

THE GREATEST HONOR

Genesis 1:1

Introduction: Ever think that your parents didn't love you at one time or other when you were growing up? They wouldn't let you have your way so in disappointment and even anger you uttered the words, "you don't love me anymore." Our children say the same things we did when they don't get their way don't they. Now as adults we often think and say those same words when life gives us hardships and it seems that God is no where to be found. "Why me?" "Why did this have to happen at this time to me?", etc.

Was it true that your parents didn't love you when they wouldn't let you have your way as a child? Is it true that you don't love your children when you don't let them have their way in every thing? So, is it true that God doesn't love us anymore when things go wrong and He doesn't answer our prayers?

God has already shown us that He loves us regardless of what we do or say. Never say that God doesn't care when bad things happen to you, remember the Cross of Jesus. God has shown us by the Cross that He has always loved us and always will.

I. TO BE RIGHT WITH GOD IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN ONE'S LIFE

Matthew 22:37-38

1. Could you tell Jesus, face to face, "I love you with all my heart, all my soul, all my mind and all my strength," and be telling Him the truth?
2. Everything in one's life, everything about knowing and experiencing the Lord Jesus, everything about knowing His will depends upon the "quality" of one's love and being right with God.
3. The most important thing in any person's life is to be "right" with God and that is God's terms.

II. THE HIGHEST HONOR ONE CAN HAVE IS TO BE LOVED BY GOD

Matthew 6:24, 31-34; Deuteronomy 6:10-15

1. Whenever you sang the hymn, "I'd rather have Jesus...", were you telling the truth?
 - Would you rather have Jesus than silver, gold, riches untold, houses and lands?
 - Would you rather have Jesus than men's applause and world-wide fame?
 - Would you rather have Jesus that to be the king/queen of a vast domain?
 - Would you rather have Jesus than anything this world offers?
2. Because of God's great love for us, God provides all we will ever need WHEN we love Him and Him alone.
3. God has a purpose for each of us and His purpose goes far beyond our lives on this earth, but into eternity.
 - God's thoughts are not our thoughts for our thoughts are fixed by time and on things.
4. Just what exactly are YOU investing all your time, your very life, your resources in?
 - What in your life will pass away? What will be forever?

III. GOD STARTED IT ALL

Romans 3:10-12; John 6:44-46

1. God started it all, God chose us, God loves us, God reveals His eternal purpose for our lives.
2. No one deliberately, on his/her own, seeks God.
 - Who are righteous all by themselves?
 - Who understands God's spiritual things all by themselves?
 - Who runs after God eagerly seeking Him, all on their own?
 - Who does good on their own all the time?
3. God is the one who draws us to Himself.
 - Who can come to Jesus all by him/her self? No one.
 - What happens when a person listens to the Holy Spirit and learns about God's great love and about Jesus? He/she comes to God.
 - The only way a person can become a part of God's Family is to be drawn by God first.
4. One cannot know Jesus or His ways UNLESS God takes the initiative to reveal Himself to that person and then that person must listen and obey what is revealed.

CONCLUSION:

1. The greatest honor you can ever experience during your lifetime is to be loved by God.
2. The greatest thing you can ever do in your lifetime is to be right with God.
3. What/who do you love God more than? He has already shown you how much He loves you.