

## **IF THEY WERE YOURS**

Let me start by sharing a couple of scriptures.

The first one is,  
...God is love. 1 John 4.8

And the second,  
The Earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it. Psalms 24.1

Most people will concede that God is the Creator and reigns over everything, and many accept that God loves people.

But, natural men sometimes have a hard time believing that God loves EVERYBODY, because natural men have so many criticism's, offenses, and judgements of other people.

Men tend to belittle, de-value, ostracize, and reject people that they don't like, because they condone, act out, believe in, and express beliefs and life styles that they don't approve of.

Religious people often have and express the most adamant rejection of certain people or groups because they are convinced that God also rejects them.

But God says,  
"My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," declares the Lord.  
"For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55.8

Let's quickly look at the statements of reality from God in the scriptures that clarify God's thoughts about ALL PEOPLE.

Luke 2.10

The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for ALL THE PEOPLE; for today in the city of David there HAS BEEN BORN FOR YOU a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Matthew 18.14

"So, it is not *the* will of your Father who is in heaven that even ONE of these little ones perish.

John 3.16

"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. "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that THE WORLD MIGHT BE SAVED through Him.

John 6.40

"For this is the will of My Father, that EVERYONE who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."

Romans 1.16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation TO EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Romans 5.18

So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to ALL MEN, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to ALL MEN.

Romans 11.32

For God has shut up ALL in disobedience so that He may show mercy TO ALL.

Colossians 1.28

We proclaim Him, admonishing EVERYMAN and teaching EVERYMAN with all wisdom, so that we may present EVERYMAN complete in Christ.

Hebrews 2.9

But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death FOR EVERYONE.

Hebrews 7.27

He does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the *sins* of the people, because this HE DID ONCE FOR ALL when He offered up Himself.

Hebrews 9.12

He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place ONCE FOR ALL, having obtained eternal redemption.

Hebrews 10.10

By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ ONCE FOR ALL.

Titus 2.11

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to ALL MEN....

1 Timothy 2.3

This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires ALL MEN to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 4.10

For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of ALL MEN, especially of believers.

2 Peter 3.9

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, NOT WISHING FOR ANY TO PERISH but FOR ALL to come to repentance.

1 John 2.2

He Himself is the propitiation (the atoning sacrifice) for our sins; and not for ours only, but also FOR THOSE OF THE WHOLE WORLD.

It seems pretty clear what God's attitude is towards the whole world.

Man is God's supreme creation to manifest His kingdom to the entire world until the knowledge of the glory the Lord covers the Earth as the waters cover the sea. Habakkuk 2.14

Although Adam and Eve fell from God's presence because of Satan's deception, God never lost sight of His original purpose for creating man.

God's intentions for man are very plain, but not all people welcomed God's offer to be redeemed back into His family.

Because, even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Romans 1.21

Verse 25 continues,

For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

Here's the reason they don't receive God's gift of redemption into His family.

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 2 Corinthians 4.3

And God's plan to redeem them was to send Jesus to save them from Satan's power.

“You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and *how* He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. Acts 10.38

So why would I share all of these scriptures about God's love for the entire world with people who've already accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior and been redeemed into His family?

The Apostle Paul explains,

Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5.18

In verse 20 he continues, Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

Jesus speaking with the Father said,

“As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. John 17.8

And He also said,

“I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. John 17.20

It's pretty obvious that God really wants ALL of His children back and He's committing His children to be the Ambassadors to get them back for Him.

God has destined and called ALL of His children to this ministry of reconciliation, but not all of them have heard the call.

Do you remember when God called Moses to set His children free from the bondage of Egypt?

Moses had a plenty of excuses. He said, I don't even know your name, and what if the children of Israel don't know that you set me, I even stutter, why would Pharaoh listen to me, send someone else.

God's people today also have their own set of excuses. They say, I'm not called to be a pastor or an evangelist, That's their job. I'm only a house wife, or a plant worker, or college student what could I possibly do to accomplish God's purpose of freeing His children from Satan's control and restoring them back into His family?

Jesus said, you have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you... in other words, this isn't your plan, it's Mine.

Here is His command to His children,

“This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. “Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. “You are My friends if you do what I command you. “No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. “You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you. “This I command you, that you love one another. John 15.12

After reading these scriptures, I'm reminded of Jesus' story of the prodigal son in Luke 15.11.

The older brother could never understand why his father stood at the front of the house and looked down the road every day looking for the return of his rebellious son.

And he also accused his father of being unjust by lavishing his love and acceptance on his rebellious younger brother when he returned.

He felt that his good behavior qualified him for the father's blessing and his brother's poor behavior disqualified him from the father's love.

The Father corrected his misconception by telling him that you are a son because of me, not because of your good performance or because your brother's poor performance.

God looks at the people of this world in the same way. They're my children because of me, not because of any of anything they do or don't do.

I've paid everything I am and everything I have to redeem them back into My family so that they can be exactly what I created them to be.

The Father sent Jesus to redeem us back into God's family and make us one with He and the Father.

In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men and because of our oneness with Him, He left us in this world to manifest His life and His kingdom.

Jesus told His disciples,

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5.14

It may be very easy for natural men to write people off as hopeless ones who aren't worth the effort, but this cannot be so for God's children.

He has given us His Holy Spirit to empower us to be the light of this world, and ambassadors of His kingdom, to continue His effort to redeem all men back into His family.

Let me ask a question.

Have you ever thought, "do I really want to get involved and give my time and effort in sharing the Gospel with people that I don't even know?"

Well, here is a thought to consider.

What would you be willing to do, to get them back, if they were your children?

God bless you.

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