

**"SO GREAT A LOVE"****Introduction**

1. The subject is "faith"
2. This text so well known and loved
3. The speaker is surely CHRIST

**1. THE SOURCE FROM WHICH THE GOSPEL FLOWS**

\* "For **God** so loved the world"

- a) **All great rivers** (one supposes) have their source in high mountains
  - (i) The Rhine and Rhone in the Alps
  - (ii) Nile (longest river) rises near the Equator
  - (iii) Amazon (fullest of water) rises in the Andes of Peru

**OBSERVE:** All these rivers bring fertility to millions
- b) So, **the glorious blessings of Christ's Gospel** all flow out of one spring = the love of God, high above this world – always flowing down to our poor world with blessing.  
**OBSERVE:** It is God the Father who is spoken of.  
**PROOF:** "God...his only-begotten Son".
- c) **This love of God:**
  - (i) Pure goodness out of God's heart  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Love is the most beautiful thing of all: See Joseph's for the brothers; Mary's ointment  
**APPLICATION:** Why are we not more moved by God's love? Because its greatness exceeds our minds.
- d) **The term "world"** needs explanation:
  - (i) Did God love **every** man equally? No.  
**PROOF:** Esau and Jacob. (Some are elected).
  - (ii) Did God purpose to save every man? No.  
**PROOF:** "Many are called – few chosen"
  - (iii) Does God **sincerely** offer eternal life to all who hear His Gospel? Yes.

- (iv) Does God desire the salvation of all who hear the Gospel? Yes. It is a mystery.

**APPLICATION:** Do not forget the Father's love.

**2. THE FATHER'S LOVE IS EVIDENCED BY THE COMING OF HIS SON INTO THIS WORLD**

\* "He gave His only-begotten Son"

- a) **The older we get as Christians**, the more we long to depart from this world:
  - (i) Job 7:15-16 – see how he shrinks from life's miseries!
  - (ii) Paul often: "To be with Christ – far better"
  - (iii) Christ: Mark 9:19 – "How long?"  
**OBSERVE:** We say – "Imagine coming back here!" The world is not the home we look for.
- b) See then **the measure of God's love:** He sent His Son into **this world:**
  - (i) Christ had known only love before; now He would experience rejection
  - (ii) Christ had known only worship before; now He must be reviled  
**APPLICATION:** Who among us would send a son or daughter to live in the Iraq that was?
- c) But **God exposed His Son to all the evils** of living here:
  - (i) The threat of Infanticide: Herod
  - (ii) All the malice of Satan: Matthew 4
  - (iii) A life of poverty: "carpenter" and also from "Nazareth", "No room".
  - (iv) Rejection by His race: "We will not..."
  - (v) All the torments of crucifixion  
**ILLUSTRATION:** "Rabbi" Duncan's tears in class.  
**APPLICATION:** O fathomless LOVE of God!

3. **THIS LOVE OF GOD HAS HAD A TRANSFORMING EFFECT UPON OUR LIFE AS CHRISTIANS**

\* "...should not perish...everlasting life"

a) **Illustration**: a snowflake above the Alps – which way will it go? N or S? Its destiny depends on where it comes to rest.  
**APPLICATION**: Does yours and mine: Do we rest on Christ or on this fading world?

b) **Heaven and Hell** are everywhere in the Bible. They are here too: "perish": "life".

c) **But why, if God is love**, does He not just forgive sin? Why Christ's agony?

**ANSWER**:

(i) **God's justice forbids it**. "He will by no means clear the guilty".

(ii) **No forgiveness** can be given if there is no Atoning Blood: "without the shedding of blood – NO REMISSION".

**EXPLAIN**: No angel or saint good enough to shed blood for his fellow-creatures.

d) **One only was good enough**:

(i) He must be man to die

(ii) He must be God to be infinite

(iii) He must be a Second Adam

(iv) He must be able to "save to the uttermost". Only Jesus can.

**DOCTRINE**: Consequent, absolute necessity.

**CONCLUSION**

Are **you** a believer / or a reject?

**ILLUSTRATION**

The man who wore the clothes of a condemned prisoner.

