

(Cissel)

"DO YOU UNDERSTAND GOD'S LOVE"

Eph. 3:18

Sir Isaac Newton: "He was just a little child on the coast picking up shells." He claimed not to know much.

Paul - I have not apprehended all of these things.

Word: Know expresses different things. (1) Head knowledge (2) Heart or living experience.

*know you know "know" ->*

"Have you left anything?" is a sign placed in many American hotels. There are hotels in London where a more appropriate question to the departing guest would be, "Have you anything left?"

May be like seeds in a withered poppy head -- very dry, hard and many -- makes a noise when you shake them.

One kind of knowledge gets to the finger tips but never down in the heart.

Man must be hungry to know what hunger is. He must taste of honey to know how it tastes.

Blind man never understands the glories of sunrise.

Deaf man never knows about acoustics, though read books about sound.

If you want to know the blessedness of the love of Christ - love him - open your heart.

His love is as high as Heaven -- it begins at the Throne. Deeper than Hell - goes down to the cross. Longer than the earth. Broader than the sea.

V. 18-21 - Paul's prayer that the Christian may grasp the meaning of the love of Christ.

V. 14-15 - "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in Heaven and earth is named."

There is (one family) -- some of us are here on this earth, some are in Heaven. all belong to same family.

Death does not separate us, if we are in Christ.

The prayer continues -- might be strengthened with his Spirit in the (inner) man.

That you may be (rooted) - V. 17.

That you may comprehend fully. That (breadth) of love extending to all people. (Height) of love into the very presence of God. (Length) of love through all time. (Depth) of love to the lowest condition of human need.

This love grows out of this knowledge and is the fruit of it.

It defines the (four words) -- this love is something literally "Thrown beyond" our knowing.

Meaning a great broad expanse. This is love in four dimensions. Immeasurable.

One ancient -- sees the cross as the symbol of love. The (upper arm) of the cross points up; the (lower arm) of the cross points down; the (crossing arms) of the cross point out to the widest horizons beyond the range of the eye to eye.

Jerome's love reaches up, to include angels; reaches down to include evil spirits and devils in Hell; reaches in length to cover men striving the upward way; its breadth covers men who are drifting and wandering away from Christ on evil paths.

✓ Breadth - includes every man of every kind.

✓ Length - was obedient unto death.

✓ Depth - descended even to death.

✓ Height - loves us in Heaven.

Where is that love? How are we going to experience it?

John Wesley -- "God knows nothing of solitary religion." No man he said, ever went to Heaven alone.

John 3:16 - Explains these four words.

## I. BREADTH - FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD - WHOLE WORLD

Three words to express world.

(1) Ge - Geography

Earth our planet with soil, dirt, and ground.

(2) Oikoumene - Civilization

World of humanity, inhabited cultural world.

(3) Cosmos - Creation

Stars - planets - sun.

God took the last word, the whole creation. This vast universe. For God so loved the whole creation.

He is saying God did not love our world in part - parcel - piece - section - few - not some of humanity. But the whole creation shall share in the redemptive purpose of Christ Jesus.

It includes all of God's handiwork.

Story - D. L. Moody - in Birmingham, England. Met young Britisher, I hope to visit America, when I do, will preach for you in Chicago.

Six months later -- letter from New York signed by this man. Be in Chicago Wednesday.

Moody to be away Wednesday. Let him preach, if he falters the Deacons will take over the service.

Harry Moorehouse - Text - John 3:16 - Poured out his heart - made appeal - not soul left - in after service twenty people saved.

Deacons - could you be here tomorrow night? Announced service for Thursday night.

Thursday - Text - John 3:16 - thirty were saved.

Deacons asked about Friday - announced. ~~Scores~~ of others saved Friday.

Great crowd.

Saturday announced to continue.

Moody returned on Saturday - wife - we are having Revival. He was amazed.  
Why no one said anything about.

Wife said I want you to go listen to him and get converted - dumbfounded -  
overwhelmed.

Why, been a preacher twenty years.

Saturday night -- Moody was there. The young Preacher - Text - John 3:16.  
Appeal made and scores were saved. Moody said, "I never felt so like getting  
converted all over again in my life." *(Oh, members need that tonight!)*

That meeting went on for six weeks and that young man used Text John 3:16.

One of the greatest Revival in America.

Moody said it changed my preaching. I had been preaching the Sinai side of  
the cross of judgement and dammation. I began to preach the other side of grace,  
love, and mercy.

That is what we need!

Judgement and grace -- does *(God see and care?)*

The love of God is greater far  
Than tongue or pen could ever tell,  
It goes beyond the highest star  
And reaches to the lowest Hell.

When ever that song is published there is an asterisk that points down to the bottom of the page which says that the third stanza of the poem was found on the wall of the cell of an inmate in an insane asylum:

Could we with ink the oceans fill,  
And were the skies of parchment made,  
Were every stalk on earth a quill,  
And every man a scribe by trade;  
To write the love of God above  
Would drain the ocean dry;  
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,  
Though stretched from sky to sky.

Think of that -- a wretched -- miserable poor creature and when he died and they took him out to bury him, they found that verse on the wall.

For the love of God is broader than the measure of man's mind, and the heart of the eternal is most wonderfully kind.

II. LENGTH - HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON

The length which God did go to express. What is most precious treasure in our lives? Not monetary, deep personal of the heart.

Did you ever notice the value we place (on things) that have no intrinsic worth at all?

A little baby dies - we have a picture.

A lock of hair - a faded flower.

A wedding band.

Many have little worth but you hold it because it holds you, someone who loved you gave it to you.

A man who owned the whole universe -- if he lost his boy in war would say, I'll give a million stars, every planet I own, get my boy back!

Priceless gifts are never monetary or material.

They are of the heart -- the soul.

God's gift was his Son.

III. DEPTH - WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH ON HIM

Shall not perish. That is the depth -- it reaches the perishing. Not easy to love the unloveable, those who mistreat us. Some are so wretched - ignorance - misery.

Doctor in Africa - one of our missionaries. A Pastor visited him and left at dawn and returned at sun set.

"Visited his clan settlements" leper colonies. All day long they went from one clan settlement to another.

If one is found leprous, even a child, the people shove him out to die of starvation, exposure, or to be killed by wild animals. A leper is not allowed to approach a village.

The Christian Doctor had gathered all the lepers in villages, called clan settlements - he regularly ministered to them. A little English car, got out his medicines, and lepers would come around. Fingers had fallen off, their toes had fallen off, and their faces, noses, ears had large tumors, signs of the disease.

One place a man - when he put his weight on his right foot there would be a squirt of blood that reached over his head. One of the arteries had decayed. He treated him.

That is God's love, the visiting preacher said. Who sent the missionary, brought the medicine, did the ministering to those people. Southern Baptist Churches.

Not only ignorance, superstition, disease, poverty, and wretchedness, but bound by vice and in sin. How depraved they are! Yet the Lord reaches down to the depth of their sin.

Infidel came up to the preacher and said "I challenge you to debate the



Christian faith."

Preacher, "I shall be delighted. You name the time and place. But when we come I want you to bring a hundred who have been in the wretchedness of iniquity, in the vice of sin. I want you to bring 100 converts who have been lifted up and saved from the depths of sin by your preaching of infidelity."

Then I shall bring a hundred who have been saved and delivered by the grace of God in Christ Jesus.

(The debate never came off!) It would not! When would one find a convert who had been lifted up out of the miry clay, his feet set on a rock and found a new life in the Gospel of infidelity?

A preacher might at any time get 1,000 saved by grace.

From sinking sand He lifted me,  
With tender hand He lifted me,  
From shades of night to plains of light,  
Oh, praise His name, He lifted me!

IV. HEIGHT - "WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM SHALL NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE"

Love reaches into the very presence of God. Everlasting - expresses the height of love. There is Heaven for us.

On Jordan's stormy bank, I stand,  
And cast a wistful eye

To Canaan's fair and happy land,  
Where my possessions lie.

I am bound for the promised land,  
I am bound for the promised land;  
O who will come and go with me?  
I am bound for the promised land.

Who will come and go with me? I am bound for the promised land. Trust Jesus with your life -- you can experience and understand the dimensions of God's love.

✓ Breadth - He included you.

✓ Length - He sent Jesus to die for you.

✓ Depth - He reaches down to lowest human need.

✓ Height - He wants to lift you up to Heaven.

He wants to do it now.