

## O LOVE OF GOD

Thursday, February 15  
Reading: 1 John 4

**1 John 4:7** *Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.*

Frederick Lehman was a California businessman who lost everything through business reversals. He was forced to spend his working hours in manual labor, packing oranges and lemons in wooden crates at a Pasadena packing house. One day he remembered the words to an old poem he had heard at a camp-meeting years earlier. Those words inspired him to write a new song.

The love of God is greater far / Than tongue or pen can ever tell  
It goes beyond the highest star / And reaches to the lowest hell  
The guilty pair, bowed down with care / God gave His Son to win  
His erring child He reconciled / And pardoned from his sin

Chorus:  
Oh, love of God, how rich and pure! / How measureless and strong!  
It shall forevermore endure—The saints' and angels' song

Lehman only wrote two verses. The poem that inspired his song was actually a translation from a Hebrew rabbi from around 1000 AD. These lines had been scrawled on the wall of an anonymous prisoner's cell about 800 years later (200 years before Lehman wrote his hymn in 1917). Lehman used those ancient words as the climax of his song.<sup>1</sup>

Could we with ink the ocean fill / And were the skies of parchment made  
Were every stalk on earth a quill / And every man a scribe by trade  
To write the love of God above / Would drain the ocean dry  
Nor could the scroll contain the whole / Tho stretched from sky to sky

Throughout 1 John, the apostle has reminded us about this great love of God. He constantly reminds us that this love was proven by the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. He also does not let us forget that God's great love should shine in the life of His people.

Love reveals that we know God (4:7-8). Love was displayed in Christ dying to give us new life (4:9-10). Loving one another shows the world who God is (4:11-12). Love will give us confidence when we stand before the Lord (4:17-18). An unloving Christian is a contradiction in terms (4:20-21). "We love because He first loved us" (4:19).

**LESSON:** Are you awed by the love of God? Is it your continual song? Is God's love so powerful in your life that it can't help but overflow to others?

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.tanbible.com/tol\\_sng/sng\\_theloveofgod.htm](http://www.tanbible.com/tol_sng/sng_theloveofgod.htm)  
<http://digging-history.com/2014/10/26/hymnspiration-the-love-of-god/>