

Love That Knows No Bounds

(By Rev. Anthony Menzel, May 16, 2021)

Always remember that the most important person in the universe loves you...

1. Deuteronomy 10:16-22

16 Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and be stiff-necked[h] no longer. **17** For the Lord your God *is* God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe. **18** He administers justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing. **19** Therefore love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. **20** You shall fear the Lord your God; you shall serve Him, and to Him you shall hold fast, and take oaths in His name. **21** He *is* your praise, and He *is* your God, who has done for you these great and awesome things which your eyes have seen. **22** Your fathers went down to Egypt with seventy persons, and now the Lord your God has made you as the stars of heaven in multitude.

This passage exhorts to be obedient to God...

And it teaches us that God is above everyone else and everything...

He is God of gods and Lord of lords and therefore should be the only object of our worship...

The passage also reminds us of how God takes care of everyone, including the most vulnerable...

It reminds us to reflect His kindness and tenderness...

It also reminds us of how God enlarges us in spirit, soul, and body...

We should always remember that our God, that God of gods and Lord of Lords, is the Holy Trinity...

One God in Three Persons...

1. Revelation 19:11-21

11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. **12** His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, and on His head *were* many crowns. He [e]had a name written that no one knew except Himself. **13** He *was* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. **14** And the armies in heaven, clothed in [f]fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. **15** Now out of His mouth goes a [g]sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. **16** And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND^[SEP]LORD OF LORDS.

The Beast and His Armies Defeated

17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, “Come and gather together for the [h]supper of the great God, **18** that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all *people*, [i]free and slave, both small and great.”

19 And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. **20** Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which

he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. **21** And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

I read this passage the other week, but I think it bears repeating, in light of so many terrible things going on in the world today, that in the end, the Lord Jesus wins...

Here we see not just the Father is Lord of lords, but God the Son Jesus Christ is, too.

One of the names or titles for God the Son is The Word.

1. John 1:1-3, 10-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. **11** He came to His [c]own, and His [d]own did not receive Him. **12** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the [e]right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: **13** who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

The Word Becomes Flesh

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

As I have said in the past, I prefer to talk about the Lord Jesus as much as possible...

That's because the Bible teaches us that the only way to have the Father and the Holy Spirit is to have the Lord Jesus.

1. 1 John 2:23

23 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

1. 1 Corinthians 6:15-20

15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make *them* members of a harlot? Certainly not! **16** Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body *with her*? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh." **17** But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit *with Him*.

18 Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. **19** Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? **20** For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body [g]and in your spirit, which are God's.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we are part of the body of Christ... This passage indicates that we become the temple or dwelling place of the Holy Spirit when we become members of the body of Christ...

Thus, I love the name of Jesus Christ...

Because when I have God the Son, also known as Jesus Christ, I have God the Father and the Holy Spirit, too...

So now I want to go back to the title of this message, now that we have a deeper understanding of what the nature of God is like...

Love that Know No Bounds...

We should always feel good about ourselves...

1. Zephaniah 3:14-20

14

Sing, O daughter of Zion!

Shout, O Israel!

Be glad and rejoice with all *your* heart,

O daughter of Jerusalem!

15

The Lord has taken away your judgments,

He has cast out your enemy.

The King of Israel, the Lord, *is* in your midst;

You shall [f]see disaster no more.

16

In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

“Do not fear;

Zion, let not your hands be weak.

17

The Lord your God in your midst,

The Mighty One, will save;

He will rejoice over you with gladness,

He will quiet *you* with His love,
He will rejoice over you with singing.”

18

“I will gather those who sorrow over the appointed assembly,
Who are among you,
To whom its reproach is a burden.

19

Behold, at that time
I will deal with all who afflict you;
I will save the lame,
And gather those who were driven out;
I will appoint them for praise and fame
In every land where they were put to shame.

20

At that time I will bring you back,
Even at the time I gather you;
For I will give you [g]fame and praise
Among all the peoples of the earth,
When I return your captives before your eyes,”
Says the Lord.

When we try to follow the Lord Jesus, we are a tremendous source
of joy for Him...

Remember that it doesn't matter if you are weak or lame in the
spirit, soul, or body...

You and the Lord Jesus are a majority...

When we make mistakes, there may be consequences at times, but
the Lord Jesus will always fix things for us...

If we are humble, He always gives us hope...

1. 1 John 1:9

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

We should remember that the Lord Jesus Christ's hope is always a real hope, not hope based on a fantasy or falsehood.

1. Romans 5:3-5

3 And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces [b]perseverance; **4** and perseverance, [c]character; and character, hope. **5** Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

1. John 15:13

13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

Jesus Christ showed us that greatest love perfectly...

He left the glory of heaven to save us...

1. Philippians 2:5-8

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, **6** who, being in the form of God, did not consider it [b]robbery to be equal with God, **7** but [c]made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. **8** And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross.

This is one of my favorite passages for Christmas...

It describes perfectly why we should celebrate so much the Incarnation of God the Son as Jesus Christ...

Knowing that He left everything for us should make us feel very loved...

As followers of Jesus Christ, we should always feel loved, even if no one else makes us feel loved...

When we want to wallow in self pity or in the lies that the devil wants us to believe that no one truly cares about us, we should remember how the Lord Jesus left everything for us...

We should also remember how He died for us...

1. Mark 15:25-37

25 Now it was the third hour, and they crucified Him. **26** And the inscription of His [d]accusation was written above:

THE KING OF THE JEWS.

27 With Him they also crucified two robbers, one on His right and the other on His left. **28** [e]So the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “And He was numbered with the transgressors.”

29 And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads and saying, “Aha! *You* who destroy the temple and build *it* in three days, **30** save Yourself, and come down from the cross!”

31 Likewise the chief priests also, mocking among themselves with the scribes, said, “He saved others; Himself He cannot save. **32** Let the Christ, the King of Israel, descend now from the cross, that we may see and [f]believe.”

Even those who were crucified with Him reviled Him.

Jesus Dies on the Cross

33 Now when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. **34** And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?” which is translated, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

35 Some of those who stood by, when they heard *that*, said, “Look, He is calling for Elijah!” **36** Then someone ran and filled a sponge full of sour wine, put *it* on a reed, and offered *it* to Him to drink, saying, “Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to take Him down.”

37 And Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and breathed His last.

After being ridiculed and humiliated and tortured, He spent 6 hours on the Cross for us...

He took the punishment we deserve for our sins...

He provided healing for us...

1. Isaiah 53:3-7

He is despised and [d]rejected by men,

A Man of [e]sorrows and acquainted with [f]grief.

And we hid, as it were, *our* faces from Him;

He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

4

Surely He has borne our [g]griefs

And carried our [h]sorrows;

Yet we [i]esteemed Him stricken,

[j]Smitten by God, and afflicted.

5

But He *was* wounded[k] for our transgressions,

He was [l]bruised for our iniquities;

The chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him,

And by His stripes[m] we are healed.

6

All we like sheep have gone astray;
We have turned, every one, to his own way;
And the Lord [n]has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

7

He was oppressed and He was afflicted,
Yet He opened not His mouth;
He was led as a lamb to the slaughter,
And as a sheep before its shearers is silent,
So He opened not His mouth.

Always know that you are loved...

The fact that you may be facing trials does not mean that the Lord Jesus doesn't love you or that He has forgotten about you...

Trials have a purpose...

We may not always understand what that purpose is, but there is a purpose for our suffering...

1. James 1:2-4

2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, **3** knowing that the testing of your faith produces [a]patience. **4** But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be [b]perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

The Lord Jesus may also be preparing a special reward for you in heaven...

Remember that heavenly rewards last forever...

1. 1 Corinthians 3:11-15

11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. **12** Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, **13** each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. **14** If anyone's work which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a reward. **15** If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

As we close, I want to mention something very important:

Since we should always feel loved, that means we should also love others as much as we know how to love in the ways that the Lord Jesus wants us to love...

1. Philippians 2:3-4

3 *Let nothing be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. **4** Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

Our lives should not be about achieving our own agenda... It's ok to make plans with the Holy Spirit's direction, but remember that those plans can always change, as the Holy Spirit leads...

1. James 4:13-17

13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow [h]we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a

profit”; **14** whereas you do not know what *will happen* tomorrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. **15** Instead you *ought* to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.” **16** But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

17 Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do *it*, to him it is sin.

The most important item on our agendas should be to show love, to The Holy Trinity and to others...

The basis for our church’s mission is

1. Matthew 22:35-40

35 Then one of them, a lawyer, asked *Him a question*, testing Him, and saying, **36** “Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law?”

37 Jesus said to him, ““You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ **38** This *is the* first and great commandment. **39** And *the* second *is* like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ **40** On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

The mark of a true Christian or follower of Jesus Christ is the love that they share with others...

1. John 13:34-35

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. **35** By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”