

"GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD"**Introduction**

1. People are always interested in love
2. It is a sweet world – especially God's love
3. No verse in the Bible is more full of gospel truth: memorise it!

1. THE LOVE OF GOD IS THE FOUNDATION OF ALL GOSPEL BLESSING

- 1) Love has its degrees:
 - i) love for that which is lovely – 1st degree
 - ii) love for that which is neutral – 2nd degree
 - iii) love for that which is repulsive – 3rd degree
- 2) "The world" means mankind in its fallen state:
 - i) all have broken the first covenant
 - ii) all have trampled on God's laws
 - iii) all are by nature "haters of God"
- 3) God's love is
 - i) extreme
 - ii) undeserved
 - iii) amazing

APPLICATION: See what a great love God has!

2. THE SAVIOUR IS NONE OTHER THAN GOD'S OWN SON

- 1) There is a difference between "love" and love:
 - i) "love" is when men promise but do nothing
 - ii) love is shown when words are followed by actions

ILLUSTRATION: The Parable of the Good Samaritan
- 2) God's love is shown by the immensity of the gift:
 - i) not some great man to help us
 - ii) not some great angel to assist us

iii) but God's own Son. Explain.

OBSERVE: A gift of infinite value proves God's love to be infinitely great

APPLICATION: Do you reverence Him? (The Parable)

3. SALVATION IS GOD'S GIFT TO ALL WHO BELIEVE

- 1) Two things here are extremely important:
 - i) "whosoever": not just the good / great / gifted
OBSERVE: No one is excluded – no limits
APPLICATION: None too bad / old / young. You?
 - ii) "believeth": faith is the one thing needful – not saved by works / piety / prayer / character
OBSERVE: "By grace are ye saved by faith", etc.
- 2) The proper object of saving faith is Christ:
 - i) His person
 - ii) His work
 - iii) His death
 - iv) His glory
- 3) There is
 - i) notional faith – in the head only
 - ii) saving faith – in the heart also

APPLICATION: Saving faith changes our whole life

4. FAITH AND UNBELIEF HAVE ETERNAL CONSEQUENCES

- 1) There are only two kinds of persons
 - i) believers
 - ii) unbelievers. There is nothing in-between.
- 2) The consequences are the greatest possible:
 - i) believers: "eternal life" in glory
 - ii) unbelievers: "perish" in hell

OBSERVE: Can any of us afford to be unconverted?
- 3) The text is full of reasons to believe:
 - i) the greatness of God's love

- ii) the dreadfulness of Christ's sufferings
- iii) the freeness of this gospel offer

CONCLUSION

1. **Illustration**: a woman in Cumnock
2. God's love demands our love
3. My duty is to preach this your duty is to believe it!

PSALM

24: 1 – 6

45²: 2 – 6

45²: 13 – 17