

“God Won’t Punish Us, He Loves Us Too Much!”

Lesson 4

INTRO:

- A. Besides folks knowing **John 3:16**, possibility the other verse or verses they are most familiar with are **1John 4:8** “*He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.*” and **1 John 4:16** “*And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.*”
1. Although they may not be able to quote them as well as they can John 3:16, they can quote the part of the verses which say, “GOD IS LOVE”!
- B. Indeed, God is love.
1. **John 3:16** “*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*”  
**Rom. 5:8** - “*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*”

I. WHAT DO THE SCRIPTURES TEACH?

A. WITH LOVE ALSO COMES DISCIPLINE/CORRECTION.

1. **Rev. 3:19** “*As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.*”  
**Heb. 12:6-7** “*FOR WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE CHASTENS, AND SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES. 7 if you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?*”  
**Prov. 3:12** “*For whom the LORD loves He corrects, Just as a father the son in whom he delights.*”

II. THE SCRIPTURES REVEAL ANOTHER SIDE TO GOD!

- A. “Goodness and severity”! **Rom. 11:22** “*Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.*”
1. Note these two sides of God are determined by the actions of mankind:
    - a. “Severity” because they “fell”.
      - (1) Verse 20 tells in what way they “fell” - “UNBELIEF”!
    - b. “Goodness” He show but that is on condition...
      - (1) The condition that they “continue in His goodness”!
      - (2) If they do not, they too will be “cut off”!
  2. The Old Testament is a textbook to both the goodness and severity of God in His dealing with the Patriarchs (Adam to Moses) and the children of Israel under Moses and the prophets.
    - a. All this serves to show the truthfulness of the Hebrew writer:  
“...every transgression and disobedience received a just reward,”  
**Heb. 2:2**
  3. The fact there is a heaven and a hell serves to verify God’s goodness and severity.

III. GOD IS LOVE BUT HE DOESN’T LOVE EVERYTHING.

- A. Seven things He hates: **Prov. 6:16** “*These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: 17 A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, 18 A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in*

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**Answering The Religious Errors Of Our Family, Friends, and Neighbors**  
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*running to evil, 19 A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.”*

- B. God hates divorce. **Malachi 2:16** *"For the LORD God of Israel says That He hates divorce,..."*
- C. The list is too long to mention all the things God hates or abhors.
- D. It's loving of a just God to hate and punish sin/wrongdoing.
  - 1. All have sinned. **Rom. 3:23** "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"
  - 2. The punishment for sin is death. Rom. 6:23 *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*
- E. Jesus tells us more about hell than anyone else in the New Testament.
  - 1. But God is love because He has always given mankind a choice...
    - a. Serve Him and experience His goodness - Heaven.
    - b. Refuse to serve Him and experience His severity - Hell.
  - 2. Yes, God loves us enough to give us a choice.
    - a. It was said very plainly to Israel in **Deut. 11:26-28** *"Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse: 27 the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you today; 28 and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside from the way which I command you today, to go after other gods which you have not known."*

**QUESTIONS:**

- 1. What caused God to drive Adam and Eve from the garden of Eden? (Gen. 2:16-17; 3:6)  
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- 2. What caused God to destroy the world with a flood? (Gen. 6:5-7)  
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- 3. What did Nadab and Abihu caused God to send out fire to devour them? (Lev. 10:1-2)  
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- 4. Where are these two verses found: *"For we know Him who said, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord. And again, "THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."*  
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- 5. 1 Cor. 10:1-12 is a condensed history of God dealing with the children of Israel. Name five things mentioned in those verses that brought God's punishment upon them at different times in their history.  
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