

God is love

I John 4:8 -16

Christmas is celebrated



Christmas is celebrated



without God

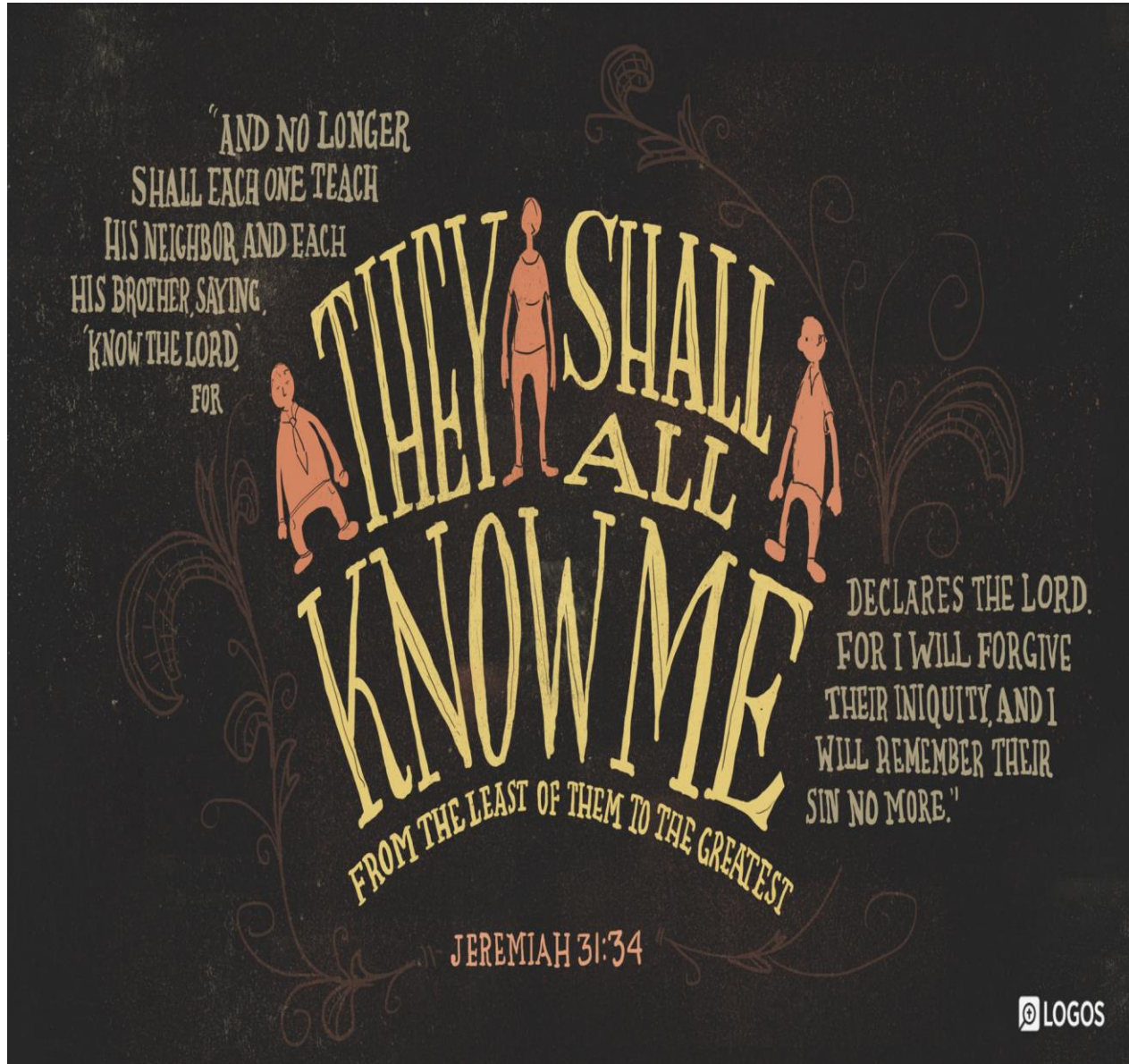


Christmas happened
because God is love

**FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD
THAT HE GAVE HIS ONE AND
ONLY SON**

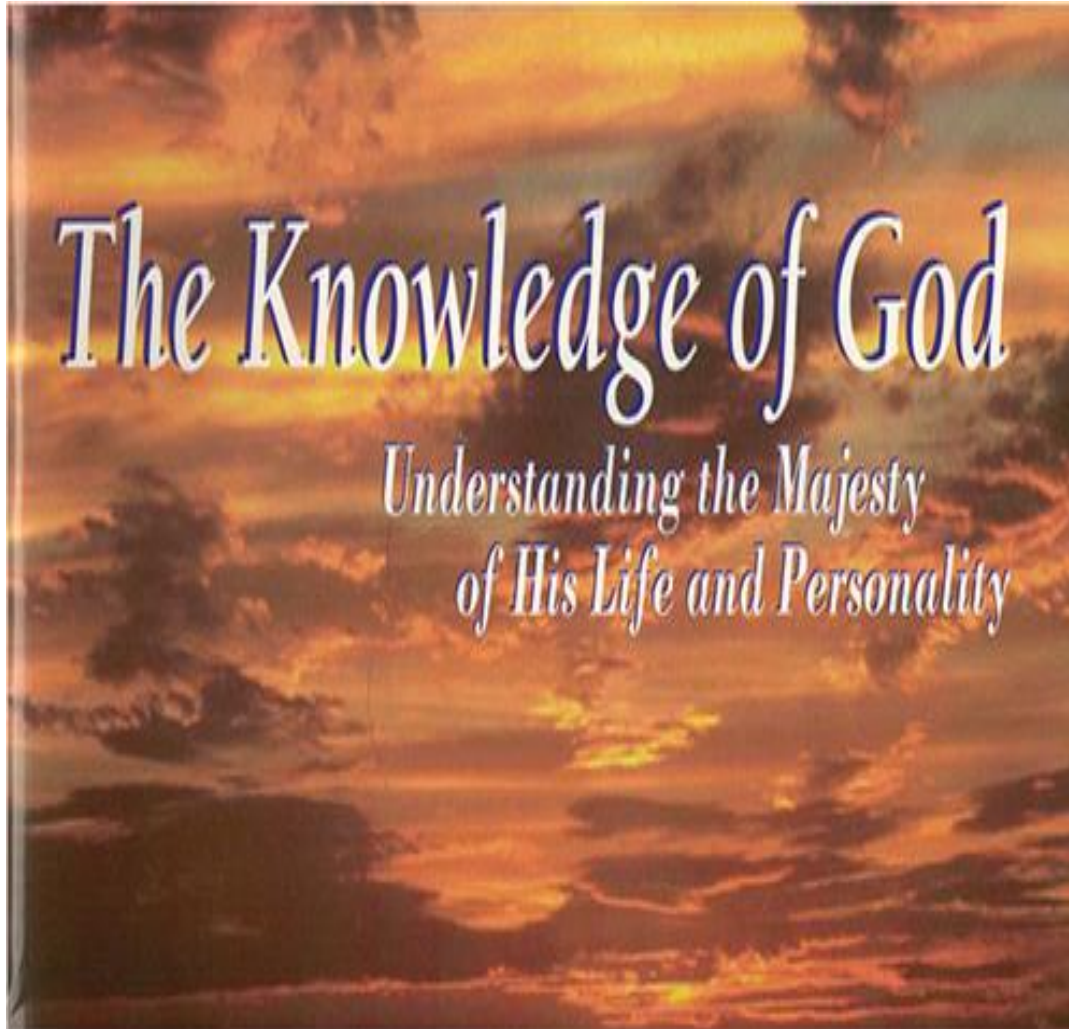
JOHN 3:16



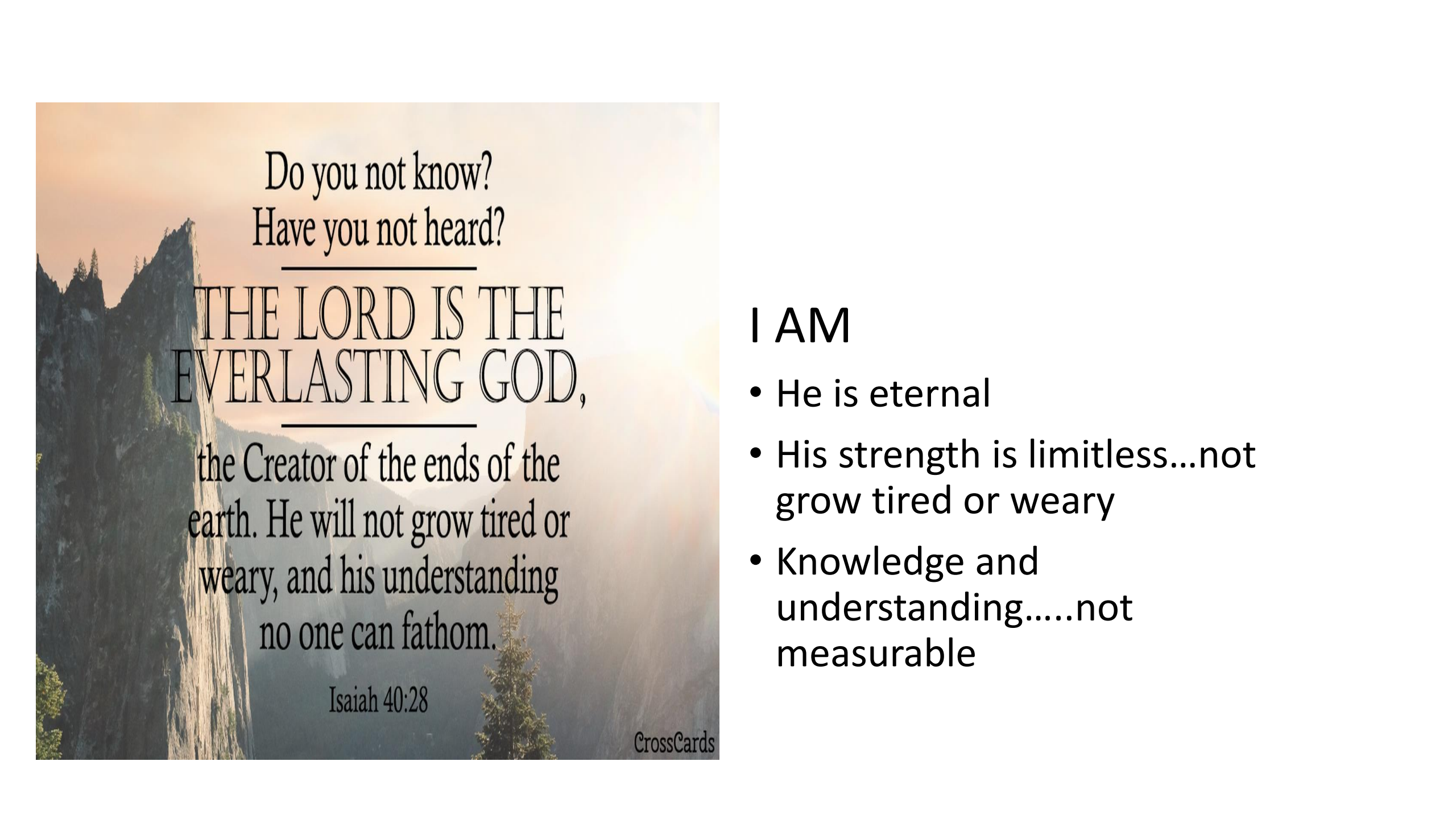


- Relationship with God
- Matter of Grace
- Personal surrender

Know God.....



- His life....nature and character
- His Personality.....how He relates



Do you not know?
Have you not heard?

THE LORD IS THE
EVERLASTING GOD,

the Creator of the ends of the
earth. He will not grow tired or
weary, and his understanding
no one can fathom.

Isaiah 40:28

CrossCards

I AM

- He is eternal
- His strength is limitless...not grow tired or weary
- Knowledge and understanding.....not measurable

God is love (1 John 4)

- ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because **God is love**. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

- ¹³ This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.
- **God is love.** Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

God is love

- What does it mean?
- How is His love demonstrated?
- How is His love experienced?
- What are the benefits of His love?

His love is....

- An exercise of His goodness.

His love is....

- An exercise of His **goodness**.
- that **perfection** in God which prompts Him to deal bountifully and kindly with all His creatures.

(Louis Berkhof....Dutch American Reformed Theologian)

His love is....

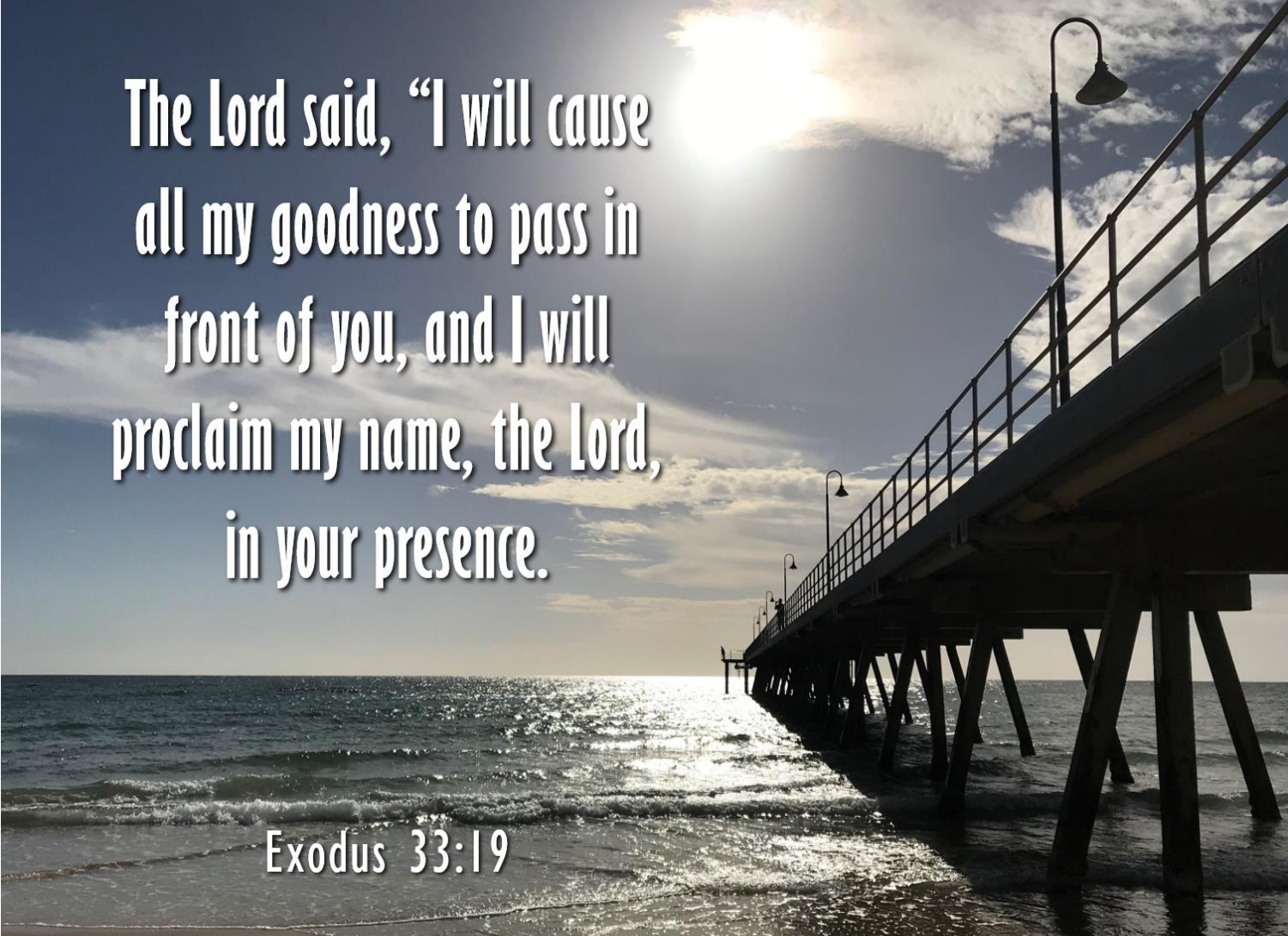
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- that kindness of which leads one to desire and delight in welfare of the one loved....
- finds his joy in giving love, and in receiving back love.

(James Orr, Hastings Dictionary of the Bible)

God's glory.....His goodness



The Lord said, "I will cause
all my goodness to pass in
front of you, and I will
proclaim my name, the Lord,
in your presence.

Exodus 33:19

- Moses asked to see
God's glory
(Exodus 33:18)

Psalm 145 : 8, 9 (NIV)

The Lord is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love.

The Lord is good to all;
(The Lord is good to all)

he has compassion on all he has made.

Psalm 145 verses 8 and 9 (2X)

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Psalm 145 verses 8 and 9 (2X)

- God is good to His creation generally....His people specially.
- Rich in love ... He is love
- 'slow' to anger ... mercy
- Gracious and compassionate ...He cares and deliver

GOD

is



- His very essence is love
- He is the source of all love

His love is demonstrated

- **This is love**...sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins (v 10)

His love is demonstrated

- **This is love**...sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins (v 10)
- (Babies/ young child... so lovable but....)
- **Matter of grace and mercy**
- A kindness which is not only undeserved, but is opposed to that deserved, because the objects of God's love are corrupt in His sight and merit only condemnation and judgement

Why does He love us?

Exodus 33:19

**And I will be gracious to whom
I will be gracious, and will show
mercy on whom I will show mercy.**

Daily-Bible-Verse.net

- No reason can be given for His love to sinners except His sovereign good pleasure to love.

**Agape.....
unconditional love**

SAID: LET THERE
AND THERE WAS
H
P
H
D
H
T
E
FIRST DAY
“LET THERE BE LIGHT”

Ephesians 1:4,5 NLT

⁴ Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes.

⁵ God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ.

THIS IS WHAT HE WANTED TO DO AND IT
GAVE HIM GREAT PLEASURE!

**He loved us before
creation**



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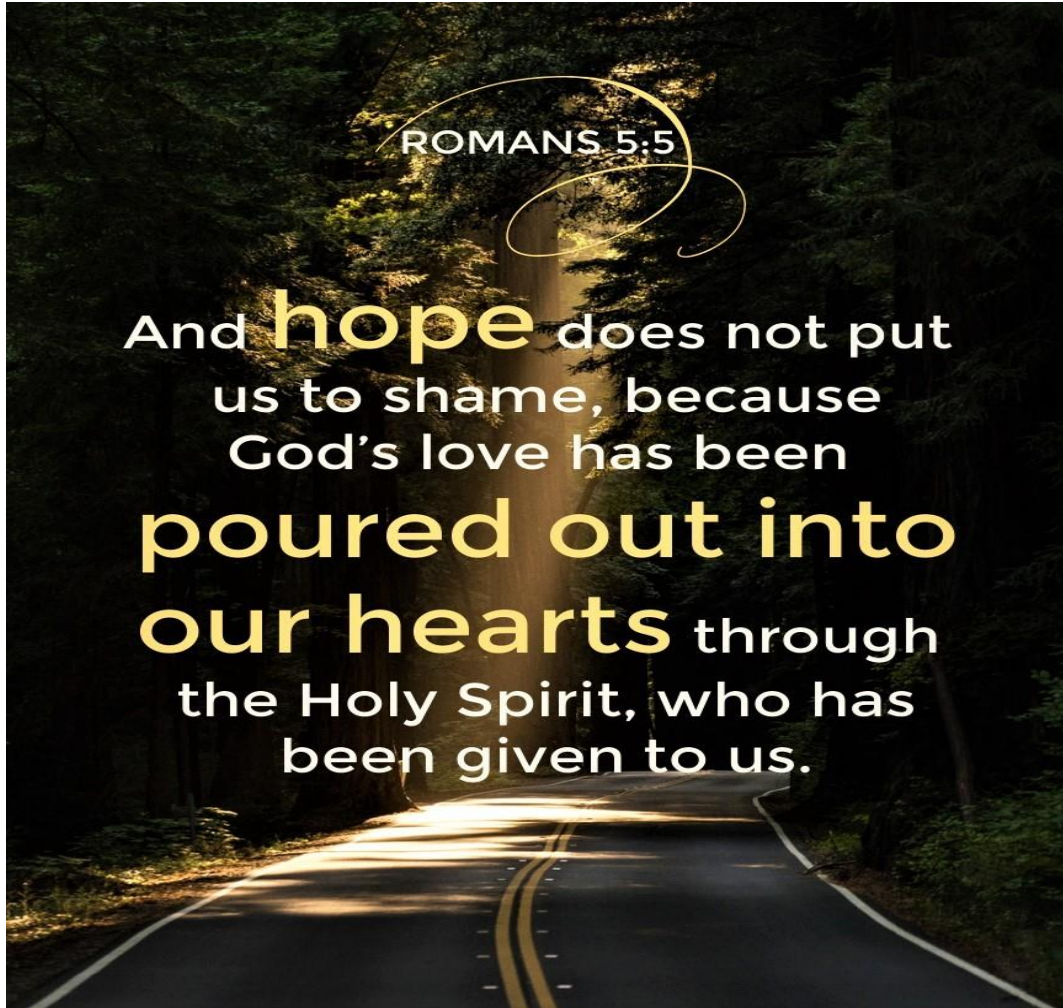
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Salvation plan
began before
the world was
created

How do we experience
this love?

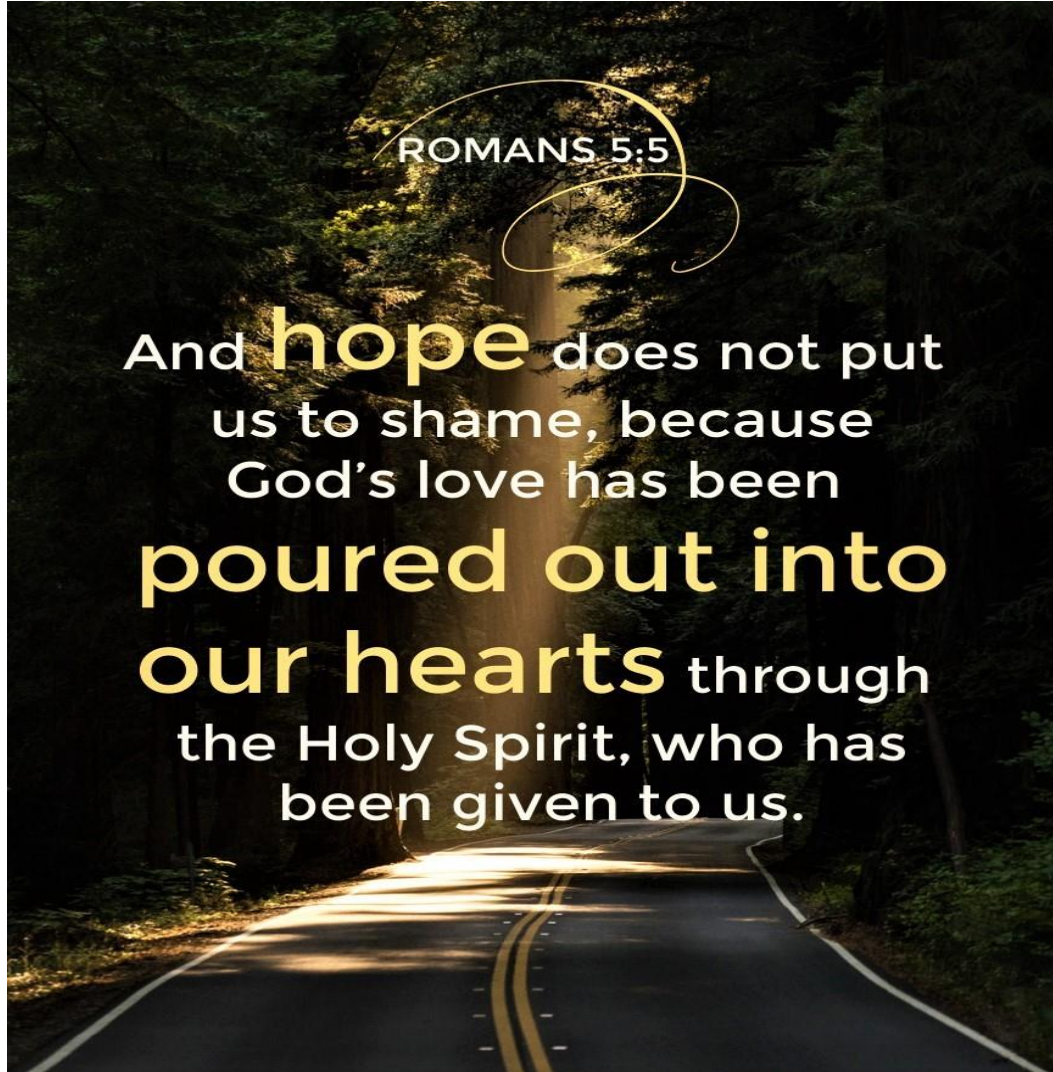


ROMANS 5:5

And **hope** does not put
us to shame, because
God's love has been
poured out into
our hearts through
the Holy Spirit, who has
been given to us.

- God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and **God in them.**(v 16)

Poured out.....



- Free flowing and overwhelming
- Already available daily
- 'Regular' ministry of the Spirit
- For all believers, not select few

Ephesians 3

- ¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may **strengthen you with power through his Spirit** in your inner being.....And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, **to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,**

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- Already established in His love (His Spirit is already working in every believer to experience this love)
- no need to seek special knowledge, go to special meetings or locations
- to grasp....hold on tightly in all circumstances

Nature of God's love...

- God is Spirit
(not physical and human emotions)

His love....

- Fully a deliberate choice and under His control
- From eternity the same

Nature of God's love...

- God is Spirit

His love....

- Fully a deliberate choice and under His control
- From eternity the same

- emotions ...pain, grief, fear, regret, despair and even love are involuntary and driven by circumstances not under our control
- His love is not fitful or fluctuating or impotent
- His love is constant and unchanging as His nature is

- God is Light
(holiness and purity)
- His love is **holy and pure**
- His **wrath** against
sins...determination to punish
sins and establish justice

- God is Light
(holiness and purity)
- God is just
- Punishment for sins (Romans 6:23)....atonement required
- His wrath against sin.....
Appeasement required

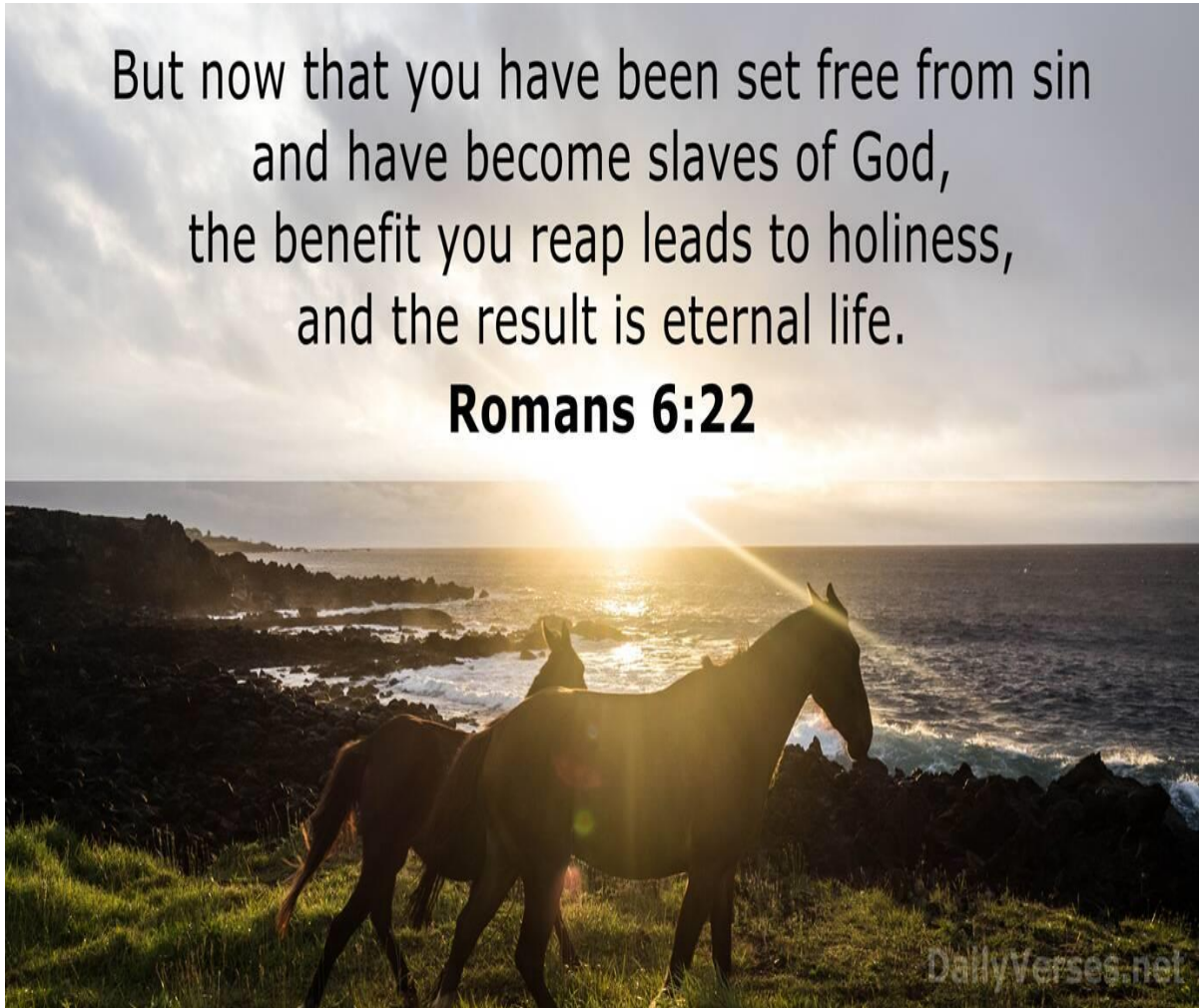
**Propitiation...atonement for sins
and wrath of God satisfied**

Benefits of His love

- ¹⁶ And so we **know and rely** on the love God has for us....
- ¹⁷ This is how love is made complete among us so that **we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus.**

(1 John 4: 16-17)

- Eternal life is secure because of His love.
- Whoever lives in love....are being transformed to the likeness of Jesus

A scenic background image of a sunset over the ocean. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow and lens flare. Two horses are silhouetted in the foreground, standing on a grassy hill overlooking the sea. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds.

But now that you have been set free from sin
and have become slaves of God,
the benefit you reap leads to holiness,
and the result is eternal life.

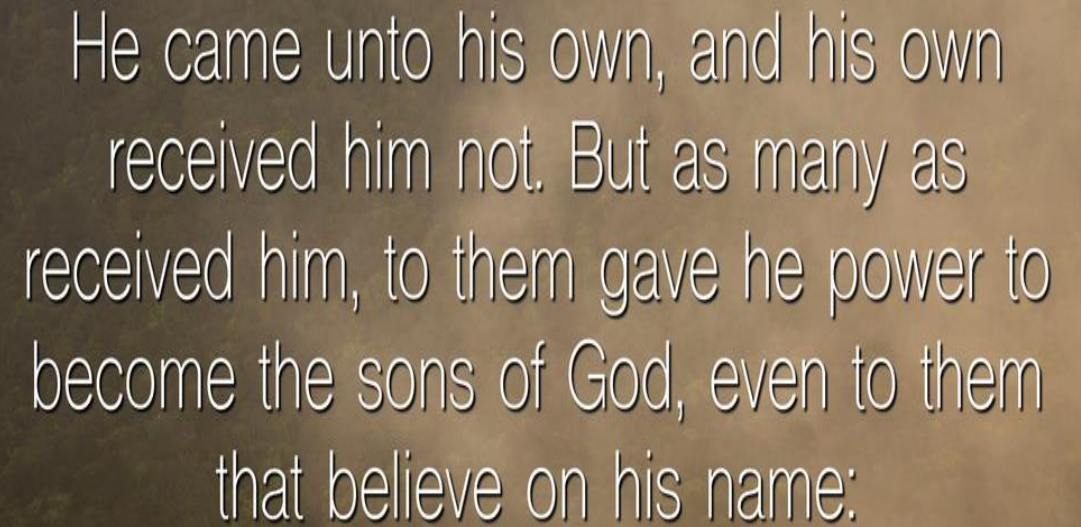
Romans 6:22

Forgiveness of sin

- We are set free from the penalty and slavery of sin
- God's slave in holiness
- Result is eternal life

Adoption as children of God

- See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God
(1 John 3:1)



He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

—John 1:11-12

For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

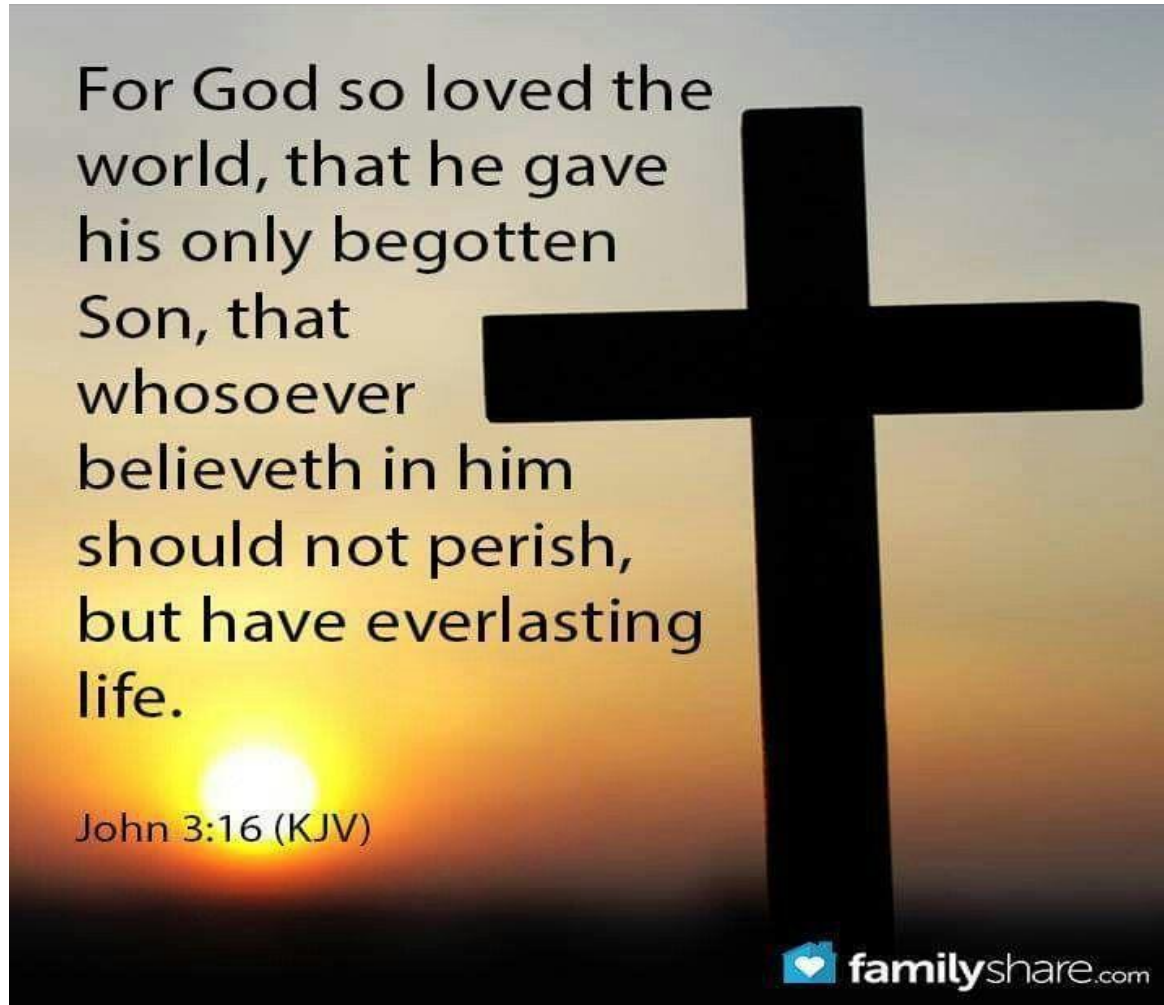
- Romans 8:15 -

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- Romans 8:15 -

- Abba word of great intimacy with our Heavenly Father.
- Can pray the Lord's Prayer.

Christmas is not Christmas....



- Christmascelebration of God's love to us
- God became a man to die for man...propitiate for sin....to give us eternal life

Christmas is not Christmas....

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16 (KJV)

 familyshare.com

- Christmascelebration of God's love to us
- God became a man to die for man...propitiate for sin....to give us eternal life

... without Christ

Jesus before Christmas

Philippians 2:5-8 NIV

- *Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: (6) Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, (7) but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. (8) And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross!*

- Deity took on the form of man...
- Came to die on the cross..

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- Deity took on the form of man...
- Came to die on the cross..
- **what a sacrifice?**

His love ensures...

And we know that in ALL things

*GOD works for the good
of those who love him,*

who have been called
according to his purpose.

-Romans 8:28

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- His love is constant and unchanging... faithfulness ensures the best for us.
- Certainly can trust Him.

How do we respond to
God's love?

*"Love the Lord your God
with all your heart and
with all your soul and with
all your mind."*

Matthew 22:37



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- Christmas.... A time of consecration and recommitment
- Renew our love for God.

LOVE AS YOURSELF.

You shall love
your neighbour
as yourself.
-Matthew 22:39



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- Christmas is a time of loving our neighbor..
- Share the greatest gift of all....coming of our Savior Jesus Christ

Legitimacy of God's love

- When struggling, suffering and confused by circumstances ..
...question the legitimacy of His love.

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Does God love me?

Legitimacy of God's love

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Does God love me?

- The legitimacy of God's love is not measured by the circumstances (good, bad or indifferent)
- **Measured by Christ and the cross.**
- God had determined to pay the price for our rebellion before we rebelled.. before the world was created....**wow!**

Romans 8:31-32 NIV

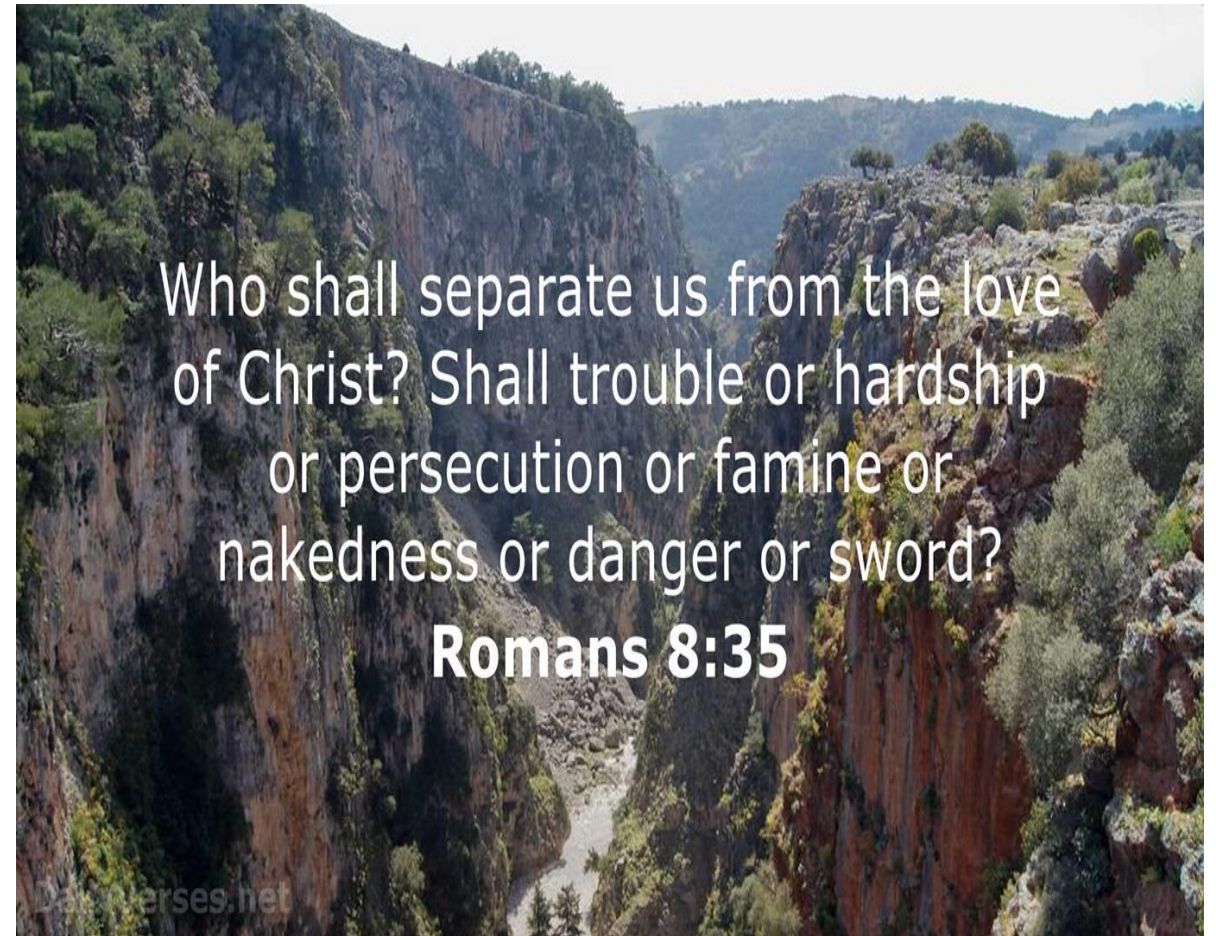
What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?



FOREVER
FATHER

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

Romans 8:35



Dayverses.net

For I am convinced that neither death nor life,
neither angels nor demons,
neither the present nor the future,
nor any powers, neither height nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us
from the love of God
that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

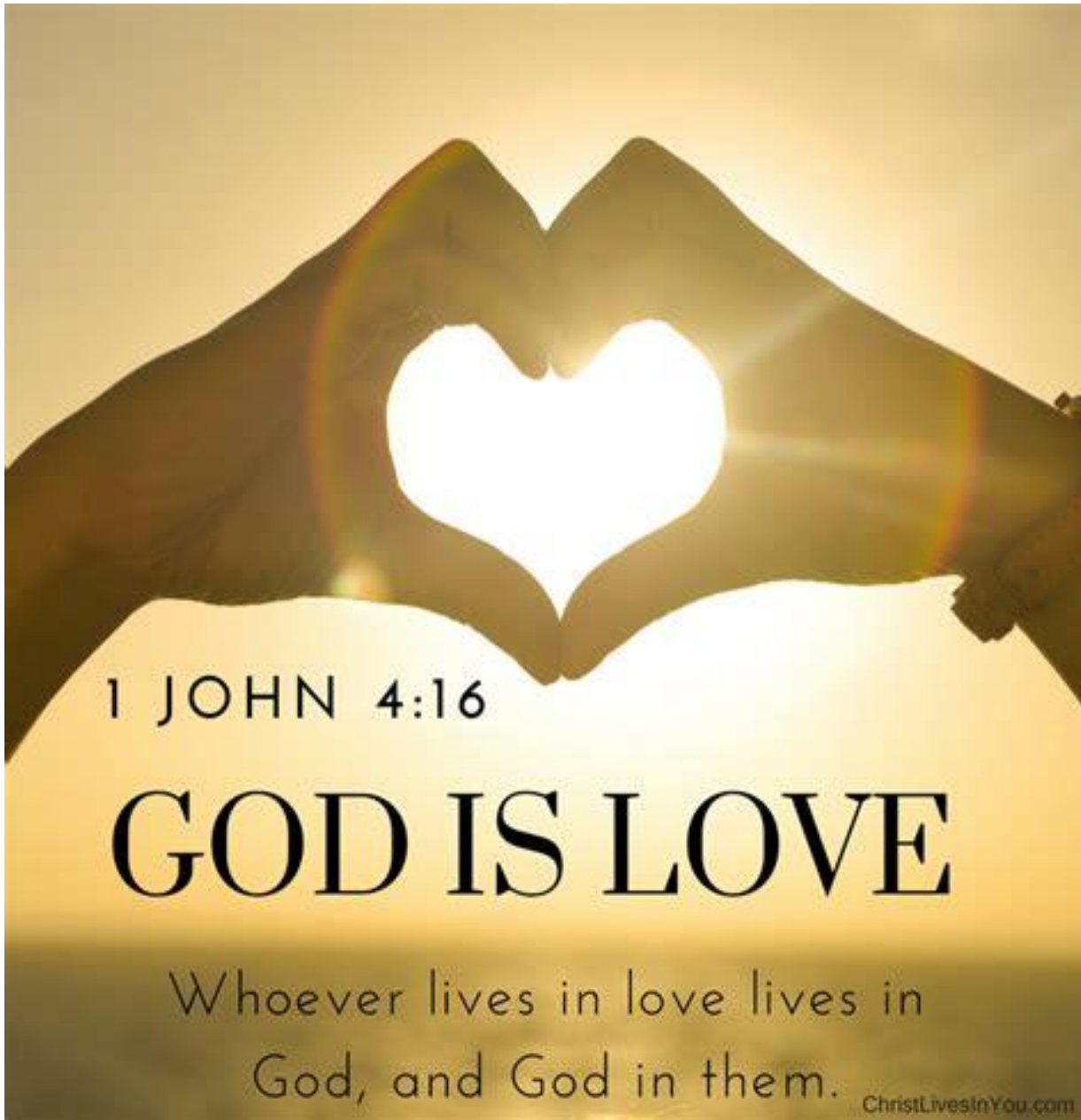
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Romans 8:38-39

- No 'trials' can ever separate us from the love of God
- Rest on the 'plateau of His love'.
(constant and consistent)



- Give thanks in all circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:18)
- Trust Him in all circumstances.



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**His love is
unchanging**