

### **Introduction**

1. There is great difference between the believer and the unbeliever
2. Who can measure the difference between God's wrath and His love?

### **1. AS BELIEVERS WE NEED TO BE CONVINCED OF GOD'S LOVE**

- 1) This Epistle is full of God's love + of Christian love
  - (i) "God is love" (1 John 4:8)
  - (ii) "The love of the Father" (2:15)
  - (iii) "Herein is love..." (4:10)  
**OBSERVE**: Christianity is a religion of love:
    - (i) "Let us love one another"
    - (ii) "Perfect love casteth out fear"
- 2) Words for love:
  - (i) EROS: sensual love
  - (ii) PHILIA: love between friends
  - (iii) AGAPE: the love which God has and we should have
- 3) "Behold!"
  - (i) the wonder of it
  - (ii) the extent of it
  - (iii) the blessings it confers on us
- 4) Sonship: 3 kinds:
  - (i) Christ's
  - (ii) ours
  - (iii) others
- 5) The privileges of Sonship:
  - (i) a new relationship to God
  - (ii) we bear His Name
  - (iii) we have access to Him in prayer

- (iv) assurance of God's love for us always  
**ILLUSTRATION**: an adopted child. "I love my mother".

### **2. THOSE WHO ARE UNCONVERTED CANNOT LOVE US**

- 1) "Therefore": it is sheer logic: no man can love what is his opposite: 2 Cor. 6:14-16
- 2) This is illustrated in the way men treated Christ – did not recognise Him:
  - (i) at His birth
  - (ii) at His ordination
  - (iii) for His miracles
  - (iv) on the Cross and resurrection
- 3) It is a sure lack of grace: the world does not "know the Christian":
  - (i) what we believe is "foolishness to them
  - (ii) our pattern of life: worship / Sabbaths
  - (iii) our concern for God's Moral Law
  - (iv) our passion to save souls
  - (v) our hope of a better world  
**ILLUSTRATION**: "Waiting for the ferry!"  
**APPLICATION**: "Marvel not if the world hate you".  
**OBSERVATION**: This is a great mark and evidence. There are some who try to be like the world.

### **3. OUR SONSHIP AS CHRISTIANS IS RICH IN BLESSING**

- 1) We have Sonship NOW: 3 great respects in which God has blessed us already.
- 2) But our future state will be vastly better:
  - (i) "what we shall be"
  - (ii) "does not appear"  
**OBSERVATION**: There are wonderful promises of what the believer will be in another world. Exx.
- 3) When will this alteration take place?  
**ANSWER**: "When he shall appear"

**DOCTRINE:** The golden hour is when Christ comes again. Grace will become glory.

- 4) This very hope is having a blessed effect upon us here and now: v.3
  - (i) Heavenly-mindedness is purifying
  - (ii) Purity is conformity to Christ + to God
  
- 5) Here is the climax:
  - (i) conformity to Christ
  - (ii) the beatific vision of God

**CONCLUSION**

Do we love God?

Do we believe in His love to us?

<p><b>PSALM</b></p> <p><b>63: 1 – 8</b></p> <p><b>84: 7 – 12</b></p> <p><b>73: 25 – 28</b></p>
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