

Love In Four Dimensions
John 3:16 — Eph. 3:18

Our thoughts flutter, tremble, and fall when we try to see through a message like this.

It is the lens of the whole revelation. Just as the lens gathers up the converging rays and focuses them in one bright stream of light so this verse gathers up the hints, the prophecies and the foregleams of the Gospel and condenses them into a pure white beam of light.

If the truth of this verse were taken home to our hearts no question would nag our minds and no sorrow would maul over whether our spirits.

Yet this is one of the least accepted verses. It is so great that it seems unreal. One reason why men refuse to accept it is that for many people God is not a reality — they say He is so far away.

Then people say there is so much against this truth.

- a. Nature seems independent of God and so cruel
- b. The world is full of suffering and shame.
- c. Pain, tears, and death are the keywords of history.
- d. Sin — Conscience makes cowards and doubters of us.

yet there are others who realize, in a degree at least, the love of God.

Paul, when he had difficulty about God looked at God through Christ - He speaks of the love of God in four dimensions!

I. Its breadth. "God so loved the world." "the world" is term used in three senses.

a. "universe of created things"

b. Forces of evil opposed to God and goodness

c. The world of sinning and suffering, sorrowing and rejoicing, loving and inspiring men and women. The breadth of that love is what baffles us.

To love light, flowers, music etc is natural to our hearts.

But to love mean men and women with their foul and degraded thoughts that's breadth

II. The length. "He gave his only begotten son." That is the test of love, "how far will it go?" There is a kind of love that

a. Flings its power to the poor & never further trouble

b. Seek another company as animal seeks with banks

c. Kind that abounds in petty gifts

But real love is that passion whose purity is not chastened by a thought of self.

III. undaunted mother - no test of love but death.

God could have written across the stars remade world etc - but that would not have cost Him much

II. The depth of God's love: That whosoever believeth on Him shall not perish.

we can love those that love us but what about those that ~~hate~~ ^{love} us?

It is to be understood only in the love of Christ
III. Sister Sara nursing men that cursed her etc.

His war for world, poorest, forsaken, etc

IV. The height of the love of God. "But have everlasting life." The height of God's love is seen in its ultimate purpose to raise His followers to everlasting life.

What is everlasting life?

not length of days merely - Life is

a. Energy
b. Blessedness
c. Love

} Eternal

III. Southern plants now times seen in north

