

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Second Sunday of Easter – April 24, 2022

“To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood.”

–Revelation 1:5b–

“To him who loves us:” Could any words ring more sweetly? Could any words carry more significance? Could any words effect more change for our lives and our destiny? Could any words carry more power or authority to define us? Could any words better describe the heart of God toward us?

Jesus loves us, and he has freed us from our sins so that we may draw near and experience him and his love. And he wants us to tell others of his love so they can experience him too.

Notice the tense of the verb “loves.” He loves us, not “loved us,” or “will love us.” His love isn’t in the past, and it’s not at some point in the future when we finally “deserve” it. He loves us right here and right now.

God loves us, period. And, although the above verse specifically speaks of Jesus, Scripture tells us Jesus, “is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature” (Heb. 1:3a). Jesus himself said, “Whoever has seen me has seen the Father” (Jn. 14:9b). So, there is no difference between Jesus’ love for us and the Father’s love for us. We are completely and unreservedly loved by God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Love permeates and drives God’s every decision and interaction with us. Even his discipline is framed in love (Heb. 12:6). God is love (see 1 Jn. 4:16), so he cannot not love. He remains with us forever (see Matt. 28:20b), so we are never separated from his love. There is no power, authority, or sin that can cancel or diminish his love for us (see Rom. 8:38-39). We simply cannot escape or deter his love.

God longs for us to increasingly believe, know, experience, and receive his love, to live life saturated in him and his love (see Jn. 15:5, 9). The more we are able to do this, the more like Christ we become, the more we grow in love for God, and the more we grow to love others (see 1 Jn. 4:19). In other words, God’s love transforms us from the inside out.

So, believe, receive, and draw near, and you will experience the sweetest, most significant, mighty, defining, transformative, destiny-changing power in the universe: God and his love.

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Second Sunday of Easter – April 24, 2022

“To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood.”

–Revelation 1:5b–

“To him who loves us:” Could any words ring more sweetly? Could any words carry more significance? Could any words effect more change for our lives and our destiny? Could any words carry more power or authority to define us? Could any words better describe the heart of God toward us?

Jesus loves us, and he has freed us from our sins so that we may draw near and experience him and his love. And he wants us to tell others of his love so they can experience him too.

Notice the tense of the verb “loves.” He loves us, not “loved us,” or “will love us.” His love isn’t in the past, and it’s not at some point in the future when we finally “deserve” it. He loves us right here and right now.

God loves us, period. And, although the above verse specifically speaks of Jesus, Scripture tells us Jesus, “is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature” (Heb. 1:3a). Jesus himself said, “Whoever has seen me has seen the Father” (Jn. 14:9b). So, there is no difference between Jesus’ love for us and the Father’s love for us. We are completely and unreservedly loved by God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Love permeates and drives God’s every decision and interaction with us. Even his discipline is framed in love (Heb. 12:6). God is love (see 1 Jn. 4:16), so he cannot not love. He remains with us forever (see Matt. 28:20b), so we are never separated from his love. There is no power, authority, or sin that can cancel or diminish his love for us (see Rom. 8:38-39). We simply cannot escape or deter his love.

God longs for us to increasingly believe, know, experience, and receive his love, to live life saturated in him and his love (see Jn. 15:5, 9). The more we are able to do this, the more like Christ we become, the more we grow in love for God, and the more we grow to love others (see 1 Jn. 4:19). In other words, God’s love transforms us from the inside out.

So, believe, receive, and draw near, and you will experience the sweetest, most significant, mighty, defining, transformative, destiny-changing power in the universe: God and his love.