

### Prayer Requests & Announcements

- Michelle, Brenda's Daughter has Bells palsy.
- Kass' Grandmother has been diagnosed with Lung Cancer.
- Keep April in your prayers.
- Bible class tomorrow night at Chad and Kass' on evangelism.
- The Christians in the Philippines.
- Debbie's Dad has been diagnosed with a blood clot in his lung.
- Jennifer & Kevin are leaving the El Paso area tomorrow, starting their move to the D.C. area. They will be traveling over the next two weeks.
- Men's business meeting after services

For prayer requests, call or text  
Chad @ (208) 221-2587 or Ross @ (208) 680-6590

### Assignments

<b>Today</b> <b>Bible Study</b> – Tom Mitchell <b>Song Leader</b> – David Porter <b>Lord's Table</b> – Chad Mitchell <b>Sermon</b> – Ross Ward	<b>Wednesday</b> <b>Bible Study</b> – Ross Ward <b>Song Leader</b> – Tom Mitchell <b>Invitation</b> – Ross Ward
<b>Next Sunday</b> <b>Bible Study</b> – Tom Mitchell <b>Song Leader</b> – Chad Mitchell <b>Lord's Table</b> – David Porter <b>Sermon</b> – Ross Ward	<b>Next Wednesday</b> <b>Bible Study</b> – Ross Ward <b>Song Leader</b> – David Porter <b>Invitation</b> – Ross Ward

Blackfoot Church of Christ  
370 North Shilling Ave.  
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

#### Meeting Times:

Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM  
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM  
Wednesday Evening 7:30PM



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# Blackfoot Church of Christ

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## God's Love

By Ross Ward

In a week that we celebrate the loves in our life, it is good to consider the greatest love shown of all time. The love God has shown for mankind:

John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (KJV)

From this well quoted passage we learn of the great love of God and it is shown in the giving His Son. Paul helps to convey the nature of this love for us in his writing to Titus.

Titus 2:14, "(Jesus) Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." (ASV)

There are many ideas that are conveyed in this passage.

- 1) **Jesus gave Himself:** Jesus giving himself consisted of many aspects of his life here on the earth. The very fact that He left the glory of Heaven its self is a sacrifice. He lived as a man enduing hunger, thirst, traveling by foot, without a home to reside in. He was mocked, ridiculed, chastised, and even rejected by the very people He came to serve. If that were all He did then He showed us how to live, but He gave more. He yielded to the ruling authorities (both religious and national) to be

judged in an unrighteous court, accused by false witnesses, and unjustly punished by being beaten and ultimately crucified on the cross. There are so many thoughts that are bundled up in just a few words.

- 2) **We are redeemed from all iniquity:** Redemption conveys the idea of buying back or paying the ransom (cf Mt 20:28, 1 Tim 2:6). Jesus redeemed us, or paid our ransom by the sacrifice He offered. The ransom was the price we own because of iniquity. It is a debt we cannot pay. Through the ransom Jesus paid, we are freed from the sin that was charged to us and we are freed from the consequences of that sin, eternal punishment. We own this debt, but Jesus paid it for us. In reality, all mankind owes this debt and needs to accept the ransom offered by Jesus.
- 3) **We are purified:** This cleansing is from our iniquity, from the sins and transgressions we have committed in our life. We learn from the Apostles' writings that this cleansing takes place at Baptism. Later in Titus, Paul references the "washing of regeneration" (cf Tit 3:5). This is a reference to the act of baptism through which one is cleansed. Paul himself said that his sins were washed away during the act of obedience to baptism (cf Acts 22:16). The teaching of baptism and disciples engaging in baptism is prominent throughout the book of Acts and referenced in many ways throughout the epistles. The Apostles used many synonyms to reference baptism in their writings, which shows how well their audience understood the act. Though we may be pure at baptism, this does not guarantee we are forever pure. We learn from Simon the Sorcerer (cf Acts 8:18-24) that when a transgression takes place, one must take further action to remain pure. Simon, an obedient - baptized believer, after transgressing, was instructed to pray to God for forgiveness. Because of the promise of God and the ransom paid by our Savior, we can live as if we have never sinned because we have been purified.
- 4) **His own possession:** Since Jesus gave His life to ransom us from eternal punishment, giving us hope of eternal life; one now has to

conclude that we should not live our lives of our own will. This is not an unreasonable unheard of idea to a Christian. We realize that God through creation, made the world and all that we see. He also gave us our physical life. Given this one fact we realize that we are not free to live our lives to fulfill our own desires and pleasures. We belong to God. How much more do we belong to Jesus, who gave His life so we might live. God gave us physical life, Jesus gave us opportunity to have eternal life. We owe them our all.

- 5) **Zealous of good works:** Zealous is a powerful word. It means to be on fire for, eager for, or burning with zeal. Paul is telling us that we should be on fire for doing good works. This passion for good works is the conclusion anyone would come to, realizing all that has been done on our behalf. We would be desirous to learn more of the sacrifice made for us, to learn more of our purpose, and to learn more about righteousness. Learning these things should increase our love for God. As we cross these bridges, the sacrifices we make become less significant. Eventually they become a joy and not a sacrifice. Then we can truly be on fire for good works. These good works are not ones that fulfill physical desires, but good works that fulfill spiritual. That are rooted in righteousness and Godliness. It seems easy to be zealous for things of the world, which provide for immediate gratification. For the Christian, the zealous Godly worker, we will recognize the value in serving others and in seeking to fulfill God's will here on this earth, the true good works.

This passage seem to progress in ideas, from understanding the love behind the sacrifice that was made on our behalf, to the appropriate response one should have to that love. We see in Genesis that God gave us physical life. Man failed him and sinned, leaving a debt man cannot pay, but God loved mankind so much that he gave His only Son to pay that debt. Through the payment of this debt Jesus offers spiritual life to all who will follow His will. Recognizing this debt that was paid should lead us to live a life devoted to Godliness and zealous for good works.