

L.1 - The War Behind All Wars - Wednesdays: love Finds a Way

1. Sin is a problem for God. – For us, too, but for God in a different way.
 - a. ILLUSTRATION: A child damages Dad's car. The child can't fix it. It is Dad's problem
 - The solution must come from Dad's INITIATIVE / WISDOM / RESOURCES / Paid from his account.
 - b. Sin is NOTHING like crashing a car.
 - But once done, there was NOTHING Adam could do to fix it.
 - Sin broke their essential connection with God AND contaminated them.
 - You can't clean a DIRTY DISH using a DIRTY RAG
 - c. From the moment sin separated God and man – all attention was on God?
2. GOOD NEWS: Love FINDS A WAY
 - a. More accurately, Love ALREADY WAS the way – EMBEDDED in the character of Who God is: Love.
3. No sooner does Adam sin than God BEGINS to reveal something His PRE-ESTABLISHED costly solution!
 - a. **Isaiah 65:24** – “BEFORE they call, I will answer...”
 - b. **Genesis 3:15** – *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.*
 - c. Adam & Eve could NOT have begun to grasp these words before they had sinned.
 - They see Mercy, Forgiveness, Sacrifice
 - d. To our feeble, clouded minds, weakened by sin and selfishness, the words sound mysterious.
 - This is the “Mystery of Christ” (**Ephesians 3:4**) – The *Full Picture* will be threaded through the Scriptures, revealed step by step / AS we are able to bear it.
 - e. This is a PROPHECY of the CROSS on which Jesus died – The first prophecy of many
 - The whole record of the Great Controversy IN ADVANCE was compressed into one verse.
 - f. What can we learn from Genesis 3:15?
 - ENMITY: Godly hatred of for sin is possible
 - Instead of being destroyed immediately, Satan MUST be allowed to demonstrate the principles of His defiant claim – so all could see sin for what it truly is.
 - AND The war that had reared its head on Earth would be INTERRUPTED AND ENDED.
 - The Seed (CAPITAL S and SINGULAR - not *just* talking about genetic descendants) ... OF THE WOMAN
 - BUT not of the man – The Seed is God
 - – the Seed (through the Woman – would become ONE OF US)
 - Divine Son humble Himself through self-denial, showing the way we must follow
 - By this act, God makes a COMPLETE display of His Love in contrast with the violence of satan
 - Would engage in a REAL combat and would not come out unscathed.
 - Illustrates God's Love, not by force
 - Contrast with Satan
 - By His own sacrifice, the tempter and sin would be dealt a death blow.
 - He would be fully and completely victorious with a final defeat of sin
 - **1 John 3:8** – *For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.*
 - **Revelation 20:10** – *The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire....*

4. Echoed in the words Jesus spoke to Nicodemus – **John 3:16** – *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

GC 651.1-2 – In this life we can only begin to understand the wonderful theme of redemption. With our finite comprehension we may consider most earnestly the shame and the glory, the life and the death, the justice and the mercy, that meet in the cross; yet with the utmost stretch of our mental powers we fail to grasp its full significance. The length and the breadth, the depth and the height, of redeeming love are but dimly comprehended. The plan of redemption will **not** be fully understood, **even** when the ransomed see as they are seen and know as they are known; **but** through the eternal ages new truth will continually unfold to the wondering and delighted mind. Though the griefs and pains and temptations of earth are ended and the cause removed, the people of God will ever have a distinct, intelligent knowledge of what their salvation has cost. **The cross of Christ will be the science and the song of the redeemed through all eternity. In Christ glorified they will behold Christ crucified.**

2T 634.2 – Christ and Him crucified should become the theme of our thoughts and stir the deepest emotions of our souls. The true followers of Christ will appreciate the great salvation which He has wrought for them; and wherever He leads the way, they will follow. They will consider it a privilege to bear whatever burdens Christ may lay upon them. It is through the cross alone that we can estimate the worth of the human soul. Such is the value of men for whom Christ died that the Father is satisfied with the infinite price which He pays for the salvation of man in yielding up His own Son to die for their redemption. What wisdom, mercy, and love in its fullness are here manifested! The worth of man is known only by going to Calvary. In the mystery of the cross of Christ we can place an estimate upon man.