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THE SURE WORD By Jonnie Hutchison

“GOD IS LOVE”

There is no doubt that God has expressed His love for all of mankind. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that who ever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him” (Romans 5:8-9). The book of 1st John tells us that **“God is love”** (1 John 1:8b).

Though God hates sin (Proverbs 6:16), it is obvious that God loves every person. His great desire is to forgive sinners. He has made forgiveness of sin possible through the blood of Jesus as stated in the verses quoted above. Jesus said, “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you” (John 15:13-14). The “greater love” that God has shown for all of us is the love that seeks our spiritual good and eternal welfare.

Yes, God is love! He loves us, but how are we to express our love for Him? Jesus answers this question in the words of John 14:15, “If you love Me, keep My commandments.” John, inspired by the Holy Spirit, wrote, “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome” (1 John 5:3). Love is expressed in action. God loves us and has expressed His love in providing the means of our salvation. We express our love for Him by responding in obedience to what He has commanded in order to attain and maintain salvation. This is love expressed in action.

We also show our love for God in loving one another. “If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also” (1 John 4:20-21).

That God loves us does not mean He will not hold us accountable for our sins. “For wages of sin is death....” (Romans 6:23a). In His love God pleads for each of us to accept His offer of salvation by obeying the gospel and living as His faithful servant (2 Peter 3:9; 2 Timothy 4:7-8). It is our hope and prayer that each reader will love God, knowing that God is love!