

20 And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

Luke 15:20 ESV



BEREAN BIBLE CHURCH

Service of **Worship & Communion**

Sunday, 2 February, 2020

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Wifi: BBC-GUEST

Sunday School 9:30am

Morning Worship - 10:40am | Evening Service - 6:00pm

Midweek Service (Wednesday) - 7:30pm | Friday Youth Group - 7:00pm

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Rev. Paul Garnes - Pastor | pastor@bereanbarbados.org

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Power to Know God's Love

Recently, a seminary professor asked 120 of her students this question: "Do you believe that God loves you?" Out of 120 Christian students preparing for ministry, how many do you think said, "yes"?

Two!

The rest gave answers like this: "I know I'm supposed to say, 'Yes' . . . 'I know the Bible says he loves me . . . but I don't feel it," or "I'm not sure I can really say I believe it."

How can this be? Jonathan Edwards used a simple analogy to get to the heart of this problem: "There is a difference between having a rational judgment that honey is sweet, and having a sense of its sweetness." You can know honey is sweet, because someone tells you, but you don't really know its sweetness until you've tasted it.

You can know God loves you because your Sunday school teacher told you, but you don't really know God's love until you've tasted his love.

Here are concrete steps to experience more of God's love.

Become dissatisfied with your present spiritual experience.

Cultivate a holy discontent. The person who prays this prayer is looking for something more than he or she already has: "Lord, direct my heart into your love."

We live in a "been there, done that" culture, and the great danger is in developing a "been there, done that" form of Christianity: "I know God loves me, that Jesus died for me and that my sins are forgiven. So, what's next?" Then one day someone says, "Do you really believe that God loves you?" And your shallowness is exposed.

A. W. Tozer says in *The Pursuit of God*,

We have been snared in the coils of a spurious logic which insists that if we have found him, we need no more seek him. . . . In the midst of this great chill there are some who will not be content with shallow logic. They want to taste, to touch with their hearts the wonder that is God. I want deliberately to encourage this mighty longing after God.

Some of you think God is cold and aloof and harsh and demanding, and these thoughts are deeply rooted in your mind. You need this prayer: “Father, direct my heart into your love!” Ask God, and go on asking, until like the snow that melted in the warmth this week, your heart begins to thaw in the warmth of the love of God.

Gaze into the love of God in Jesus Christ.

Psalms 27:4 says, “One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.”

People who don't like each other will glance at one another. People who like each other will look at one another. People who are desperately in love will gaze at each other.

Isaac Watts used another word to say the same thing in his famous hymn “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross.” Survey, gaze, ponder and meditate on the love of God. May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's patience.

Two Responses

Something in this article may awaken in you—deep calls to deep. Maybe you're thinking, *I want more of what he's talking about.*

Settle it today, in your heart and in your mind, that you will pursue a sweeter taste, a deeper experience, a clearer glimpse of the love of God and the patience of Christ. Go after it. And don't ever stop.

For others, this message does not so much sound like a church bell drawing you in as an alarm clock waking you up.

If you have no response to the love of God, shouldn't you be concerned about the condition of your soul? I hope you'll ask, “What is wrong with me? I have no interest in the love of God. Why am I so satisfied, when others are hungry and thirsty for God?”

Perhaps God will use this article to awaken you from the deadness of spirit in which you have been sleeping for far too long.

Order of Service

February 2, 2020, 10:40 a.m.

THEME: "Behold Our God....Great in Love" *Luke 15:20*

Call to Worship	Hymn 390 - Love Lifted Me
Invocation	Ministry of Music - Sis. Ezra Gilbert
Scripture Reading: Luke 15: 17 - 24	Sermon - Rev. Dr. Garth Gilmour
Hymn 186 - And Can It Be vs. 1, 3, 5	Hymn 72 - Fairest Lord Jesus
Hymn 514 - The King of Love	Distribution of Elements
Prayer	Special Offering
Announcements	Hymn 192 - One Day vs 1 & 4
Offering	Benediction



ITEMS FOR PRAYER:

- Godly persons to avail themselves to serve as officers of our assembly
- For God's will to be done during nominations and elections
- For the prevention of the spread of deadly diseases here & regionally
- Continue to pray for our sick members, friends and relatives.
- Pray for the ministry of Pastor Paul Garnes, as well as for his family
- Pray for the care of our elderly and shut-ins
- Pray for those who are in grief over the loss of relatives
- For our unemployed members to find meaningful employment
- For the economic recovery of our country Barbados
- For the aversion of war in the Middle East
- For the peace of Jerusalem

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Bridgetown Harbour. Jan 29 - Feb 7, 2020

February Birthdays

1st - Tony Montague
7th - Genifer Bayne
11th - Judy Wiltshire

16th - Nathan Neblett
19th - Betty Mendes
23rd - Doreen Graham

23rd - Sheryl Parris
24th - Lauraine Bovell
28th - Angello Alleyne

Anniversaries

10th - Adrian & Susan Greenidge