

The Love of God

Psalm 136

The American Heritage Dictionary defines love as "an intense affection for another person based on familial or personal ties".

Theologically, it is defined as "the attribute of His nature that moves God to give us His eternal and spiritual blessings."

It is this attribute that guarantees that all things will work together for good for those that love the Lord.

It is the basis of His redeeming work that initiates His mercy and grace in the work of the Atonement.

God's love is rooted in holiness, therefore it is a holy love that He loves us with, not a feeling that is affected by emotion or a perverted love based upon ones desires.

The only reason why God loves any of us is found in His own desire and will: "The Lord did not set His love upon you, nor choose you because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: but because the Lord loved thee" Deuteronomy. 7:7,8.

God has loved His people from everlasting and therefore nothing in us can be the cause of God's love towards us from eternity.

"We love Him, because He first loved us" 1 John 4:19

God did not love us because we loved Him, but He loved us before we had any love for Him.

Psalm 136

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, **for his steadfast love endures forever.**

Give thanks to the God of gods, **for his steadfast love endures forever.**

Give thanks to the Lord of lords, **for his steadfast love endures forever;**

to him who alone does great wonders, **for his steadfast love endures forever;**

to him who by understanding made the heavens, **for his steadfast love endures forever;**

to him who spread out the earth above the waters, **for his steadfast love endures forever;**

to him who made the great lights, **for his steadfast love endures forever;**

the sun to rule over the day, **for his steadfast love endures forever;**

the moon and stars to rule over the night, **for his steadfast love endures forever;**

to him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt, **for his steadfast love endures forever;**

and brought Israel out from among them, **for his steadfast love endures forever;**

with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, **for his steadfast love endures forever;**

to him who divided the Red Sea in two, **for his steadfast love endures forever;**

and made Israel pass through the midst of it, **for his steadfast love endures forever;**

but overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red Sea, **for his steadfast love endures forever;**

to him who led his people through the wilderness, **for his steadfast love endures forever;**

to him who struck down great kings, **for his steadfast love endures forever;**

and killed mighty kings, **for his steadfast love endures forever;**

Sihon, king of the Amorites, **for his steadfast love endures forever;**

and Og, king of Bashan, **for his steadfast love endures forever;**

and gave their land as a heritage, **for his steadfast love endures forever;**

a heritage to Israel his servant, **for his steadfast love endures forever.**

It is he who remembered us in our low estate, **for his steadfast love endures forever;**

and rescued us from our foes, **for his steadfast love endures forever;**

he who gives food to all flesh, **for his steadfast love endures forever.**

Give thanks to the God of heaven, **for his steadfast love endures forever.**

1. Mark those texts which reveal the nature of the being of God.
2. Mark those texts which are directly applicable to you.
3. Mark those texts which are meant for us to praise God.

Application: