

sides this, how came Christ to do this? Because "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son," etc. When we were at enmity with God, He so loved us that He would have us understand that while the world hated Him He loved it all the while, and gave that which was nearest to His heart for its reconciliation. Hence, whilst conscience gets peace through the blood of the cross, the testimony of the perfect love of God—and of this the cross is the proof—sets the heart at rest. Now the sinner knows God. Not only has he got the new nature, but an object to love. It is miserable to have affections and nothing to love. So now we have God to love, all the affections become centered in Christ. Our souls know what God is and what He has done for us, and our hearts go out to this God. How it knits the heart and God together! He has loved me—loved me so, and will love me for ever. O what bliss! We shall have trouble, but we have the certainty of the perfect love of Christ—No matter what the trouble may be, I now know that Christ having gone through all for me; neither death, nor life, nor any creature can separate me from His love.

Now that is the way that God makes Himself known. If you meet Christ in judgment, it is not merely that you have broken the law—that is bad enough; but the goodness of God is leading you to repentance. Therefore it is not judgment now, but God commending His love, and if you are untouched by that, you are despising a dying Saviour! That is a terrible thing and you know it.

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