

GOD IS LOVE
Text: 1 John 4:8, 16

INTRO: It is amazing how many mysteries are explained and how many questions answered by our text.

I. IT IS THE EXPLANATION OF CREATION.

A. READ GENESIS 1:1-2, 26-29.

B. Why did God create a world that was to bring Him constant trouble? A world that would become so wicked in 10 generations that He would regret He had made it, Gen. 6:5-6?

C. The answer: Love is a part of the essential nature of God. Yet love, to be love, must have someone to love.

II. IT IS THE EXPLANATION OF FREE WILL.

A. READ GENESIS 2:16-17.

B. All of us have heard the question--most of us have probably asked it--Why did God make man capable of sinning?

C. The answer: God yearns to be loved by creatures who love Him **freely**, by choice. God could have created man in such a way that man always did automatically just what God wanted done, but such would not have been a response of love. Because God is love, He yearns to be loved by a creature that has a choice.

Do not be like the horse or like the mule, which have no understanding; which must be harnessed with bit & bridle, else they will not come near you (Psalm 32:9).

III. IT IS THE EXPLANATION OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE.

A. READ HEBREWS 1:1-3.

So that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him, and find Him, tho He is not far from each one of us: For in Him we live and move and have our being; as also some of your own poets have said, "For we are also His offspring" (Acts 17:27-28).

B. Why, after all the trouble that has been caused by man-kind

has God not backed away & ignored His creation?

C. Answer: God is love. His love continues to sustain & brood over the world that He loves.

IV. IT IS THE EXPLANATION OF ALL LAW.

A. And the Lord commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is this day. (Deut. 6:24).

B. Without law--natural, family, civil, spiritual--we would never know what to expect. We could not plan or order our lives in any way.

C. Of course, when we violate law, we are working against ourselves. Law is for our good.

V. GOD'S LOVE IS THE EXPLANATION OF REDEMPTION.

A. Rom. 5:8; John 3:16.

B. If God were only law & justice, He would simply leave us to suffer all the consequences of our sins. Every sin would bring death, Rom. 6:23, & that would be the end of that! But God is love. So, God has drawn up and executed a plan that can bring about **forgiveness** or remission of sins, for those who **freely** accept His plan. Acts 2:36-38.

VI. IT IS THE EXPLANATION OF HEAVEN.

A. READ REVELATION 21:1-4; 22:1-5.

B. If God were nothing more than creative power, men might live their lives out upon the earth, die, & disappear forever. But because of God's love for man-kind, man continues to exist forever. By **freely** accepting God's will thru obedience to it, man can have everlasting life in heaven. But the same **free will** that makes it possible for a man to love God & keep His commandments & go to heaven, will also allow man to hate God, despise His instructions & go to everlasting torment. Because God loves you, He has given you a choice.

La Porte, TX, October 15, 1978

Liberty Hill, TX, December 20, 1978
Cedar Park, TX, December 24, 1978
Exton, PA, December 4, 1983
Shiloh, Mexia, TX, June 11, 1987 (meeting)
Exton, PA, May 27, 1990
Wrightsville, PA, August 10, 1997
Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, July 6, 2003