

Morning Sermon Outline
January 31, 2016, Psalm 18:1
"I Will Love YOU, O LORD"

I. We love Him, because He first loved us –

<To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David the servant of the LORD, who spoke to the LORD the words of this song on the day that the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. And he said:> I will love You, O LORD, my strength. (Psalm 18:1 NKJ)

We love Him because He first loved us. (1 John 4:19 NKJ)

Love to God is the correct and best RESPONSE to God's love for us –

Note what God had done for David:

1. *He had delivered him from all his enemies and from the hand of Saul –*

Why did David even have Saul as an enemy?

A. *He defeated Goliath – 1 Samuel 17*

B. *He out did Saul and was loved by the people because of it -*

⁷ **So the women sang as they danced, and said: "Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands."** ⁸ **Then Saul was very angry, and the saying displeased him; and he said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed *only* thousands. Now *what* more can he have but the kingdom?"** ⁹ **So Saul eyed David from that day forward.**

¹⁰ **And it happened on the next day that the distressing spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied inside the house. So David played *music* with his hand, as at other times; but *there was a spear in Saul's hand.***

¹¹ **And Saul cast the spear, for he said, "I will pin David to the wall!" But David escaped his presence twice. (1 Samuel 18:7-11 NKJ)**

C. *He was favored by God over Saul –*

Now Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, but had departed from Saul. (1 Samuel 18:12 NKJ)

D. *Saul was so insanely angry with David he almost killed his own son Jonathan because of him –*

And Jonathan answered Saul his father, and said to him, "Why should he be killed? What has he done?" ³³ **Then Saul cast a spear at him to kill him, by which Jonathan knew that it was determined by his father to kill David. (1 Samuel 20:32-33 NKJ)**

E. *So insane was Saul, he killed all the LORD's priests and their families, and even their animals because he believed wrongly that one priest had conspired against him, with David –*

¹⁷ **Then the king said to the guards who stood about him, "Turn and kill the priests of the LORD, because their hand also *is* with David, and because they knew when he fled and did not tell it to me." But the servants of the king would not lift their hands to strike the priests of the LORD.**

¹⁸ **And the king said to Doeg, "You turn and kill the priests!" So Doeg the Edomite turned and struck the priests, and killed on that day eighty-five men who wore a linen ephod.** ¹⁹ **Also Nob, the city of the priests, he struck with the edge of the sword, both men and women, children and nursing infants, oxen and donkeys and sheep-- with the edge of the sword.** ²⁰ **Now one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped and fled after David.** ²¹ **And Abiathar told David that Saul had killed the LORD'S priests. (1 Samuel 22:17-21 NKJ)**

F. *Saul had the best of the army of Israel out hunting for David*

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² **Then Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel, and went to seek David and his men on the Rocks of the Wild Goats. (1 Samuel 24:2 NKJ)**

G. *This hatred and hunting of David continued until Saul died!*

2. *As Christians we have our own enemies:*

A. *Sin within –*

But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ **If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.** ⁹ **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:7-9 NKJ)**

B. *Satan –*

²⁰ **And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you. Amen. (Romans 16:20 NKJ)**

C. *An ungodly world –*

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world-- our faith. ⁵ **Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? (1 John 5:4-5 NKJ)**

D. *Death -*

So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." ⁵⁵ **"O Death, where *is* your sting? O Hades, where *is* your victory?"** ⁵⁶ **The sting of death *is* sin, and the strength of sin *is* the law.** ⁵⁷ **But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:54-57 NKJ)**

We are still battling these enemies, yet with Christ's love, God's love we are more than conquerors in all our battles –

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." ³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:35-39 NKJ)

II. Therefore, like David, we should resolve to love God

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And he said:> I will love You, O LORD, my strength. (Psalm 18:1 NKJ)

1. I will love You, is a blessed resolution! Why a resolution?

We do not think of love in terms of resolution! Love is automatic! Love is something we fall into! Love is fun!

Even the lower (or lowest) forms of love our thought of this way; we don't need to resolve to love pizza, or ice cream or French fries!

We love even bad and sinful things because our sinful flesh agrees with them!

A. We resolve to love God because loving God takes us against our flesh, against our sin nature –

For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. (Galatians 5:17 NKJ)

³⁸ **"Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Mark 14:38 NKJ)**

B. We need to resolve to love God because love involves the heart, love is something God sees, but men (other human beings) do not –

and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites. ³ So He said, "Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; ⁴ "for all

these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had." (Luke 21:2-4 NKJ)

^{NKJ} **Matthew 6:1 "Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. (Mat 6:1 NKJ)**

2. We resolve to love God because God commands and requires it

–
"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. (Deuteronomy 6:5 NKJ)

If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come! (1 Corinthians 16:22 NKJ)

3. We resolve to love God (and one another) because this is how we can witness to the world –

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35 NKJ)

III. We resolve to love God knowing it is impossible without God –

I will love You, O LORD, my strength. (Psalm 18:1 NKJ)

²⁶ **But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26 NKJ)**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (Galatians 5:22 NKJ)

This is what the Lord's Supper is about –

³⁷ **Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. (Romans 8:37 NKJ)**

διὰ τοῦ ἀγαπήσαντος ἡμᾶς (through Him Who loved us) indicates that it is not through any courage, endurance or determination of our own, but through Christ, and not even by our hold on Him but by His hold on us, that we are more than conquerors. The use of the aorist participle indicates that the reference is to a particular historic act, namely, that act by which He proved His love to us (cf. 5:6–8; also Gal 2:20). C.E.B. Cranfield

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