

I Love Jesus

Sermon #0819
1980

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—September 21,

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls" 1 Peter 1:3-9.

Have you and I seen Jesus in the flesh? Have these eyes beheld the Son of God. Not yet. We are going to. Face to face we will behold Him. But although we haven't seen Him we love Him. He loves us, and we love Him. Who loved first? He did.

"And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love Him, because He first loved us" 1 John 4:16-19.

Why do we love Jesus? Because He first loved us. Thank God, He has been loving us from the days of eternity. He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world. It is wonderful to remember that He made the world because of His loving thought of you and me. He planned for each of us personally. He loved us, so we love Him. Paul puts it in the first person. He loved me.

Because I love Jesus, I love the thought of His coming. Paul was about to lay down his life as a martyr. He knew that this life would soon be gone, but he was looking forward to the coming of the Lord. He said:

"Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing" 2 Timothy 4:8.

We love Jesus' appearing. Why? Because we love Him. Can you imagine how you could love someone without longing to meet them? A few days ago I was over two thousand miles away from here. Before the plane took off I was thinking how wonderful it was going to be to see my dear wife. I had to call her on the telephone. I was so glad to talk with her. And every hour as the plane sped across the continent I was nearer my wife. Was I happy? Oh, yes. I loved the thought of reunion because I love her.

That's the way Jesus is with us. He loves us and is longing for that day of reunion. That's the way we are with Him. We love His appearing.

Why do we love the message of the soon coming of Jesus? Because we love Him. Is that the way it is with you? The more you love someone the more you love the thought that you can be where they are. He is coming for those who love His appearing.

Because I love Jesus, I love His appearing and the thought of what He is going to bring me. Because I love Jesus, I love to think of what He is doing now. I love to think of that beautiful house where He lives and carried on His ministry in my behalf.

"Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man" Hebrews 8:1-2.

I am so glad for the reality of it. Jesus is real. He came down from heaven to earth to make it all real to us. He took our humanity that we might know the interest of God in fallen man. So the Son of God is also the Son of man. The King of the universe is my brother, my friend. Isn't it wonderful? And now that real Jesus who ate and drank and talked with His disciples has gone back to heaven. And this same Jesus is coming back in like manner as they saw Him go. Meanwhile He is just as real as He was. He hasn't gone into some mystical, ghost-like existence. A real Jesus is up there in a real house.

What would the sanctuary be without Jesus? Only a building. Only some furniture. But with Jesus how radiant is the light that glows there. How wonderful is the ministry that is carried on there to pardon our sins and blot them out. To prepare a people for His coming.

Because I love Jesus, I love His cross

"But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world" Galatians 6:14.

I am so thankful that Jesus gave everything for me. Because I love Him, I love to remember Calvary. And as I behold by faith my High Priest at the mercy seat, from those golden walls in the temple the light from Calvary is reflected. It is one great experience of love. Love that died for me. Love that rose for me. Love that ministers for me. Love that lives to make intercession for me. Because I love Him I love His sanctuary and its ministry of reconciliation and atonement.

Because I love Jesus, I love His law—the expression of His will. Can you imagine loving someone and not being interested in how to please them? I find that the more I love someone the more I want to please them. And when their birthday comes around I wonder what they would like. Because we love Jesus, we want to please Him. Love is an intense desire to please. And because He knows we want to please Him, it is His joy to tell us what will please Him. And He knows it will make us happy to do it. So David said:

"O how I love Thy law! it is my meditation all the day"
Psalms 119:107.

I just love to think about it. I just love to do it. Because I love Jesus I love His law. And because I love Him I want to carry out His law. He said, If you love Me, keep My commandments. Wouldn't it be a shame to try to do it on any other basis. You couldn't succeed. There is no way to please Him unless you love Him. So it is written:

"I delight to do Thy will, O my God: yea, Thy law is within my heart" Psalms 40:8.

Won't it be wonderful to be with Jesus in heaven, and always want to do what pleases Him? Never once will Jesus ask us to do something but what we will just love to do it. We will enjoy it. Can we begin that now? Why not? Why wait until we get there? The joy of the Lord is to please Him with all our hearts day by day. And the one who really loves Jesus will, like the angels, be bending over anxious to get the least hint of His will. Oh friends, how wonderful God is, and how wonderful to love Him.

Those who love God and love His law want other people to know it. His law is a delight. As it was in the heart of Jesus, so it is in the heart of those who love Him.

The Fourth Commandment is the heart of the law. Because I love Jesus I love His Sabbath. It is His Sabbath:

"And He said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath" Mark 2:27-28.

The Sabbath was made for the human family. You and I are members of the human family. Thank God, it is for us.

Did you ever get a present in late November that says don't open until Christmas? If you are at a certain age you can hardly wait. As you get more mature it makes a difference. But isn't it wonderful to have that child-like anticipation? Jesus does it for us not once a year, but once a week. Every week there is a package to open. As the sun sinks in the west and the holy hours are ushered in, here comes that special blessing of the Sabbath day.

Every Sabbath is the Lord's day, and I love it because it is His day; His gift to me; a special revelation of His presence; a special day of fellowship. He is with me all day long, but He is especially with me on the Sabbath. Thank God for the holy Sabbath.

It is going to be something when we love the Sabbath so much that we would rather die than break it. That is what the issue is going to be. That is the coming battle over the mark of the beast and the seal of God. It is a wonderful thing to love the Sabbath so much that there will be nothing to worry about.

When king Nebuchadnezzar said he was going to give Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego another chance to bow down and worship the golden image, they said, We don't need another change. We already know what our choice is. We would rather burn with the God whom we serve than to live without Him. They got in the fire, but they didn't burn. Jesus was with them. Will He be with us in the furnace of affliction?

I think of the thousands of martyrs who were burned at the stake in the Dark Ages. Many of them went singing to the fire. As they were burning their last words were words of song and praise to God. Oh, it is wonderful to love Someone enough that you would rather die serving Him than to live without Him.

No wonder we call the Sabbath a delight. What does delight mean? If you are a little child, it means to jump up and down for joy. Sometimes people who aren't quite that little do it. A burden? A bondage? Oh, no.

It is interesting that the very thing that scares some people away from God's church is the thing that holds others. What is the difference? It is loving Jesus and seeing Jesus in these experiences. Seeing Jesus in the law, we love the law. Seeing Jesus in the Sabbath, we love His Sabbath.

When John was banished to Patmos, Jesus made a special trip to see him out there. He revealed Himself to John on the Sabbath day. Jesus not only appeared Himself, but the angel, Gabriel, appeared during these wonderful visions. And finally, filled and thrilled with the glory and grandeur of the scenes, John was overcome with wonder and fell at the feet of the angel to worship him. But Gabriel said, No John, don't worship me. I am only a fellow servant with you and your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus.

"Worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy" Revelation 19:10.

What is the spirit of prophecy? The testimony of Jesus. Isn't that wonderful? Well, if I love Jesus I will love His testimony.

I wrote my wife a message while I was out west. I hope she found time to read it. Do you think she did? Tell me, does the remnant church have the testimony of Jesus? Have you opened the letter? Have you read it? Do you love it? To love Jesus is to love His testimony.

"And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" Revelation 12:17.

The Devil doesn't love the law and he doesn't love the *Testimonies* any better. He hates both. But I am not ready to accept his evaluation of either one. If the Devil is angry with the law and the testimony, he can be angry with me too, because my choice is to identify with Jesus, His truth, His law, and His testimony.

Those who have read the original Greek say that the word "have" has in it the idea of holding onto it, won't let it go. They have it not merely in the sense that they possess it, but they have grabbed it and won't turn loose of it. They hold it. Is that the way you feel about the testimony of Jesus? If you love Jesus, you love His testimony.

But in order to have that kind of love for it, it must be identified in your mind as the testimony of Jesus. If it is just the testimony of some man, some woman, even though they are prophets, you won't love it that much.

The reason I love the Bible isn't simply that I like what Moses wrote and am thrilled with what David sang in the Psalms, and cheered with Isaiah's prophecies, and blessed as I read what Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John wrote, and inspired as I read Paul's epistles. The reason I love the Bible so much is not simply because I love that those men wrote. When I read the Bible I am listening to the testimony of Jesus. So I can kneel down by my bed and open the Word. And whether it is Genesis or Revelation I can say, Dear Lord, speak to my heart through Your Word.

Will He? Is it Jesus speaking in this Word? Yes. Oh, then I love what I read because I love Him.

But part of what I read is the inspired prediction that the remnant church, the last church in this world will in a special sense be the object of Satan's wrath because they keep the commandments of God and hold the testimony of Jesus. So this prophetic gift, this wonderful Spirit of Prophecy is promised to the remnant church.

Is it here? Does the remnant church have it? Have you found it? Oh friends, I am thankful that God has given me a part in it; that He has led me to that remnant

church. And if I didn't know it, I would be hunting all over for it. Wouldn't you? But I don't have to hunt. I have found the church that has the testimony of Jesus Christ. So when I open the *Testimonies* I am not thinking what the messenger penned. I am listening to the testimony of Jesus. And the more I love Him the more I want to get His messages. The more we love Him the more we want to keep reading, whether it is in *The Desire of Ages* or *Great Controversy* or *Child Guidance*. And you can go on and on. I am so glad that the Lord has arranged it that new volumes are coming out from time to time. This is far above all the opinions of human commentators. Here is Jesus, through this inspired gift, shedding light upon the Bible.

I was thinking about Howard Hughes, the great multimillionaire. He was one of the richest men in the world. He died some months ago. Of course, there were those people who wanted to get as much as they could from his estate. Some said they were the ones Howard wanted to leave his estate to. Others said, No, we are. There was a debate about his will, and it had to go to court. They argued the matter.

Imagine we are in the court. There is the judge. The attorneys are arguing back and forth as to what Howard Hughes' will meant. Suppose the door opens and in walks Howard Hughes. He has been resurrected from the dead. Could he tell them what his will meant? If they really believed that it was Howard Hughes resurrected, that would put an end to all the problems. They would listen to him and he would tell them what the will meant.

That is supposing. But I want to ask you about something that isn't a suppose. Did the Lord Jesus leave us a will? Has He been resurrected? Has He come back from the dead? Is He ready to testify as to what His will means? Oh, if the theologians would only be still and listen to the testimony of Jesus Christ. If men, renowned in this world would only be still and let Christ witness as to what His Word really means, how easily many of the problems that men devote years to debating would be settled.

Jesus speaks from heaven to His commandment keeping church. I can stop and listen. Nothing can stop me from listening to the testimony of Jesus. Nothing can stop me from opening those love letters from my absent Lord; present day messages illuminating and magnifying the precious Bible that my soul may rejoice in that close fellowship with Jesus. So with David I say, Thy testimony is my delight and my counselors. I have more understanding than all my teachers because Thy testimonies are my meditations. Yes, there is light and wisdom and love in these precious testimonies.

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it" Ephesians 5:25.

If I love Jesus and find out He loves the church, how will I feel toward the church? I will love the church too. Just as I love His law instead of the commandments of men, as I love His Sabbath instead of the day men have invented to take its place, as I love His testimony, so I love His church. Jesus does have a church. He loves His church so much that He gave Himself for it.

"Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down His life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren" 1 John 3:16.

Somebody says, Well, I tried that, Brother Frazee, but they made a doormat of me.

Well, maybe they needed a doormat. Ah friends, did Jesus get treated real nice when He came here? No. He wasn't always understood or appreciated. He was sometimes persecuted. But having loved His own in the world He loved them unto the end. And as I love Him I thank God for the privilege of loving His church, the only object on earth on which He bestows His supreme regard. It may be weak and defective, but Jesus loves His church. So as I love Him I love His church.

I love Jesus, so I love His appearing. I love Jesus, so I love His cross. I love Jesus, so I love His sanctuary. I love Jesus, so I love His law. I love Jesus, so I love His Sabbath. I love Jesus, so I love His Word. I love Jesus, so I love His testimonies. I love Jesus, so I love His remnant church. Thank God. We are rich.

"There is a name I love to hear,
I love to sing its worth;
It sounds like music to mine ear,
The sweetest name on earth.

Oh, how I love Jesus,
Oh, how I love Jesus,
Oh, how I love Jesus,
Because He first loved me."

I have told you why I love Jesus, and some of the things I find precious. I know your heart responds. Tell Jesus that you love Him. It will make Him happy. It will make someone else happy who hears your witness. And it will bring joy to your heart. It is more blessed to give than to receive.

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