

Romans 5: 8 “But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” This word: demonstrates, (commends in KJV) is a word that is used when introducing yourself to someone. God makes the greatest of all introductions: He introduces Himself to the world as LOVE. He didn’t do it in words, but in action. “While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

My dad overheard a conversation between two people that went something like this.

Christian: “I love you.”

Other Person: “You can say that, but how do I know that you love me?”

Christian: “Because I will die for you.

This is the manner in which the Bible defines love. It goes along perfectly with the definition of Love that I have given to you time and time again. Love is: 1. Giving. 2. For the highest good. 3. Unconditionally.

As we look back on our theme of Renewing our Mind, let us consider allowing God to remake or remold us after the example of His Amazing Love.

God’s love is amazing, because it speaks to and of relationships. Part of the human experience on this earth is relationships. Jesus recognizes this when He spoke of the two greatest commandments, to love God and to love your neighbor as yourself (Matt. 5: 43,44). We are also instructed to love our enemies. A husband is instructed to love his wife. In all that exists, both of this earth and of heaven above, the greatest of all is love. I John 4: 16 tells us in simple terms who and what God is. “God is love.” If we do not become love (not just feel something we call love), we are not like Him.

God’s love is amazing because, His love gives us the motivation we need to do the will of God. To illustrate motivation consider the teenager who had lost a contact lens while playing basketball in his driveway. After a fruitless search, he told his mother the lens was nowhere to be found. Undaunted, she went outside and in a few minutes returned with the lens in her hand. "I really looked hard for

that, Mom," said the youth. "How'd you manage to find it?" "We weren't looking for the same thing," she replied. "You were looking for a small piece of plastic. I was looking for \$150." The truth is, that when something is considered of value, we are motivated to accomplish, exemplify or acquire what it is that we value.

God valued you and I so much that, "while we were yet sinners, Christ died for the ungodly." Even though we did not deserve this great gift, God gave anyway. We in turn are motivated to respond to this amazing example of love by loving in return. God and our neighbor, spouse and enemy become so valuable that we cannot help but to love. Therefore we are motivated to give just as God has given to us.

God's love is amazing because it gives light. God does not expect blind giving by those that love. Rather, God sheds the light of truth on all things in order that we might be able to see what is truly needed and therefore be able to give that which is needed. We will not be wasteful or empty in what we give. For example: it is so important for a husband to become intimately knowledgeable of his wife in order that he might be able to give to her all that she needs to flourish and become all that she can. I am speaking of that which is spiritual not physical. One can give lots of gifts of diamonds and gold, but the luster is soon gone, and the unquenchable desire for more gains control. The things of this earth are all temporary and have no eternal value. That is why they are only temporarily satisfying. As we allow the light of God's Word to illuminate our way, we can then better discern what direction to take and what to do, and how to bring about a Godly affect in our spouse's, neighbor's, or enemies life.

God's love is amazing because it gives life. Jesus said, "I am come that you may have life and have it to the full." (John 10:10) It was through the demonstration of God's love that we can have eternal life. It is by the death of the only innocent man, Jesus, that paid the penalty for the sin WE bear. We deserve to pay for our own sin. But Jesus did it for us. But the choice is ours whether to make that death effective in and for our life.

Not only did God allow His only begotten Son to pay our penalty, but He makes available His own Spirit in our life to remake us or remold us so that we might have an abundant life. We, in turn, become more loving to each other. This is one way in which we participate in God's plan for His people to live to the full. The blessings are endless!

The words of Richard L. Evans, in *Bits and Pieces*, 1993 stated, "The tragedy of life is not that it ends so soon, but that we wait so long to begin it." This is true about the full life that God desires for us. I often wonder why it is that people wait so long before becoming a part of the things of God.

For what are you waiting?