston exploring the great Belguim Congo asked the natives where does your great river go. The Tribesman who had never been past 50 miles from home would always repeat a legend. This great river goes around the last bend and runs into the sand. Livingston knew better because he had traced it to the great Atlantic Ocean. Now many a man believes that when life runs out and goes around the last bend, that he is buried in the sand and forgotten. But that man has not discovered that Christ knows that when the Christian finally rounds the last bend, he will be gathered in the great ocean of God's love. And he'll be blessed through eternity.

Love so amazing so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

Out of our history in Georgia comes a story that following the Civil War Gen. John B. Gordon was a candidate for Congress for the United States. It was a procedure in that day for congressmen to be elected by vote of the state legislature. The Assembly met and one of the old comrades in arms who disliked Gen. Gordon was determined to vote against him. But that afternoon when the roll call came and Gen. Gordon was seated there in the sunshine was upon his face - it revealed a deep and valued scar. It bore a testimony of his brave soldiering. His old comrade said, I cannot vote against him. I had forgotten



# Face to Face

100 years ago . . . in 1869 . . . Grant Tullar drew his first breath of fresh Connecticut air.

Two years later, his mother died — leaving nine children, two of them only 24 hours old!

The father, a disabled Civil War veteran, could not look after such a large family. So Grant, and the other eight children, were distributed among relatives and friends.

Life became so unbearable for little Grant (on one occasion his uncle hung him up by the thumbs for 9 hours!) — that he ran away at the age of ten, got a job in a woolen mill, worked 12 hours a day for his room and board and five dollars a month! Restless and unhappy, he drifted to “the big city” — Hartford, clerked in a shoe store, fell in with evil companions, became so dissipated that he fell victim to serious tubercular trouble by the age of 19.

One Saturday night, during the famous blizzard of '88, Grant was returning home from a drunken party. As he bumped along in the street car, lonely and weighed down by guilt, he decided to end it all. Life for him had ceased to be worth living. But before he got off, an elderly gentleman touched him on the shoulder, gave him a warm smile, and said, “God bless you, son. God loves you.” Somehow, through the fog of alcoholic stupor, those words entered his heart: “God loves you, son.”

These words kindled hope in Grant Tullar. He decided to postpone his suicide and see if God really did care about him.

Sure enough, the very next day, he heard the strains of a happy Christian song and entered a Gospel service where he heard God's simple plan of salvation. He was gloriously converted then and there.

A new creation in Jesus, Grant looked around for some way to serve the Lord. He discovered that God had given him a gift for singing, playing instruments, and composing.

This man, Grant Colfax Tullar, wrote the music to one of my favorite songs . . . the chorus of which goes like this . . .

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“Face to face shall I behold Him;  
Far beyond the starlit sky.  
Face to face in all His glory,  
I shall see Him bye and bye.”  
Shipmate, this is our blessed hope . . . soon, perhaps much sooner than you or I realize, we shall see our wonderful Savior — face to face.

I long for that moment! For over 35 years now, I've been telling others about Him . . . I've been praying to Him . . . I've been leading lost souls to Him. What a wonderful life I've had! But these 35 years will not compare with that one glorious moment when I shall look on His face . . . the One Who loved me, saved me, and healed my broken heart and broken home.

Today, as the Apostle Paul put it, “we see through a glass darkly, but then, FACE TO FACE: now I know in part, but then shall I know, even as also I am known.”

I was reading just the other day about Fanny Crosby, the blind songwriter. She said, and I quote: “I verily believe that it was God's intention that I should live my days in physical darkness so to be better prepared to sing His praise and to encourage others to do so. I could not have written the thousands of hymns if I had been hindered by the distractions that would have been presented to my notice.”

Isn't that a wonderful way to feel about a handicap?

Shipmate, I trust that there's a longing in your heart to see Jesus . . . FACE TO FACE!

*Just Mate Bob*

With eternity in view, it's good to frequently ask ourselves how much of our TIME, ENERGY, and MONEY are we using for the Kingdom of God, as compared to what we waste on ourselves.

The more of heaven there is in our lives, the less of earth we shall covet.

the scar. Well, sometimes I would think that if we would remember Calvary, Christ made the unmistakeable effort to fill us with the love of God for every man. And behold, in that love, we should be glad.