

The Amazing Love of Christ

by

**George
Whitefield**

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A

SERMON

PREACHED IN THE GORBELS-CHURCH OF GLASGOW, SEPTEMBER 3D, 1742.

JOHN XI. VERSE 36.

—BEHOLD, HOW HE LOVED HIM.

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Church, Glasgow, September 3d, 1742,
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JOHN XI. VERSE 36.

—BEHOLD, HOW HE LOVED HIM.

IF I could help it, I would never preach upon any other Subject, than the Love of *Jesus Christ*; if I could help it, I would use no other Motive to the Gospel Obedience, than the Love of the dear Redeemer to precious and immortal Souls: But, it seems, they must have the Terrors of the Law to alarm them; their Hearts are rocky, and they have need for the Word to be like a Hammer, before it comes with Aw to melt down their Souls.

However, to Day, is the Lord shall give me Freedom, I think to entertain you with the Mediation of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a blessed Soul-sweetning, a Soul-ravishing Exercise. This is the Employment of the Saints above. What is it they are doing now before the Throne of God? They are *giving Praise to him who hath loved them, and washed them in his Blood*, who hath

redeemed

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redeemed them into Glory, *and hath made them Kings and Priests*, having indeed made them a Heaven upon Earth. Well then, let us this Morning my dear Friends, lift up our Hearts towards God, and beg we may hereby be in Heaven, we may join with the blessed Saints above, that are now round about the Throne of God, and with them, according to our poor Capacity, speak a little of the Love of Jesus. The Text will naturally lead me to this; I suppose you know to what it refers. If you look at the 35 Verse, you will find something said there that it is enough to make us weep. There we are told, *Jesus weept*. Why did he weep? He weeped to find Lazarus laid in the Dust. How soon debased is that noble Creature Man! He weeped, I beg God, you may not give him Occasion to weep over you this Day for your hard Hearts. O amazing! When Christ weeped here at *Lazarus's* Funeral, it was so affecting to the Standers-by that they cried out, *Behold how he loved him*. *Lazarus* was the Picture of dead Sinners, he lies stinking in the Grave, bound Hand and Foot, with Grave-cloths, his Face was bound about with a Napkin; and *Martha* said, *By this Time he stinketh*. This is the very Picture of you and me; I and you are dead, stinking in a Grave of Sin, wrapt about with Grave-cloths, and Corruption is your own Sister, you are bound

Hand

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Hand and Foot, thou canst not move thyself. In the Sight of God thou stinkest, because Corruption is on every Hand, and putrified Sores; there you ly dead, with a great Stone of Infidelity rolled at the Door of thy Heart; never will you come out, till that Comfort of the Lord Jesus, who here weeped at *Lazarus's* Funeral, who said, *Lazarus, come forth*, say, with the Power of the eternal Spirit, Roll away this Stone from the Door of thy Heart; and therefore we ought to cry out, Behold how he hath loved us. This is a Field, we have a large Copy, where we must needs fail when talking of the Love of Jesus. O I long to go to Heaven, that I may talk of nothing else; I long to go to my *Master*, that I may speak of nothing, but of his Love! O my dear Friends, may we not cry out, *Behold how he loved him!* Well may I call upon you this Morning in the Name of the blessed Jesus, and say, Behold, my fellow Creatures, behold, my Sisters and Brethren, take Notice of this lovely Object. This Morning, O separate you from the World, leave all worldly Thoughts behind you now, and spend one Hour in dwelling upon and commending the Love of Jesus, but you must stretch your Thoughts to the outmost Strength!

Where can I begin with that Love which had no Beginning? *Behold he loved us.* I cannot find a Beginning, you must go a

great

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great Way, you must go with the Eyes of Faith beyond the Bounds of Time, *Behold how he hath loved us.* He saw that we would be lost without him, that we would be ruined without him; he foresaw that all the Earth would be out of him, that all would go to Hell if not he, even the eternal Son, entered into a Contract with the eternal Father. Father, rather than these Sinners, shall go to Hell, give me but these Sinners, let me but have these Sinners as a Reward of my Sufferings, tho' I have lien in thy Bosom from Eternity, yet, behold I will undertake to pay the Ransom for them. I will undertake to do what they cannot do, to satisfy that violated Law, and thy Justice that is shown in thy Mercy: For this End tho' I am in the Form of GOD, tho' I thought it no Robbery to be equal with thee; yet I took upon me the Form of a Servant, and will die upon the Cross. Thus the Father and the Son entered into a Contract, thus, the Lord Jesus loved us before we were born. Hath not he loved us with everlasting Love? Think on this, O Sinners, and stretch your Thoughts into Eternity, and you may all, not only call upon one another, but call upon Men and Angels, Heaven and Earth and the Seas, Behold how he loved you, so as to enter into an eternal Contract with the Father to save our sinful Souls. *Behold how he hath loved*

us.

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us. Thank the distinguishing Grace of God, who loved us and not Devils, prefer'd us unto the blessed Spirits, these gracious Spirits, these once Angels of Light that dwelt round about the Throne of God, who for one Transgression were thrust down into Hell. Amazing Love! Angels left, Men taken, that Christ should not touch one of fallen Angels, but ruined Sinners, O think of the distinguishing Love of God, and then cry out, *Behold how he hath loved us!*

Thus Christ did in Eternity, and in his own Manner, he was pleased to reveal this in Time. I would have you to consider the Time in which it was revealed amongst us, he was to condescend before the eternal God, and to offer himself a Sacrifice for us, when he might justly have cut off the whole human Race. But in Midst of all this, when he said, *The Seed of the Woman should bruise the Head of the Serpent,* (Behold the free Gift of eternal Life!) then the Devil who know nothing of this

Promise, when the Promise comes, it gave him a Blow, *The Seed of the Woman*, the Lord Jesus Christ, *should bruise the Serpent's Head*. Was not this Love, dear Love, amazing Love! Behold, all ye Sinners, how he loved you.

My dear Friends, Time would fail to speak how the Love of Christ was revealed unto Sinners after this first Time, take a View of his Incarnation; come now from

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the Cradle, or rather from the Manger, to the Cross, then see how he loved you. If Christ must die when coming into the World, one would have thought, he should have been born under some fine Roof. Come you, see here, when Angels were standing on God incarnate, laid in Swadling-cloths; behold the Lamb of God leaving his Father's Glory. Jesus Christ was born among the Brutes, there he lies in a stinking Stable. Come, behold the Infant, the Creator, become a Creature, wrapt in Swadling-cloths; think on this, and well you may come and worship him, crying out, Behold how Christ hath loved me! Let us carry it further. O he loved you so, that when he was eight Days old, he was circumcised. The Virgin MARY and her espoused Husband, what Trouble had they with their Lord of Glory, when he is carried from one Place to another? We hear till he was twelve Years old, that he lived a private Life, and it was a Miracle that Christ should live so long in an obscure Manner. My dear Friends, how dreadful it was to think every Moment on this, and you may cry out, *Behold how he hath loved us!* But, my dear Friends, let us consider the Time when he was to make his publick Appearance in the World, when Christ came to publish the glad Tidings of Salvation to a benighted World; let us follow

him

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him to the Wilderness; go to the Wilderness, and see what Temptation he underwent, *He fasted forty Days and forty Nights*; he was tempted to love the World, to fall down and worship the World. He endured one long Temptation after another, and all this to be a Compensation for our Transgressions. That you may not say, that he could not be *touched with the feeling of our Infirmities*, think on the Sufferings of Jesus Christ in the Wilderness, then cry out, *Behold, how he hath loved us!* We should think when he came, the whole World should fall down and worship him, and they should say, All we have we should leave for to obtain

eternal Life from thee.

But behold, Sinners come out and call him a Devil, and that he did all by the Power of the Devil: He was ridiculed in one Place, and notwithstanding all this, he was going about doing Good, preached all Day and Night, continually watching for Souls. It was his Meat and Drink to bring poor Souls to hear the Word of the Gospel, and see his glorious Wonders, the wonderful Miracles he wrought: O then, how may they cry out, *Behold how he hath loved us!* But O let us come to his Passion; Here is such a Sight as to make your Hearts to glow, behold to wit, ONE suffering. Come with me to the Judgment Hall, I will show you Men set against God, the

dear

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dear *JESUS*: Here he swet a bloody Sweat; Nature seemed, as it were, to put on its Wings, that it might mourn with *CHRIST*; there he lay cold in a dark Night, our Guilt lay so heavy upon him as made him to cry our, *I am sorrowful, even unto Death*: the Sins are so great, that I am now sinking under them. Amazing! what must be the Condition of the SON of God! This was by your Sins.

In this Chapter, were then upon his Heart your Sins, which made him *exceeding sorrowful, even unto the Death*; he fell down flat upon his Face, Nature shrinks at his Sufferings; O Love, O amazing Love! *Not my Will, but thine be done*, rather than these poor Souls that have been in Guilt Seventeen hundred Years, that they may not be damned for evermore, *thy Will be done. Behold how he hath loved you!*

And this would be enough now, but this is the Beginning of his Sorrow; when he came out of the Garden he met with a Band of Soldiers; we find *Judas* come and betray him, *Hail, Master, and kisseth him*, and betrays the Lord *Jesus* the Son of God. The Creator suffers himself to be bound with the Creature; away they led him along the Street, he is led before *Caiaphas* the High-Priest, a *Barrabas*, a Murderer preferred before him; they led him away to crucify him, there he was upon the Cross,

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they

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they plowed upon his Back, and made Wounds upon his blessed Back. All this Christ was doing, that you might not be burnt with the Fire of Hell. Some weeped; O then how you may cry out, *Behold how he loved you!* But, O come step with me, and I will bring you to the Mount, our Lord there he is sitting, but the Sun was ashamed to see the God of

Nature stretched on the Cross, a God incarnate hanged betwixt two Malefactors; see how the Blood runs trickling down from his Wounds, till he, feeling your Sins, cried out, *My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?* What did Christ bear when he shed his Blood, and by doing this purchased Salvation for Sinners Souls, and he did all this for to make you happy; he loved them. It is amazing to see the God of Nature, a God incarnate, the Lord Jesus, to be so by his Love; he hath given himself to die for you. When he had done all this, then declare Jesus's Love to you? Then did Christ plead for you, he loved you so well that he came again to die for you. Do you know this? Well may you say, Behold how he loved you, behold it, dwell on it, stand amazed to hear him now, behold how Jesus loved you, behold him hanging on the Cross, and then you may well cry out, Behold how he hath loved you. Now they have murdered him at last, he cries out, *It is finished; he bowed his Head and gave*

up

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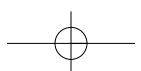
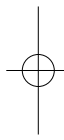
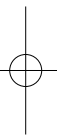
up the Ghost. Come now, behold the Place where he lay, come follow him to the Grave, behold the Son of God lying in the Dust, behold Jesus Christ laid in the Dust, the Creator laid in the Dust: O Love, stronger than Death! How loved Jesus Sinners! that he died for their Sins; as this Love brought him from the Father's Bosom for you. Then Jesus Christ is raised the third Day; when he comes to the Disciples, he says, *Peace be unto you, my Peace I leave with you.* That you might have a Testimony of his Love, now he is gone to Heaven, and he hath appointed Ministers to take Care of his People, being set over them by his Institution. Why are ye not in Hell? It is because Jesus hath preserved you that have been called of God, born of God; consider your Youthfulness, consider what your Saviour did for you, and then cry out, Behold how he hath loved you. O ye young Women, how he loved you, behold how he loves you, behold how you have put the Son of God to Death; O that thy Heart may be greeting for him, that you may be welcoming the dear Redeemer. Well then, are we in Heaven or in Earth? O that the Almighty God may make this Supplication sweet to your Souls, that you may go home with Love in your Hearts to God. How have you murdered your Redeemer! Are ye not ashamed of your In

gratitude?

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gratitude? Wonderful! Christ hath loved you, but you have hated him. Was there ever such a Saviour? Come you, consider. God humble yourselves before him to Day, and say, How little have I loved my dear Jesus, my Immanuel, my gracious God. Will I beg God you may may love him, and go away saying, I will keep close to my God, that he will give me Strength and Heart, behold how he hath loved you. Take Care and pray for your Prophets, Priests and Kings; the Strength and Breadth of the dear Redeemer is Love to all Sinners. I would hope he hath been here to Day. Surely the Lord is here; behold, he loved poor Black-laden Sinners; O let us cry out, Behold how he hath loved us. Let us examine ourselves and love the Lord our God, and be doing something for our God; let us be doing something for our Lord Jesus, who hath done and suffered so much for us. May the Lord God Almighty bless what hath been spoken; may you meditate upon the dear Redeemer, and your Souls may burn with Love, and give Glory to God from your Hearts. I pray God for it for the Lord Jesus Christ, to whom, with the Father, be all Honour and Glory for ever! *Amen.*

FINIS.





THE AMAZING LOVE OF CHRIST

