

# *The Quality of the Divine Love*

Alexander Thomson (1889-1966)

*"For God so loved the world ..."* (John 3:16).

**W**hat is the meaning of "God so loved the world?" Does He really love all humanity ... just as much as He loves us? Or does God merely love the world to the extent that He will leave the great mass of human beings to perish for ever, while He loves us who are saved very much better?

What has made God love us? Is it because we have chosen Him? Most certainly not. ...

Are we not too much given to measuring up the quality of the Divine Love by our human standards? We admit that God's Love is vast, it must be vast; but do we realize it experimentally?

Has not ample proof been provided that God's Love is the very opposite of being selfish? He gave up His own Son. Is not that clear proof that His Love is vastly greater than our feeble human love? Is it not ample proof that His Love is perfect? At least it cannot be less than perfect ...

Do we not often talk concerning God's wonderful Love, when all the time, we do not realize just how extraordinary and powerful and endless it must be?

Here I have a pregnant question to ask you. If the Divine Love is perfect, would it not require it to be endless? Or in other words, if God's Love ever faded away, how could it be perfect? Is Paul's description of real Love in I Corinthians 13 of any higher standard than the Divine Love? Verse 8 says that "Love is never failing."

Can it be that God's Love does not come up to the standard that Paul sets out? For centuries Christendom has blackened God's character by making out that instead of His Love lasting eternally, as it must, it will vanish in the case of those who do not attain salvation in this life.

Those who talk of "the measureless depths of His eternal love," and add that God has made provision for men's salvation, ought first to ask, "Has God made provision for His

own Love being eternal?” before they callously consign the “lost” to endless death or misery. God’s Love for some of the Race cannot be everlasting while for others it is only ephemeral. Yet that has been the Devil’s doctrine through the centuries. One marvels at the entire lack of logic among theologians in connection with the Love of God, ever since Paul passed from the scene. If His Love for the “lost” is not measureless, then we certainly cannot count upon it being measureless or eternal for ourselves ...

There is one verse in the New Testament which always brings a lump to my throat. That is I Timothy 1:16, which tells of Christ Jesus showing forth His “entire long-suffering” (or patience). Paul was astounded to the end of his days that the Lord could go on being so patient with him. Yet could we ever picture to ourselves a Christ who lost patience, at any time, with anyone? I must confess that to me the idea is quite absurd and impossible. It is altogether unthinkable. Just here I must press another point. Is it within the sphere of possibility that the Father could ever lose His patience, or wax irascible? Again we are forced to conclude that this is an utter impossibility. We are obliged to believe that God’s patience is as inexhaustible as is His Love ...

I would humbly submit that those preachers who prate about the measureless depths of God’s eternal love ought to study their own words, with a dictionary in their hands, unless they really know what Divine Love is and must ever be. The Love that “will not let me go” will never let anyone go, eternally. God can afford to wait, and win, but He cannot afford to lose, not even one. It is not His wish that a single one should be eventually lost.

*The Differentiator*

Vol. 19, April, 1957, No. 2

Taken from the *Bible Student’s Notebook*<sup>™</sup>, a weekly Bible study publication available in two formats (electronic and printed)

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