

## Session 4 – The Character of the Cross – LOVE

- Luke 23:35 “And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “**He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!**” The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, “**If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!**”
- **Hymn**  
“was it the nails O, saviour that bound thee to the tree.  
Nay twas thine everlasting love, thy love for me, for me.”
- Rom 5:8 “but God **demonstrates His own love** towards us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” And that’s love
- **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 eternal life.”**

### 1. The SCOPE of God’s Love

- “For God so loved **the world**”
- James 2:1 “My brothers, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an **attitude of personal favouritism**” Why does he say that?

### 2. The Sacrifice of God’s love

- “God so loved the world that **He gave his only begotten son**”

- “amazing love, how can it be, that thou my God should’st die for me”

John 15:13 “greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.”

Romans 5:8 “But God demonstrates His own love towards us, in while we were still sinners Christ died for us”

Gal 2:20 “I have been crucified with Christ yet it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me, the life I live in the flesh I live by faith in the son of God who **loved** me and **gave himself up** for me”

Eph 5:1 “therefore be imitators of God as beloved children and walk in love [HOW?]...just as Christ also **loved you** and **gave himself up for us**, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma”

1John 3:16 “We know love by this, that **he laid down his life for us**, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”

### 3. The STIPUTLATION of God’s love.

John 3:16 “God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that **who so ever believes in Him...**”

John 1:9 “there was true light [ Jesus ] which coming into the world enlightens every man...He was in the world and the world was made through him, and the world did not know Him. He came to his own and those who were his own did not receive him, **but as many as received him to them he gave the right to become the children of God**, even to those who believed in His name.”

- **Receiving Faith is the STIPULATION.**
- Eph 2:8 “By Grace you have been saved through **faith.**”
- Gal 2:16 “Man is not justified by the works of the law but through **faith** in Jesus Christ”
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- John 5:24 “Truly, truly, I say to you who ever hears my word and **believes** him who sent me has eternal life”
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- Rom 3:26 “God is just and he is the justifier of the one who has **faith** in Jesus Christ”
- Our Gospel message must have “**Whosoever believes**”

#### 4. The Salvation of God’s love - FINALLY

“For god so loved the World that he gave His only begotten son, that who so ever believed in Him **should not perish, but have eternal life.**”

- 1Peter 3:18 “He died once for all, the just for the unjust, in order that he might **bring us to God**”
- 1John 5:11 “and the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His son, He who has the son has the life, he who does not have the son of God does not have eternal life.”

#### Two questions

1. do you have the son? If you don’t you don’t have the life. Are you sure? Peter says we need to “make our calling and election sure”, Paul asks us to “test yourself to see if you are in the faith”.

Not are you active in the church? Not do you read your Bible? Do you have the son?!

2. If you do have him – are you loving as he loved?

1John 4:11 “Beloved, if God so loved us, then we also ought to love one another.”