

makes you free, you

Therefore if the Son



shall be free indeed.

Voice of Freedom

A Ministry of
Cedar Valley Community Church



Prison Ministry Goodnews Letter

Volume 8, Issue 2

February 2010

A Valentine from God

by Bill Summy

Grace and peace to all of you from God the Father and His only begotten Son, Christ Jesus. This month much of the world focuses on "love," centered around the celebration of Valentine's Day. The reason behind all of this is a kindly cleric named Valentine who died more than a thousand years ago. It is not exactly known why the 14th of February is Valentine's Day, and legends are the only source for its history. A common version of the story tells that Valentine performed secret marriages for soldiers who had been forbidden to marry by the Roman emperor, Claudius II. Valentine was arrested and jailed for this, and while in jail he met and became friends with the jailer's blind daughter. When Valentine refused to bow to the Roman Gods his execution was ordered. A deep friendship had developed between Valentine and the jailer's daughter, and just before his execution he wrote a farewell message to her signed "from your Valentine." He is said to have been executed on February 14, 270 A.D. This day began to be recognized by young Romans who sent handwritten greetings of affection known as Valentines to women they admired. The holiday evolved over the ages and by the 18th century gift-giving and exchanging hand-made cards on St. Valentine's Day had become common in England.

The celebration of Valentine's Day is not limited to lovers but includes any and everyone loved by us. Popular conception and media promotion has resulted in Valentine's Day being widely regarded only as a day for lovers, but in its true sense it is a celebration of all love. The St. Valentine of history stood up to defend love and not romantic partners.

The Lord God has sent the world a letter of love – the Holy Bible. In it He expresses His love for His created beings – His children – His unconditional love for everyone in the world.

**This is your Valentine from God, your Father
Creator — written to you with the blood of Jesus.**



For God so loved the world that
He gave His only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him
should not perish,
but have everlasting life.
John 3:16

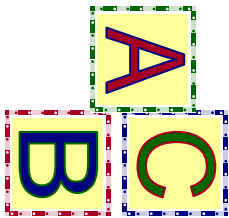
All who accept God's love through Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior have the promise of an eternal home in heaven as a Bride of Christ.

Jesus said:

"Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way where I am going."

Matthew 14:1-4

*To know God
and be ready
for heaven,
is as simple as*



Growing in a Love Relationship Unto God

All who accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior will have an eternal relationship with Him and the Father God in heaven. Yet, the **Bible makes a distinction between believers who are "babes in Christ" and believers who are "spiritually mature."** All believers are collectively referred to as the Bride of Christ. Maturing in relationship with God follows much the same pattern that a man and woman experience as they grow in love and understanding toward each other. This moves them into an ever deeper intimacy in their relationship.

When you are first in love with someone, you are consumed with thinking about them. You think about them constantly and dream of ways to show your love. Nothing brings as much joy as spending time with that person. By spending time with them, you get to know them better and better and your desire for them increases until you finally get married. After you are married you continue to grow in love and understanding as you experience both the hard times as well as the joyous times of life. In time, you get to know that person so well that you know how they will respond to any situation in life before it happens. You live to care for and serve each other in an intimately loving relationship.

Spiritually, our love and devotion for God should develop and grow according to the same pattern as the model example between a man and woman. When we are first saved, many Christians experience a consuming love for God. During this time, we think about the goodness of God, His loving-kindness and the special way He worked in our life to save us. After we become saved, our relationship with God begins to go through life's trials and tribulations. During this time, we also experience many more of God's blessings and provision in our lives. As we spend time with God in prayer, reading and studying the Bible, and seeking to follow the will of God for our lives, we begin to understand the heart and ways of God better and better. This is the way of the Bride of Christ. If you are a new Christian, now is the time to act, get to know God better every day.

If you have been a Christian for a long time, have you taken time to develop a relationship with God? If not, your initial love for Him may have grown cold. Or you may have been living with one foot in the world and one foot inside the church. If so, do not despair because God still loves you. He never stops loving you. **He has been waiting for you to come to Him – to love Him with all your heart, soul, and mind. (Matthew 22:37)**

We send you and your families our love from Cedar Valley Voice of Freedom. If you have not accepted the offer of love and relationship with your Creator, the one and only living God, we pray that you would consider doing so now. If you already know Him as Lord, we encourage you to share this valentine of love with others around you who may not have yet accepted His offer of love. - Bill -



A Admit you are a sinner.

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23.

(Also read Romans 3:10; 5:8; 6:23)

Ask God's forgiveness.

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Romans 10:13

B Believe in Jesus.

To believe means to put your trust in Him as your only hope of salvation. "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 (Also read John 14:6.)

Become a child of God.

"To all who receive Him [Christ], to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12

(Also read Revelation 3:20.)

C Confess that Jesus is your Lord.

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9

(Also read Romans 10:10; Acts 4:12)



"Love
the LORD
your God
with all your
heart...soul
...mind and...
strength."

Mark 12:30



If you are not on our mailing list and would like to be, or if for any reason you would like to be taken off, please send a note to:
Voice of Freedom, Cedar Valley Community Church, 3520 Ansborough Avenue, Waterloo, IA 50701.

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