

*Why did my Savior come to earth? (Slide 1)*  
*Because He loves me so!*

**Reading: John 3:1-17**

(Slide 2) Why did my Savior come to earth  
And to the humble go?  
Why did He choose a lowly birth?  
Because He loved me so!

(Slide 3) Why did He drink the bitter cup  
Of sorrow, pain and woe?  
Why on the cross be lifted up?  
Because He loved me so!

(Slide 4) And now He bids me look and live,  
His grace and pow'r to know;  
A home in glory He will give,  
Because He loved me so!

(Slide 5) Till Jesus comes I'll sing His praise  
And then to glory go,  
And reign with Him through endless days,  
Because He loved me so!

He loved me so, He loved me so;

He gave His precious life for me, for me,  
Because He loved me so.

This is a very popular hymn that we sing a great deal.  
Some speculate as to *why God created man in the first*

*place and why would He create us in such a way as to have a need for Jesus to come to earth?*

*If He created man in His image, why didn't He create us to automatically be kind, loving, devoted, trustworthy, perfect.....Why didn't He just make it so that we would automatically Love Him, serve Him and worship Him?*

*John the Baptist said:*

**Matthew 3:7-9** (Slide 6)

***7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8***

***Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance; (Slide 7) 9 and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father'; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham.***

*Don't you think God could have created mankind anyway that He wished? Could He not have created man with a robotic mindset to Love Him and nothing or no one else?*

*Could He have easily made it "impossible" for Adam and Eve to Sin in the garden?*

*Could He have not in a sense created man to force Him to love Him and serve Him? Truly, what kind of relationship could it be based on force where there is no free will?*

*God wants a relationship just as one has with their son or daughter. A man and woman have children because they want to create a part of themselves that they can cherish,*

love and nurture. Children are a delight in the relationship. In fact, they often make the relationship complete.

**Psalm 127:3-5a (Slide 8)**

***3 Behold, children are a gift of the LORD,***

***The fruit of the womb is a reward.***

***4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior,***

***So are the children of one's youth.***

***5 How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them;***

*Truly, what kind of relationship is really built from force? Tragically, one sided, devoid of devotion and love. Every father and mother "wants" their child to love them and not be forced to do so. God wants us to freely choose to love Him!!*

It's interesting that we often speak of God and Christ from the standpoint of relationship whereas the Bible doesn't specifically use the term "*relationship*."

Yet, it is the central theme of the Bible through Christ. Why did Jesus come to earth? *Because God wants a relationship with His creation. One built on Love, devotion and trust.*

God expects that relationship to be monogamously driven, with undistracted fidelity, fueled by love and devotion where there can be no one else.

**Ephesians 5:25-33 (Slide 9)**

***25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, 26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, (Slide 10) having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. 28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; 29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, (Slide 11) but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, 30 because we are members of His body. 31 FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. 32 This mystery is great; (Slide 12) but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.***

But, when one or the other enters into that relationship without full devotion to their mate, truly loving or wanting someone else, that relationship is in peril.

Jesus through revelation speaking to John about the church at Ephesus:

**Revelation 2:2-4** (Slide 13)

***2 'I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false; (Slide 14) 3 and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary. 4 But I have this against you, that you have left your first love.***

*Somewhere, somehow the church at Ephesus lost their monogamous devotion to Christ and have a need to repent. So much so as it is today that man has a need to repent because man has loved sin more than God and has become unfaithful.*

*Last week we learned of the importance of being washed in water from the story of Naaman. The message today is the establishment of our relationship with God through Christ and "Why He Came to Earth! Because He Loves Us So!"*

Let us consider the words of Jesus on the night of His betrayal and the institution of Lord's Supper!

**Matthew 26:27-28** (Slide 15)

***27 And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; 28 for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.***

God says I want a relationship with you but I cannot have that relationship because of your infidelity. You are wrapped up in your sin and something must be done about it so that you will be *"Holy as I am Holy!"*

It will be necessary for righteous blood to be shed on your behalf to sanctify a pure heart for our relationship and that must be the blood of My only Son.

***My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.***

Some translations render ***forgiveness*** as ***remission***. The word remission can carry with it the meaning from a medical standpoint, a temporary state. When referring to cancer it means when one is in remission no cancer is

detected where it once was. However, so often and no fault of their own, cancer can return.

The difference in remission and forgiveness from a spiritual perspective is the cancer of sin is blotted out, it is removed and no longer exists. It doesn't mean it can't come back but the wonderful thing is if we have been washed in His Blood, He is faithful to forgive when we repent.

Cancer that returns may kill, but a repentant heart that has been washed in the Blood of Christ will live. Forgiveness is the result and sin no longer exists.

When one has not been washed sin remains!

The Love of God is based upon our repentance, confession and the monogamous relationship we declare through baptism in the Blood of Christ!

**Acts 2:38a** (Slide 16)

***"Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins"***

God so greatly wants that devoted relationship with us that He allowed the death of His Son!!

**Romans 5:8-10 (Slide 17)**

**8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.** (God's love existed while man was in his sin. While we were doing Him wrong God still loved His creation. Does that give more credibility to the statement "Love the person and not the sin?" Something to consider.)

**9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.**

(Slide 18) **10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.**

That loving, devoted, monogamous relationship is established through Baptism into His death. God wants us to be free from sin and to be sanctified by the Blood of the Lamb so that relationship will be built on His holiness, His purity:

**Romans 6:1-3 (Slide 19)**

**What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? 2 May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Or do you not know that all of us**

***who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?***

The theme of our relationship with Him is not forced, but our desire to have Him as our Loving God through His Son.

Why Did My Saviour Come to Earth.....He came to say "I Love You" and I want you to have a home with My Father and I for eternity. We want you to be part of the family.

Nevertheless, I will not share you.....

**1 Corinthians 10:16-22 (Slide 20)**

***16 Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ? 17 Since there is one bread, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one bread. (Slide 21) 18 Look at the nation Israel; are not those who eat the sacrifices sharers in the altar? 19 What do I mean then? That a thing sacrificed to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? 20 No, but I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and (Slide 22) not to God; and I do not want you to become sharers in demons. 21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the table of***

***the Lord and the table of demons. 22 Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? We are not stronger than He, are we?***

*You cannot live in sin and not expect God to become jealous and angry.....just as it is in human relationships God expects singular devotion to Him.*

**Proverbs 14:30 (Slide 23)**

***A tranquil heart gives life to the flesh, but envy makes the bones rot.***

**Proverbs 6:34**

***For jealousy makes a man furious, and he will not spare when he takes revenge.***

*Shall it not be so with God who is righteous in all His Judgements?!!*

*If we enter that relationship through Baptism should we not try to be devoted for the duration of our time on earth? That is; live faithfully.*

*Invitation*

*A relationship with God isn't give and take that we are accustomed to in human relationships. God has given and He is asking that we only take what is freely offered.*

**Hebrews 10:22** (Slide 24)

***let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.***

*"Hearts sprinkled clean"-references the shed blood of Christ! The cleansing power of the blood of Christ where "our bodies washed with pure water" references baptism which makes us suitable companions for God and to have that Spiritual relationship with Him!*

**Titus 3** says that God saved us ***according to His mercy*** not based on our deeds. Yet, His mercy and His salvation requires washing for renewal. Baptism is the method of cleansing outlined in the Bible for one to enter into that Holy relationship with God.

*Have you been washed in the Blood of the Lamb? If not, don't delay. Do it today.....*

*If you are a child of God but need the prayers of your brethren for any reason, please let us know.....*

*Let us know how we may assist you.....*

## **Reading**

### **John 3:1-17**

***1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; 2 this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." 3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."***

***4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" 5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' 8 The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit."***

***9 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can these things be?" 10 Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things? 11 Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know and testify of what we have seen, and you do not accept our testimony. 12 If I***

***told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? 13 No one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man. 14 As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; 15 so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.***

***16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.***

Please visit our website for the full audio of this study:

Shelbyvillechurch.com

Shelbyville Church of Christ