

SEPTEMBER 2015

# TODAY IN THE **Word**

A MINISTRY OF MOODY BIBLE INSTITUTE



Many waters  
cannot quench  
love; rivers cannot  
sweep it away.

Song of Songs 8:7

## An Unexpected Love

# TODAY WITH PAUL NYQUIST

President of Moody Bible Institute

Something Unusual Happened



In New Testament times, the unappealing but necessary task of foot washing was typically done by a servant, someone on the lowest rung of the social ladder. Dinner

guests would remove their sandals, their feet soiled from the dusty roads. After their feet had been washed, they would gather to eat by reclining on pallets or couches.

But during one occasion, at a Passover meal attended by Jesus and His disciples, something unusual happened . . . something awkward . . . something uncomfortable.

Jesus disengaged from the meal, and did something no one would ever have expected. Tying a cloth around His waist and taking a basin of water, He began to wash the still soiled feet of each one of His followers. Certainly, this was an unexpected act of love.

We have seen throughout Scripture that not only is God love but also that He loves us. He consistently demonstrated His love toward the nation of Israel, even after they repeatedly disobeyed. In the New Testament, Jesus showed love to His disciples, even when they misunderstood, betrayed, and doubted.

We know that God's love is not something we deserve. "Even when we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8). We

have done nothing to earn it. Yet, throughout Scripture, God actively pursues a loving relationship with His creation.

In his book *The Pursuit of God*, A. W. Tozer writes, "The continuous and unembarrassed interchange of love and thought between God and the soul of the redeemed man is the throbbing heart of New Testament religion."

The unexpected nature of God's love is seen throughout both the Old and New Testaments. In our efforts to understand God's love, we often compare it to human love. We think of the way a parent loves a child or a groom loves his bride. But these human examples are a mere shadow of divine love.

God's love is not what we expect. His love is indeed wider, longer, higher, and deeper than we realize. As Paul writes in chapter 3 of his letter to the Ephesians: "And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God" (vv. 18–19).

When we begin to grasp the love of God—a love that "surpasses knowledge" (v. 19)—we are forever changed. We rejoice in the fact that we serve a God who loves us deeply, completely, and in ways that surpass our expectations.

# THEOLOGY MATTERS

by John Koessler



## Love and Hell

Many people have difficulty reconciling the Bible's teaching about hell with the love of God. How can a God who is love consign anyone to an eternity of torment? As long as we think of hell as an expression of divine love, we will never be able to answer this question. Hell is not a reflection of God's love—it is an expression of His justice.

Jesus spoke about hell more than anyone else in the Bible. He described it as a real location. It is a place where the soul and the body can be cast (Matt. 5:29–30). He also described it as a place of judgment (Matt. 5:22). Hell was created by God for the devil and his angels (Matt. 25:41).

Jesus also characterized hell as a place where the soul and body are subjected to fire and destruction (Matt. 10:28). In the parable of Lazarus and the rich man, Jesus described hell as an experience of conscious torment (Luke 16:23). Hell is the final holding place for all sin. It is where sinners will finally face the wrath of God (Col. 3:6). What is more, the Bible warns that we are all by nature the objects of this wrath (Eph. 2:3).

All of this begs the question raised by those who reject the Bible's teaching about hell or who prefer to view it as a place of only temporary suffering: Where is the love of God when it comes to hell? The answer is that God demonstrated His love by sending Jesus Christ to suffer the punishment that our sins deserved. The hope of the gospel is that Jesus will rescue us from the wrath that is coming (1 Thess. 1:10). Those who refuse to accept what Christ has done on their behalf are rejecting the love of God. In a sense they are saying that they would prefer that God deal with them in justice rather than with mercy.

According to Ezekiel 18:23, God does not enjoy seeing the wicked perish. Hell is not a testimony to the failure of God's love. It bears witness to the refusal of sinners to repent. C. S. Lewis believed that hell is the result when God grants the wish of those who finally reject His love. In *The Great Divorce*, Lewis wrote, "There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, 'Thy will be done,' and those to whom God says, in the end, 'Thy will be done.'" Where is God's love when it comes to hell? It is excluded from hell. That's what makes it hell.

### For Further Study

To learn more about hell, read *Hell on Trial: The Case for Eternal Punishment* by Robert A. Peterson (P & R Publishing).

# FROM THE EDITORS

by Elena Mafter

## The Prayers of the Righteous



When you open any issue of *Today in the Word*, you'll see a column "Pray with Us" in the bottom right-hand corner of every devotional page. It's the smallest column of *Today in the Word*—only three to four lines in the Word document—but it has played a crucial role in the life of our devotional.

These several lines include the names of the Moody faculty and staff, the names of the departments where they serve, some of their responsibilities, important events at Moody, and—most importantly—a request to pray. We know that you, the readers of *Today in the Word*, take our prayer requests to heart. We also know that you take these requests to the throne of God.

Many of your letters mention that "Pray with Us" is the first section you go to, as you start your day with *Today in the Word*. Some of you see the names of your friends or family members in this column and have an opportunity to uphold them in prayer. Here is an excerpt from the letter that Janet from Destin, Florida, wrote to us:

*"Little did I know when I started reading Today in the Word in 2003 that almost ten years later, I would see my son's name in print under 'Pray with Us.' Now, after many years of schooling, he is teaching at Moody in Spokane. Moody has always*

*been close to his heart, and now, through Today in the Word, I not only feel closer to my son but closer to God—because of all the wonderful lessons and applications in my daily life. It's been a journey these last ten years without my husband, yet my morning devotions with your awesome writings have led me along the way. Thank you!"*

In the book of Romans the apostle Paul urged his disciples: "Be . . . faithful in prayer" (Rom. 12:12). His exhortation to the believers in first-century Rome resonates among all the Christians through the ages and generations. We need it today! The thought of all the people praying for Moody every day gives us joy and humbles us. It's your faithfulness in prayer that has sustained *Today in the Word* over the years in the spiritual realm, just as your financial partnership has been our footing in the material area.

Just imagine! Countless prayers from tens of thousands of believers going out to God every day: for our students on all three campuses and their professors, for senior leadership and teams who work behind the scenes, for trustees and field representatives. Your prayers make a difference. Thank you for praying for us and with us!

EXECUTIVE EDITOR  
Paul B. Currie

MANAGING EDITOR  
Heather Moffitt

ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
Elena Maffei

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS  
John Koessler  
Jamie Janosz

WRITER  
Jamie Janosz

1-800-DL MOODY (356-6639)  
www.moodyglobal.org



PRESIDENT  
J. Paul Nyquist

PROVOST  
Junias Venugopal

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT  
AND CHIEF OPERATING  
OFFICER  
Steven Mogck

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT  
Greg R. Thornton

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER  
Ken Heulitt

VICE PRESIDENTS  
Larry Davidhizar  
Jim Elliott  
Bruce Everhart  
Christine Gorz  
John A. Jelinek  
Collin G. Lambert  
Frank W. Leber Jr.  
Paul Santhouse  
James Spencer  
Janet Stiven  
Debbie Zelinski

TRUSTEE CHAIRMAN  
T. Randall Fairfax

TRUSTEES  
Christopher Denison  
Thomas S. Fortson  
Manuel Gutierrez  
Jerry B. Jenkins  
J. Paul Nyquist  
David Schipper  
Julianna Slattery  
Paul Von Tobel  
Mark Wagner  
Richard E. Warren  
Richard Yook

TRUSTEE EMERITUS  
Paul Johnson

# TODAY IN THE Word

A MINISTRY OF MOODY BIBLE INSTITUTE

## An Unexpected Love

When in May of this year the Baltimore State's Attorney announced charges against six police officers in the death of Freddie Gray, one charge in particular stood out. The driver of the police van in which Mr. Gray was fatally injured was charged with "second-degree depraved-heart murder." Connecting criminal charges with matters of the heart surprised some. The headline of the *Wall Street Journal's* article called the charge "archaic."

The Bible addresses the condition of our hearts, and what it says about our human nature is hardly surprising or archaic. "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jer. 17:9, KJV). The mirror of the Word of God not only shows us our desperate state but also gives us the way out of what *Pilgrim's Progress* called the "Slough of Despond." The love of God, love that is "stronger than death" makes us worthy of love and belonging; it makes us whole. Jesus' death on the cross and His resurrection are the unparalleled, unexpected, shocking manifestations of this love.

We will study this unexpected—and undeserved—love of God in *Today in the Word*. We'll look at this love in both the Old and the New Testaments, and we'll see that God's love is wild, gracious, stern, dependable, complete, intimate, and abundant. We hope the study will touch your heart anew with the depth and strength of God's love. We pray you'll know beyond any doubt that true love is found in Christ.

Moody Bible Institute is the sole publisher of *Today in the Word*, copyright © 2015 by Moody Bible Institute. All rights reserved. Please direct all *Today in the Word* inquiries to Donor Resource Management, 820 N. LaSalle Blvd., Chicago, IL 60610. Scripture taken from the *Holy Bible, New International Version®*, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Scripture taken from the *New American Standard Bible®*, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. Printed in the U.S.A. *Today in the Word* is published monthly. Printed on 30% recycled paper.

## An Unexpected Love

In her book *Why We Love*, anthropologist Helen Fisher said years of research led her to one clear conclusion: the need to love and be loved in return is a human drive that must be satisfied. She writes, “We need food. We need water. We need salt. We need warmth. And the lover needs the beloved. . . . Romantic love is a need; it is a fundamental human drive.”

If we are created in God’s image, and God Himself is love, then it makes sense that we are created with a need that only His divine love can fully satisfy. How do we open our hearts to understand the love of God, especially when we have only experienced the imperfect human version? This month we will consider the unexpected nature of God’s love, which as our key verse for today reminds us transcends anything we could imagine.

In this letter to the Corinthians, the apostle Paul is justifying his authority. He did not

write or preach based on his own power or wisdom, but he pointed to the wisdom that comes from God alone. Paul explains that the human mind cannot comprehend God by its own power or volition. As an example of this failure to understand who God is, Paul notes that humans approved the execution of Jesus Christ on the cross.

If they had truly understood God and recognized Jesus as His Son, they would never have made this decision (v. 8).

We can see truth only when it is revealed to us by the Holy Spirit. Through the Spirit, we can understand who God is and begin to understand how He loves

us. When we see God through this divine lens, we are not only able to know who God is, but we, too, can be fully known.

This will begin to satisfy our deepest need of all: to know God’s love.

“What . . . no human mind has conceived”—the things God has prepared for those who love him.

1 Corinthians 2:9

### Apply the Word

“God loves me.” This simple phrase can be difficult to understand. How does God love us? Why does He love us? Is His love enough to satisfy our deepest longings? Make the phrase “God loves me” part of your prayer this month. Ask God to reveal His divine love to you and to show you, through the Holy Spirit, how His love can heal your heart and make you whole.

### Pray with Us

Let us remember our students with thanksgiving in prayer today. Pray for their walk with God and spiritual growth during this school year, that they would be good stewards of their time and keep their focus upon the Lord.

## Chosen by God for This Love

Today, 6.1 million women in the United States have trouble getting pregnant or staying pregnant. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, that means nearly 10 percent of all women struggle with infertility. In Old Testament times, the barren wife had few social or cultural protections. Her husband could divorce her for failing to produce children, and she would have no sons or daughters to take care of her in old age. Infertility was viewed as a source of shame.

In today's passage, Isaiah portrays the nation of Israel as a "barren woman" (54:1). Considering the shame attributed to being barren, the opening commands are unusual: "Sing . . . burst into song, shout for joy" (v. 1). Why should someone who is disgraced shout for joy?

Despite this woman's infertility, the passage contains a promise of great hope. She will not only be able to bear children

but also will need to "enlarge" her tent to accommodate all of her descendants (vv. 2–3). What she has experienced as shame and humiliation will be transformed into abundance by a loving God (v. 4).

God refers to Himself as her "Maker," "husband," and "Redeemer" (v. 5). Each of these roles is protective and intimate. God has chosen her for Himself. He has created her and saved her, elevating her to a place of great honor and worth.

As we study God's love, we must be struck by the awareness that we are the unlikely recipients of this bounty. God loves us.

Through Him, we experience both "deep compassion" (v. 7) and "everlasting kindness" (v. 8). Isaiah refers to the example of Noah. Although God may be angry at sin, He promises "unfailing love" to His people (v. 10). The imagery at the end of this passage reinforces that idea. God will love us no matter what, even when the mountains shake and the hills are removed.

Though the mountains  
be shaken and the  
hills be removed,  
yet my unfailing love  
for you will not  
be shaken.

Isaiah 54:10

### Apply the Word

What makes you worthy of God's love? If you feel unworthy and unloved, remember that God sees you in a different light. He has promised deep compassion and everlasting kindness. He sees you as no one else does; He is your Creator, Redeemer, and King. His love for you is not dependent on your ability to perform well, and nothing you can do will shake God's love.

### Pray with Us

Provost and Dean of Education Dr. Junias Venugopal appreciates your prayers for Moody's education ministry of training today's students to be tomorrow's Christian leaders and missionaries. Thank you for your support!

## A Wild Love: His Love Consumes Us

One of Johnny Cash's best-known songs is "Ring of Fire." The lyrics describes the intensity of love: "Love is a burnin' thing / and it makes a fiery ring / Bound by wild desire / I fell into a ring of fire." Fire is sometimes used as a positive symbol of love, signifying overwhelming passion and consuming desire. But other times love goes sour, and we compare it to getting "burned."

For the next four days we will examine the wild nature of God's love, portrayed in today's passage as fire. Here, Solomon dedicates the temple of Israel. As he finishes his prayer of dedication, fire flashed from heaven, quickly consuming the sacrifices that were being offered. Then the "glory of the LORD" filled the temple (v. 1).

The onlookers were amazed by this visual and awe-inspiring representation of God! The priests were unable to enter the temple, and the people fell face down on the ground (v. 3). Such intensity would seem to inspire fear, but here the reaction focuses

on God's love. Throughout the Old Testament, fire is a physical manifestation of the presence of God. God spoke to Moses through a burning bush (Ex. 3:2–6). Moses cannot even look upon the bush, but averts his eyes.

To the Israelites at Mount Sinai, "the glory of the Lord looked like a consuming fire" (Ex. 24:17). Despite the intensity of a similar spectacle at the dedication of the temple, the Israelites worshiped and gave thanks, declaring, "He is good; his love endures forever" (2 Chron. 7:3). While God's fire de-

stroyed and consumed the sacrifices—a formidable symbol of God's power—it did not harm His people. They continued offering sacrifices to thank God for all He had done throughout the years, for His protection and His leading (v. 10). They feared Him. They respected Him. They also loved Him.

God's love is a fire that consumes us but will not destroy us.

He is good; his love  
endures forever.

2 Chronicles 7:3

### Apply the Word

While we no longer offer burnt offerings, the Israelites set a good example in coming to God to ask for His forgiveness and His blessing. They devoted time during the dedication of the temple to remember how God had worked in their lives and to thank Him. Take time today—even for a few moments—to thank our powerful God for His leading in your life.

### Pray with Us

We'd like to thank the Lord today for our professors from the Sports Ministry department: Dana Daly, Daniel Dunn, Christopher McHugh, and Jean Penfound. Would you pray for them and their ministry to the students?

## A Wild Love: His Love Surprises Us

Imagine you are told you will bear a child, a message that might be exciting—but you are in your later years, decades past the age of child bearing. Imagine your feelings at hearing this news! Disbelief, shock, maybe even dismay would all be understandable reactions.

For Sarah, the wife of Abraham, the announcement that she would bear her first child at the age of 90 made her laugh in disbelief (v. 13). How could this be? Why would God give her such a surprise?

Sarah was married to Abraham, who God promised to be the father of many nations (see Genesis 15). While the couple had been faithful followers of God, they must have privately questioned how He could fulfill this promise, for Sarah was barren. Finally, they took matters into their own hands. They thought they could exploit a cultural loophole that allowed the head of the family to have children by women who were servants. Sarah instructed Abraham to

sleep with her maid Hagar, and Abraham complied (see Gen. 16:1–2).

But God did not intend to use a cultural loophole to fulfill His promise, and He was not finished with Abraham and Sarah. Even in the face of what seemed humanly impossible, God demonstrated His ability

to accomplish His divine plan. The implied answer to the question, “Is anything too hard for the LORD?” is “No!” (Gen. 18:14). Second, we see that God works in ways they did not expect. Although Abraham was told that God would bless him with many descen-

dants, God did not give them a child during the usual childbearing years. The Lord keeps His promises according to His timeframe, not ours.

Finally, God forgave their disbelief. Despite her reaction of laughing in disbelief, God was “gracious” to Sarah (see Gen. 21:1). His unexpected love surprised both Abraham and Sarah.

Is anything too  
hard for the LORD?

Genesis 18:14

### Apply the Word

Do you think some things in your life are too impossible for God? Are you open to God’s surprising love? Remember that God may surprise you with His answers to your most difficult problems. Rather than pray for specific solutions, ask God to step in and move in ways beyond your comprehension. Allow yourself to be surprised by God and His love for you.

### Pray with Us

Will you unite with us in praying for Moody president, Dr. Paul Nyquist? Ask that the Lord would grant him wisdom and discernment he needs to face the challenges of today’s world, as he leads Moody Bible Institute for the glory of God.

## A Wild Love: His Love Is Strong

The strongest material now known to man is a limpet's tooth. A limpet is a snail-like creature found on rocky shorelines. Its teeth are used to scale rough surfaces and remove algae. Scientists are excited by the possibility of applying the molecular make-up of the limpet's tooth to everything from bulletproof vests to race cars to aircraft. Something incredibly small has super-human strength.

Today's passage is found at the end of the Song of Songs, a book that describes the intensely strong love attributed to King Solomon and one of his wives. While the book depicts a loving, passionate human relationship between a man and a woman, it has also often been understood to reveal a dimension of God's love for His people.

God's love is the strongest love we can ever experience. This passage describes

it as both protective and intense. Verse 6 says this love is as a "seal" over our heart and on our arm. The word "seal" in this verse refers to a signet ring, also called a *chotham*. This seal was often worn on a string, thus placed "over the heart" (v. 6). It was a symbol of belonging, much like the modern-day engagement ring. God has chosen us and set His seal upon us.

Place me like a seal  
over your heart, like  
a seal on your arm;  
for love is as strong  
as death.

Song of Songs 8:6

God's love is also as "strong as death" (v. 6). In human existence, death is the ultimate finality, and it is unavoidable. While death is strong, love—God's love—is stronger. This was proven conclusively when Jesus rose from the dead

and conquered the grave (see Matthew 28). The Song of Songs describes this love as courageous and bold; it is "unyielding as the grave," and it "burns like a blazing fire" (v. 6). God's love for us can never be destroyed. It can never be broken. This love conquered death.

### Apply the Word

No matter how mighty the opposition, God's love for His people is stronger still. No matter how distressing the situation, God's love will prevail.

Today's verse is a promise that can give hope to you as you face even the most difficult circumstances.

Write out this verse and cling to God's promise in the face of hardship. Remember your seal—God's promise—to protect, comfort, and give you hope.

### Pray with Us

Would you lift up in prayer the faculty of Moody's Spokane, WA, campus? Today, our prayers go to God for professors Jonathan Armstrong, Craig Ferderer, Joshua Malone, John McMath, and Jennifer Mills. May God bless their interactions with students!

## A Wild Love: His Love Is Unlikely

God's prophet Hosea was given an unlikely command, "Go, marry a promiscuous woman and have children with her" (Hosea 1:2). Everything about this story is unusual. Why would God ask a man of faith to marry a blatantly unfaithful woman? But Hosea obeyed God's instruction and married Gomer, a prostitute.

For a time, the marriage seemed to work. Gomer gave birth to a daughter and then to a son. While friends and neighbors may have gossiped about the unlikely pair, the marriage held together—until the inevitable happened. Gomer cheated again and abandoned Hosea and their children. Would he love her still? Could he forgive her unfaithfulness?

Then God gave Hosea another surprising order, "Go, show love to your wife again, though she is loved by another man and is an adulteress. Love her as the LORD loves the Israelites" (3:1).

Go take yourself  
an adulterous wife  
and children of  
unfaithfulness.

Hosea 1:2

God's love is as unlikely as the love Hosea showed to Gomer. Their marriage was intended as an illustration of God's love for His people. In Hosea 1:2 we read the reason why: "for like an adulterous wife this land is guilty of unfaithfulness to the LORD" Israel had disobeyed God's orders and allied themselves with Assyria and Egypt (Hosea 7:11).

Because of these alliances, they had begun to worship idols. Yet, despite their unfaithfulness, God chose to love and redeem them, just as Hosea had loved and redeemed Gomer.

God assured them of His forgiveness: "I will heal their waywardness and love them freely" (14:4). If they would turn from their sin and return to Him, He promised to welcome them back. No matter what they had done or how badly they had disappointed Him, He would pursue them and forgive and restore the relationship. The love between Hosea and Gomer represented God's unlikely love for His people.

### Apply the Word

Do you often feel like although you try your best, you continue to fail God and be unworthy of His love? Today's passage provides great comfort when we realize that while human love might not be able to forgive such unfaithfulness, God has demonstrated this type of love toward us. His love remains faithful; His love pursues and forgives and restores us.

### Pray with Us

As we continue to support in prayer the faculty on our Spokane campus, please add Michael Orr, Christopher Rappazini, Floyd Schneider, Michael Kibbe, and Gerald Vreeland to your list. Thank you for partnering with us in prayer for their ministry.

## A Gracious Love: His Love Is Slow to Anger

For frazzled and angry parents, *Super Nanny* brought hope. The television show featured a British nanny, Jo Frost, who would help parents who were at their wits' end with how to handle their challenging children. Rather than reacting with anger, Frost would calmly insist on rules and structure, putting the misbehaving toddler in the “naughty chair.” With her gracious spirit and emphasis on consistent discipline, *Super Nanny* would restore peace and order to the home.

In today’s passage, the people of Israel were misbehaving once again. They gathered to complain to their leaders: they were tired of wandering in the wilderness; they wished they were back in slavery. “Why is the LORD bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword?” (v. 3).

Like ungrateful children, the Israelites moaned and complained. When Moses and Aaron pleaded with them to stop and to recognize what God had done for them in the past—how, in fact, He

was currently leading them through the wilderness—they threatened to stone them (v. 10). The Israelites had been given miracle after miracle, yet they continued to disobey God and to complain about their circumstances.

God was not pleased. He met with Moses and questioned “how long” He should put up with their disobedience (v. 11). He threatened to destroy them. But Moses interceded with God on behalf of His people, asking the Lord to consider the message this would send to the Egyptians. They, too, needed to see how God would bring His people to the Promised Land.

This passage bears a description of God that is repeated throughout Scripture. “The LORD is slow to anger, abounding in love” (v. 18). While God is slow to anger, He also punishes disobedience. The Israelites would pay the penalty for their grumbling. God is slow to anger, but He is also just.

The LORD is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion.

Numbers 14:18

### Apply the Word

Grumbling is a horrible habit. We complain about the weather, our job, even a long line at the grocery checkout. This passage reminds us to stop grumbling and be grateful. While God is slow to anger and gracious with us, we should learn a lesson from the Israelites, who too easily forgot all God had done for them. Thank God today for what He has done for you.

### Pray with Us

Please include the administration and staff of our Spokane campus in your prayers. May the Holy Spirit touch the heart of every student through the ministry of campus dean Jack Lewis, Wendy Liddell, Nathaniel Schey, and Jaclyn Parrott.

## A Gracious Love: His Love Is Forgiving

One member of Eleanor Roosevelt's family was noticeably absent at the First Lady's funeral: her first cousin, Alice. In their book, *Hissing Cousins*, Mark Peyser and Timothy Dwyer describe the long-standing feud between the two women, and they argue that the feud stemmed in large part to the personality differences of Eleanor and Alice. The two never seemed to get along, and their feud lasted until death.

As we consider the gracious qualities of God's love, it is notable that we have a God who forgives. He doesn't hold our sins against us. In yesterday's devotional, we noted that

God is "slow to anger," a phrase repeated in today's passage (v. 8). This psalm of praise to God refers to the people of Israel. Despite their continued disobedience, the Lord was "compassionate" and "gracious" with them.

Unlike feuding cousins, God does not "harbor his anger forever" (v. 9). Note

that it does not say that God will never be angry. Rather, His righteous anger toward our sin and disbelief is tempered by His "abounding" love (v. 8). It is because of this love from God toward His people that we are not punished as we deserve. We are forgiven.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him.

Psalm 103:11

God's forgiveness is not half-hearted; it does not still nurture a grudge. Our sins are canceled. Our debt is paid in full. The psalmist includes a beautiful illustration of this forgiveness. The height and depth of God's forgiveness is almost impossible to measure (vv. 11–12). He has removed our sin from us—taken

it far away.

God's forgiveness is like the compassion of a parent for a child. He loves us, because He knows us (vv. 13–14). Our response to this great love should be to offer Him worship and obedience (vv. 17–18).

### Apply the Word

Even when we say we forgive someone, we may still be ready to reel off our list of their wrongdoings at a moment's notice. Maybe this is why we doubt that God truly forgives us. Read today's psalm as a promise of assurance for the forgiveness of sin. God has removed our sin from us "as far as the east is from the west" (v. 12).

### Pray with Us

All our Operations departments, headed by Steven Mogck, executive VP and chief operating officer, work together to ensure the smooth functioning of the Chicago campus infrastructure. It's a privilege to pray today for this excellent team of men and women of God.

## A Gracious Love: His Love Delivers Us

Mike Mahoney never forgot the brave smile of the little girl he rescued by helicopter from Hurricane Katrina's rising floodwaters. "I've seen a lot of destruction in my time, and New Orleans was intense, but to be happy, smiling and resilient despite the devastation was such a powerful moment," Mahoney said. Ten years later, he is still hoping to reconnect with the little girl he delivered from the rising waters.

The nation of Israel would never forget how God delivered them from slavery in Egypt. In a magnificent display of power, God used miracles to free them from bondage, and then stopped their oppressors from pursuing them by raising a wall of water. In one powerful move, "the LORD brought the waters of the sea back over them" (v. 19).

First Moses, and then his sister, Miriam, led the Israelites in songs and dances of praise and joy to their Savior, their De-

liverer. Their songs detail the emotional drama of the rescue itself. Words like "tremble" (v. 14), "terror and dread" (v. 16), "majestic," and "awesome" (v. 11) illustrate how this moment of salvation impressed itself upon their hearts and memories. Certainly it would be a story told over and over again to their children and their children's children.

In your unfailing  
love you will lead  
the people you  
have redeemed.

Exodus 15:13

The song turned to focus on God's character. Our God of love is incomparable (v. 11). His actions are marked by power, holiness, and wonders. No one can compare to our God who not only

shows compassion to His people, is slow to anger and quick to forgive, but can provide deliverance with power and might.

And out of His unfailing love, God delivers His people and defeats His enemies. Indeed, we serve a mighty and loving God, a God who can deliver us from the fiercest foe.

### Apply the Word

Do you need deliverance? What enemy are you facing today? Whether you face an actual person or a problem that continues to plague your life, God can be called upon to deliver you. With one stretch of His hand, our enemies are extinguished (v. 12). Thank God today for His love that has the might to conquer our opponents and is gracious to deliver us.

### Pray with Us

Please join us in praying for Facilities Maintenance, one of the Operations teams that works hard to maintain Moody's property on the Chicago campus. Today we uphold in prayer John Addison, Thomas Addison, Edgardo Bartolome, and Vincent Camera.

## A Gracious Love: His Love Is Tender

A man named Elkanah had two wives: Hannah and Peninnah. Peninnah was able to bear children, while Hannah had none. Year after year, Hannah would go with her husband to offer sacrifices, weeping, asking God for a child. God heard and answered Hannah's prayer, and she named her son Samuel, which means "because I asked the LORD for him" (1:20). Her child was living proof that the mighty God had heard her request and had answered.

In His care for Hannah, we see that God is gracious and tender to His children. What is particularly notable in this passage is the intimate relationship between God and Hannah. First, it is the Lord who closed Hannah's womb. We are never told why, but it was not the time for her to conceive. Second, we know Hannah was a woman of deep grief and also honest prayer. In her agony, she took her request to the Lord.

She promised that if she bore a child, she would dedicate him to the Lord's service. Hannah kept her promise to God. While others might have reconsidered once they held their infant son, Hannah honored her word and brought Samuel to the house of God to live for the rest of his life.

He will guard  
the feet of his  
faithful servants.

1 Samuel 2:9

Chapter 2 records Hannah's beautiful prayer of thanksgiving. She rejoiced in her gracious God who delivers the oppressed. "There is no one holy like the LORD; there is no one besides you" (2:2). She recognized that God alone is powerful to meet even the

needs of a childless woman. "She who was barren has borne seven children" (v. 5). God has dominion over heaven and earth (v. 9), and He also heard the cries of her heart. God's concern toward His faithful servants is so tender and so personal that He guards our feet (v. 9).

### Apply the Word

Hannah's prayer life can inspire our own. We can cry out to God with our deepest needs. We know He not only hears our requests but also has the power to supply all of our needs. What need is pressing on your heart today? Have you brought your concern before God? Hannah also models praise and thanksgiving. If the Lord has answered your prayer, offer Him your praise and gratitude.

### Pray with Us

Again, we remember in prayer the Facilities Maintenance team: Carl Bjerga, Justin Fisk, Paul Heggeland, and Matthew Morris. Ask God to protect them as they perform various repair jobs on campus in Chicago.

## A Gracious Love: His Love Is Generous

The heirs to the Mars candy bar family fortune are among the richest people in the United States—they have inherited an estimated \$20.5 billion from the family business that produces brands like M&Ms, Twix, and Uncle Ben’s. The company began in 1911, and three siblings inherited the fortune when their father died in 1999.

Most of us would consider a multi-billion dollar fortune to be an impressive inheritance!

Throughout Scripture, it is clear that God is not only loving toward His children but also exceedingly generous. Our reading today takes place as the Israelites contemplate entering the Promised Land, the land that was a generous inheritance given by God. In these verses, God explains why He selected this nation to be His chosen people.

First, it is noteworthy that God does not choose His people based on their obvious qualifications. They were neither the most

numerous nor the most powerful (v. 7). Rather, they were chosen first because the Lord loved them (v. 8). His love made them “holy” or set apart to Him (v. 6). They were special—chosen out of “all the peoples on the face of the earth” (v. 6).

Second, He chose them because of His covenant with Abraham (v. 9). God kept His promises to His people. He reminded them of how they were brought out of slavery and how He kept His promises throughout generations. This generous inheritance demands obedience. If the people will respond with faithfulness, the Lord promises that He will “bless you and increase your numbers” (v. 13).

Note the abundance of the life God promises. He will provide them with all that they need and more than they expect. God is faithful and generous to His chosen people.

The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.

Deuteronomy 7:6

### Apply the Word

Very few of us will have a monetary inheritance of great value. But as children of the King, we have an inheritance that is abundant and certain. God has chosen us. He has a covenant with us. He promises to care for our needs and has secured for us an eternal future. Rest today in the promise that you are a child of a generous God.

### Pray with Us

Dr. James Spencer, vice president and dean of Moody Bible Institute Distance Learning, welcomes your prayers for the instructors of our distance education and their students who are receiving solid biblical training online.

## A Stern Love: His Love Is Jealous

Jealousy is not considered a desirable character trait. On the *Dr. Phil* show, a couple married for six years was seeing their marriage destroyed by jealousy. Danny was so jealous of his wife, Valerie, that he didn't even trust her to go to the bathroom by herself. Dr. Phil responded, "How would you feel if you spent 50 years of marriage worrying that she's going to cheat on you?"

When we hear that God is jealous, the idea may make us uncomfortable. How can a good God be a jealous God? And how does that demonstrate His love? In this passage, Ezekiel the prophet is speaking to the nation of Israel on God's behalf. He compares their past actions to a prostitute. His judgement is an echo of God's command: "Do not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God" (Ex. 34:14).

God's jealousy stems from His unwillingness to allow others to share what is

rightly His. He is jealous for our faithfulness and allegiance. Unlike the human emotion, God's jealousy is not derived from insecurity but from truth. He knows our relationship with Him is best for us. He knows the plans He has for us. When we stray, we head for destruction.

Then, when I make atonement for you for all you have done, you will remember and be ashamed.

Ezekiel 16:63

Disobedience makes God furious (v. 30). He is jealous for the obedience of His people. Idolatry is a direct affront to God (v. 31). Adultery is sin (v. 32), not just the sexual act but also the adultery that comes from "cheating" on our relationship with God. When God's people leave Him to align their hearts and minds with

other people or things, they are committing adultery against the one true God.

Despite these stern warnings, God reaffirms his covenant to His people. Even in the face of their unfaithfulness, He will not break His promises (vv. 59–60).

### Apply the Word

How does it make you feel to know that God is jealous of you and desires your exclusive commitment? We must remember that His jealousy is entwined with His love. He is faithful in His commitment to us, and He expects us to be faithful in return. When we are tempted to align our hearts to another, we must remember the unexpected love of our jealous God.

### Pray with Us

Please include in your prayers the Catering team on Moody's Chicago campus. Natoshia Portis and a group of students who help her on a part-time basis work hard, providing excellent hospitality service for Moody's employees and guests.

## A Stern Love: His Love Is Powerful

In a “tale as old as time,” a beautiful young girl is imprisoned in a castle by a monstrous beast. Although he is ferocious, powerful, and nonhuman, he desires only to be loved. Belle’s love has the power to reverse the curse and transform the beast back into a prince. The story of *Beauty and the Beast* was popularized by Disney and Broadway, but the origins trace back to a French fairy tale. Can the girl see past the outward appearance of the terrifying beast to see his character and fall in love?

The description of God in Job 37 is breathtaking—He is ferocious and powerful beyond our imagination. Job’s heart “pounds” at the realization of who God is (v. 1). God’s voice roars. He unleashes lightning and thunder. This is a God who is able to easily control the snow and the rain. Humans and animals are subject to His unleashed power.

Notice the details of God’s power over and direct involvement in nature. His breath “produces ice” and “scatters” lightning (vv. 10–11). He is the director and controller—completely in charge of the world in which we live. Such power can be overwhelming, frightening when placed in the hands of an evil ruler or out-of-control beast. But mercifully, we know that our powerful God is also holy and just.

He brings the  
clouds to punish  
people, or to water  
his earth and  
show his love.

Job 37:13

Verse 13 describes both God’s control of the entire Earth and also speaks of His love for the people who inhabit it. “He brings the clouds to punish people, or to water the earth and show his love” (v. 13).

The God whose power is so great that He roars and rumbles is also concerned for our welfare. Certainly this is an unexpected and powerful love that goes far beyond our imagination.

### Apply the Word

We often think of weather as a factor to plan for—like taking an umbrella—or to be feared—like being in the path of a hurricane. Verse 7 gives us another perspective: weather should turn our attention to the God in control of every element of nature. The next time you watch a weather forecast, take the opportunity to focus your heart on our Lord who controls lightning, snow, and wind.

### Pray with Us

Thank you for covering in prayer Moody’s media ministries: Moody Radio and Moody Publishers. Headed by Greg Thornton, senior VP of Media, these ministries are a powerful vehicle of proclaiming the gospel across the globe, cultures, and generations.

## A Stern Love: His Love Demands Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was written in August 1892 by minister Francis Bellamy and formally adopted by Congress in 1942. The words “under God” were added to the Pledge in 1954. Today, United States citizens continue to place their right hand over their heart and pledge their allegiance “to the Flag and to the Republic for which it stands.”

In today’s passage, God asked Abraham to demonstrate his allegiance in a dramatic way. He asked something few of us can even imagine: for Abraham to sacrifice the life of his own son in order to show his complete obedience to and faith in God.

Notice how the passage begins. When God calls Abraham, he answered with a willing spirit: “Here I am” (v. 1). God asked Abraham to take his only son and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on a mountain. In addition, God said that He would lead the way.

I swear by myself,  
declares the LORD,  
that because you  
have done this . . . I  
will surely bless you.

Genesis 22:16, 17

Many have puzzled at this story, which seems to contradict everything we have learned about God as love. Why would God ask His trusted servant to do this? Abraham and Isaac move forward, willing to follow God faithfully even though it requires incredible cost. They have such trust in who God is that they do not question His command.

When the angel of the Lord stopped the sacrifice, Abraham was given an explanation. In his willingness to sacrifice what was most dear and obey even a seemingly impossible command, Abraham showed his complete allegiance to the Lord. Abraham named the place, “The LORD Will Provide” (v. 14). Every time Abraham remembered that moment, and every time Isaac told that story, the meaning would be clear: God had provided in the past and He would continue to provide in the future. His promise to multiply Abraham’s descendants would be fulfilled (v. 15–18).

### Apply the Word

It seems impossible to trust God like Abraham. Even when we remember His help in the past, we may begin to doubt His willingness or even ability to help in the present or future. God has promised to meet all our needs (see Phil. 4:19), and He asks us to trust His provision for our lives.

### Pray with Us

Moody Radio has been the source of biblical teaching and uplifting Christian music for millions of listeners over the years. Thank God today for the ministry of Moody Radio Florida and its staff: John Blok, Kate Bruington, and John Johnson.

# Question and Answer

By Dr. Winfred O. Neely, Professor of Preaching and Pastoral Studies



**In 2 Kings 13:14–19, why did King Jehoash mention “the chariots and horsemen of Israel” to the dying Elisha?**



Scripture tells us in verse 14 that Elisha, the man of God, is dying of a terminal illness. During his life, Elisha’s prophetic ministry was so powerful that even in his dying hour he received a visit from King Jehoash. The king wept before the dying prophet and described to the man of God “the chariots and horsemen of Israel.” This important phrase echoes 2 Kings 2:11–12. When the prophet Elijah was swept into heaven on a chariot and horses made of fire, Elisha used this same phrase in response to witnessing that event.

Chariots and their horsemen were the most powerful military means of waging war and providing national protection in the ancient Near East. In applying “chariot and horsemen” imagery to the dying prophet, Jehoash recognized that the prophet Elisha served as the means of the Lord’s moral and spiritual protection of Israel. Jehoash had been a wicked king (see 2 Kings 13:11), but he recognized that Elisha’s death would be a great loss to the northern kingdom of Israel. May God raise up some Spirit-empowered Christians to serve as 21st-century moral and spiritual *chariots and horsemen and horsewomen* in our own needy day!



**What is the meaning of the bow and arrow in Elisha’s interaction with King Jehoash in 2 Kings 13:15–17?**



The Old Testament prophets were creative communicators of God’s word. They used physical actions, props, and object lessons to communicate truth. The dying Elisha commanded King Jehoash to take a bow and arrow, open the window toward the east, and shoot. Jehoash followed the prophet’s instructions. Elisha explained to him that the arrow shot in the direction of the east was a symbol of the Lord’s victory over Aram, a victory that Jehoash would have against the Arameans at Aphek.

Jehoash’s tactile involvement with the bow—the act of shooting toward the east in the direction of Aram—rooted the Lord’s promise of victory deeply in the king’s mind and imagination. The physical actions were a challenge to Jehoash to take God at His word and obey His commands. The story teaches us a vital lesson about teaching and preaching: physical actions, the skillful use of props, and tactile involvement are powerful ways to communicate God’s Word in the effort to call men and women and boys and girls to faith in Christ.

*Continued on next page*

## Physical actions, the skillful use of props, and tactile involvement are powerful ways to communicate God's Word.

*Continued from previous page*



**Why was Elisha angry with Jehoshaphat for striking the ground three times instead of five or six times (2 Kings 13:14–24)?**



Elisha was using the bow and arrow as a teaching tool. It seems that after the shooting of the first arrow, additional arrows still remained. Elisha instructed Jehoshaphat to take those arrows and strike them against the ground. Jehoshaphat at this point was aware of the symbolic significance of these instructions and the faith demanded in their execution—Elisha had already prophesied a victory over Aram after he shot the first arrow. He struck the ground three times, but Elisha's response indicates that he left additional arrows unused.

The unused arrows indicated Jehoshaphat's belief that God's actions on his behalf were limited. He did not trust the Lord to do what was represented in the symbolic action of striking all the arrows on the ground. Consequently, the man of God became angry at Jehoshaphat because of his lack of confidence in the Lord. Note the text does not say *Elisha* was angry with Jehoshaphat; it says the *man of God* was angry with Jehoshaphat. As the man of God, Elisha represented the mind of God. His anger was an expression of God's displeasure with King Jehoshaphat's lack of faith.



**Did the Lord Jesus have a sinful nature like we do?**



The Lord Jesus did not possess a sinful nature. If He would have possessed a sinful nature, that would have rendered Him a sinner, disqualifying Him from being the Savior of the world. The Lord Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit (see Matt. 1:20). The Holy Spirit took Mary's physical substance and intervened in the conception process in such a way that prevented the sin nature from being passed on to Jesus (see Luke 1:34–35). Jesus knew no sin (2 Cor. 5:21), did no sin (1 Peter 2:22), and in Him was no sin (1 John 3:5). Since He lived a perfect life, He was qualified to die on the cross, be raised from the dead, and be presented before God as the sinless sacrifice for our sins (Heb. 9:14).



**What does it mean for us to become the "righteousness of God" in Christ (2 Cor. 5:21)?**



This is a stunning and breathtaking passage of Scripture! The Lord Jesus died in our place on the cross (Rom. 8:3; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24). Therefore, when we trust Christ as our personal Lord and Savior, we become the righteousness of God in Christ. All that our infinite and Holy God requires us to be, all we could not be in ourselves, we become that the moment we trust Christ as our personal Lord and Savior. In Christ we are perfect before God as far as our position and status are concerned. We are highly favored and beloved (Rom. 5:1; 1 Cor. 1:30; Eph. 1:6). Our growth in practical sanctification grows out of the reality that we are all that God requires us to be in Christ.

## A Stern Love: His Love Commands Respect

The Ten Commandments continue to serve as a basis for our understanding of right behavior. They outline basic standards of human morality, declaring that it violates God's Law to murder, commit adultery, steal, lie, or take what belongs to someone else. But the Commandments begin by instructing us to have a proper view of God. The way we view and respect God is foundational to every other behavior.

As we consider the stern nature of God's love, it is helpful to review the Ten Commandments. The first verse clarifies who establishes the Law: "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery" (v. 1). God reminds the people of Israel what He has done. He was their rescuer, their redeemer. They owe Him their very lives.

Neighboring nations worshiped other gods. Scripture records many times when His people abandoned their Redeemer and worshiped foreign gods, even though

God makes it clear that He alone is God. There is no other.

Verse 4 explains the punishment that will happen to those who break this commandment. God, as we learned earlier this month, is jealous for His people's attention and devotion. He will not tolerate divided love. He deserves and demands it all. Those who break this Law will bear the consequences not only in their own lives but also in the lives of their children, their grandchildren, and their great-grandchildren.

You shall have  
no other gods  
before me.

Exodus 20:3

The opposite is also true. When we respect God and keep His commandments, God will show His love to a "thousand generations" (v. 6). At the end of the passage, He reinforces His commandments with a physical manifestation of His power. The people reacted with fear and reverence for the mighty power of God, and they "stayed at a distance" (v. 18). God loves in a way that demands complete respect.

### Apply the Word

The Ten Commandments may have been something you learned as a child. Review them now, especially focusing on how our view of God will shape our behavior toward others. Take this opportunity to rejoice in who He is, reflect on how you have come short of full obedience to His commands, and receive His forgiveness and restoration.

### Pray with Us

Continue to focus your prayers on Moody Radio Florida today and add these staff members to your list: Pierre Chestang, Andrew Leuthold, and Ronald Maxwell. Pray that the Holy Spirit would guide them, giving them inspiration and strength for the journey.

## A Stern Love: His Love Redeems Us

“There is a redeemer, Jesus, God’s own Son / Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One / Jesus my redeemer, Name above all names. Precious Lamb of God, Messiah / Hope for sinners slain.” The late musician Keith Green wrote this modern hymn that praises the names and deeds of the Lord, beginning with His work of redemption.

Today’s passage provides a beautiful illustration of this redemption. Ruth was a Moabite widow who accompanied her Israelite mother-in-law, Naomi, back to Israel after their husbands had died. In the ancient world, the plight of widows was desperate; their welfare depended solely on the kindness of others. Israelite law instructed close relatives to care for the widows in their family, but many tried to find loopholes to avoid this obligation.

In the dramatic conclusion to the story of Ruth, the wealthy landowner Boaz realized that he was Naomi’s relative, and he

wanted to marry Ruth. He was willing to overcome obstacles, including the legal claim of another relative (v. 5). When the other man decided that Naomi’s land was not worth the hassle of also having to care for Ruth, Boaz was ready to offer himself as her redeemer (v. 8).

Praise be to the  
LORD, who this day  
has not left you  
without a guardian-  
redeemer.

Ruth 4:14

Notice the blessings that followed, focusing specifically on Ruth and her offspring. She was given a son, and her life inspired others to praise the God who had not left her or Naomi without a “guardian-redeemer” (v. 14).

Boaz paid a price and purchased Ruth and Naomi’s freedom. What a beautiful portrait of the way God has redeemed us and purchased our eternal freedom. Just as in the Old Testament example of Boaz and Ruth, redemption is a legal and binding transaction. Jesus paid the penalty for our sin and bought our freedom (Rom. 3:23–24). God is our Redeemer!

### Apply the Word

God has paid the full price of your redemption. You do not need to earn it. Sometimes we fail to realize that our debt has been paid in full. We feel like we we have not paid enough penalty for our sins. When Jesus died on the cross, He took the full weight of our sins and that debt was canceled. Praise your Redeemer today!

### Pray with Us

Moody Radio Cleveland broadcasts God’s love to the hearts of our listeners. We invite you to pray today for the ministry of this station and the work of Scott Krus, Alice Andrews, and Gary Bittner.

## A Dependable Love: His Love Is Forgiving

Evangelist and beloved preacher Billy Graham has said his favorite Bible story is story of the prodigal son in Luke 15. As Graham said, this story reveals “how God loves us no matter what we do, where we go, how we live. He loves us. And I can’t get over the love and mercy and grace of God. Every day I marvel at it, that God could love me, Billy Graham, with all my failures and weaknesses.”

For the next four days we will examine the ways in which God’s love is dependable. Like the father of the prodigal son, who stood waiting to welcome his son home, our God has promised to forgive us.

The psalm today is one of great hope and assurance. God’s love inspires incredible trust (vv. 1–2). We can place our complete trust in God and depend on Him, knowing that He will not put us to shame. Only our

enemies will be shamed, not the child of God seeking forgiveness.

Notice the verbs that begin each verse. First, we ask God to “show” us the way of righteousness (v. 4). We rely on the Word of God to show us the correct way to live. Second, we ask God to “guide” us (v. 5).

Specifically here, we are to be guided in God’s truth, every moment of every day in every situation.

Finally, the psalmist asks God to remember His promises to His people in days past, an appeal to God’s mercy and love (v.

6). The second request regarding God’s remembrance is a plea that God “not remember” his youthful sins and rebellious ways (v. 7). Much like the prodigal son, the psalmist depends on God for forgiveness and love, a trust that is made possible because he knows that the Lord is good.

No one who hopes  
in you will ever be  
put to shame.

Psalm 25:3

### Apply the Word

Have you strayed from the path God shows you? We can rejoice that God forgives us when we turn to Him and repent. He promises that your sins will be forgiven. Review the verses of this psalm again and make them your own prayer for God to show you the truth, guide your steps, and remember His mercy and love for you.

### Pray with Us

On this second day of prayer for Moody Radio Cleveland, ask God that He would continue to use this station’s programming to bless the lives of His people. Give thanks for its staff: Paul Carter, Douglas Hainer, and Mark Zimmerman.

## A Dependable Love: His Love Is Everlasting

Inspired by the movie *Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*, a Chicago candy manufacturer developed a treat in 1976 called the Everlasting Gobstopper. In the Willie Wonka story, the hard candy would last forever, with layer after layer of changing flavors. While the actual candy did take some time to dissolve, unlike its fictional counterpart it was definitely not everlasting.

As we continue to consider the dependable nature of God's love, we focus on this unique quality: God and His love are everlasting. God Himself has no beginning and no end (Rev. 1:8).

His love for us is also called "everlasting" (Jer. 31:3). We can completely depend on His love because it will not stop and start.

The prophet Jeremiah addressed the people of Judah to remind them of God's care for them in the past (v. 3). God had promised to build them up, to prosper

them, and to care for them (vv. 4–6). Despite their current circumstances, the Lord promised to restore their joy. "You will take up your timbrels" (v. 4), musical instruments similar to tambourines used to praise God. They would dance, "plant vineyards," and "enjoy their fruit" (v. 5).

While the nation now faced despair, Jeremiah assured them that God would once again bring them into prosperity and peace.

I have loved  
you with an  
everlasting love.

Jeremiah 31:3

God loves and helps those in need. Here, we see a "great throng" returning (v. 8). Among them are the blind, lame, expectant

mothers, and mothers in labor. Each of these depends on the care and love of God—and God promises to lead and guide them. His promise in verse 9 is reminiscent of Psalm 23, which depicts the Lord as a shepherd, leading us beside the still waters. God loves us with a dependable, everlasting love.

### Apply the Word

We get frustrated when the people we love disappoint us or fail to love us in return. As human beings we are wired to love and to be loved, but human love often fails to fill that need. God alone can love us with an unexpected and everlasting love. His love is dependable in all of life's circumstances. Thank Him for this love today.

### Pray with Us

Jim Elliott, vice president of Stewardship, would appreciate the prayers of the *Today in the Word* family. Pray for good teamwork within the department and effective communication with our donors.

## A Dependable Love: His Love Chose Us

In his book *Baby, We Were Meant for Each Other*, Scott Simon describes the beauty and wonder he and his wife felt when they finally traveled to China to meet their newly adopted baby daughter. He writes, “We cannot imagine anything more remarkable and marvelous than having a stranger put into your arms who becomes, in minutes, your flesh, your blood: your life.”

As God’s adopted children, we are chosen in love. Ours is a purposeful relationship that God began “before the creation of the world” (v. 4). The result of this choosing is that we are now “holy and blameless” before God. We have so much cause for rejoicing just in this verse!

But that’s not all: verse 5 explains our relationship with God, comparing it to adoption or *sonship*. Just as now, in Roman times the adoption of a son meant

that he was fully a part of the family and an heir of the father. The adoption ceremony involved two steps. The first, the *mancipatio*, was a symbolic sale of the child before seven witnesses. The second was a ceremony called the *vindicatio*, from where we get our word *vindicated*. In the eyes of the law, all of the old allegiances and debts are completely gone, and it is almost as if the adoptee has become a completely new person.

Verse 7 lists all that we now have in Christ as a result of our adoption: redemption through His blood, forgiveness of sins, and the riches of God’s grace. We are now heirs of Christ and the chosen sons and daughters of God. Such an incredible inheritance is beyond our expectation. God chose us because it pleased Him to call us His own. This adoption is final; we can depend on this love.

In love he  
predestined us  
for adoption to  
sonship through  
Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:4–5

### Apply the Word

Many people who adopt speak of the unexpected love they feel for a child who is not their blood relation. In fact, some celebrate the fact that they chose this child and wanted to make him or her part of their family. That is how God feels about you. You are chosen. You are officially adopted by God. Rejoice in this today, knowing that God loves you.

### Pray with Us

We are thankful for the work of the Financial Aid Office staff—Eugenia Jones and Heather Shalley—who diligently serve Moody students on our Chicago campus. Would you pray for them today?

## A Dependable Love: His Love Protects Us

In December 2013, a family of six was found alive in a remote area of Nevada after their Jeep overturned in the snow. A massive aerial search finally located the missing family who had stayed alive by sheltering in their vehicle, burning a spare tire, and heating rocks to keep warm. Rescuers said it was a miracle that they escaped uninjured in that remote location with such a crude shelter in temperatures well below freezing.

God's dependable love protects and shelters us. Today's passage is from the Song of Songs, a book typically attributed to King Solomon. Here, the man and his beloved take turns speaking. She is the "rose of Sharon" (v. 1). He agrees, calling her a "lily among thorns" (v. 2). He sees her as unique and beloved. She describes why she cares for her beloved. He loves her, nourishes her, and leaves her satisfied. She is not wanting for anything. In addition, he provides shelter and protection

(v. 4). Because he loves her, he places his banner over her.

This portrait of feeling completely secure in another's love reminds us of God's love for His children. He nourishes us and provides for our needs out of His abundance, His "banquet hall" (v. 4). Further, He offers dependable and caring protection from life's storms. Our God cares for us when we are weary and provides shelter for us in times of trouble. We are safe with God.

Let his banner over  
me be love.

Song of Songs 2:4

Psalm 121:7 repeats this promise: "The LORD will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life." Genesis 28:15 makes a similar promise: "I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go." God is our protector who shelters us because He loves us. We are His beloved children, and we can always turn to Him in times of distress.

### Apply the Word

When you face trouble, whom do you turn to? Most of us turn to a spouse, a family member, or a good friend. Here, we find God's promise that He will be our shelter in times of distress. Remember that God not only hears our requests, but He cares for us and loves us. He is also all-powerful and can provide the help we need.

### Pray with Us

Ken Heulitt, chief financial officer, will appreciate your prayers for him and his staff, as they oversee Moody's finances with thanksgiving for God's unflinching faithfulness in providing for our every need.

## A Complete Love: His Love Is Glorious

The word *glorious* is used to describe something magnificent, awe-inspiring, and breathtaking. We often use this word to describe nature: we see a glorious sunset, or we say that the view from a mountaintop can only be described as glorious. Something that is glorious has great beauty or splendor; it deserves glory or praise. As we will see today, without a doubt God's love is glorious.

Today's passage records a worship ceremony following the installation of the Ark of the Covenant. God's people were given this visual manifestation of God's glory in an object: the ark. Under the leadership of King David, they offered sacrifices and praises to God. Verses 8 to 36 contain a worshipful hymn that focuses on the glory, splendor, and majesty of God. Here we have specific reasons to praise the Almighty God.

First, we learn that God's glory is global. The whole world worships Him (v. 23). He

is over all the people of all nations (v. 24). Second, we learn that this glorious God is the Creator (v. 26). His glory is revealed in creation, and both heaven and earth are filled with His praises (v. 30).

Verses 31 through 33 personify nature, allowing the heavens, the earth, the sea, the fields, and even the trees to cry out in praise of God. They sing because God reigns and because He will come to judge the earth.

God is in control. He is worthy of our praise. He is indeed glorious. Because of these qualities, we know

that His love for us is comprehensive. It endures forever (v. 34). It is enough to save us (v. 35).

Such knowledge makes us both joyful and thankful. We are filled with praise for this glorious God whose love is beyond our expectations.

Ascribe to the  
LORD the glory due  
his name.

1 Chronicles 16:29

### Apply the Word

What is the most glorious natural wonder you have ever seen? A magnificent sunset? A colorful rainbow? A panoramic view from a mountain? God's grandeur, creativity, and glory are revealed through His creation. Praise God today for His glory and His love. Give thanks for His splendor and majesty. We worship a grand and glorious God—blessed is His name!

### Pray with Us

Moody Radio Chicago is a veteran of Christian broadcasting, and today we invite you to pray for its talented Programming team: Brian Dahlen, Jennifer Epperson, Roy Patterson, Robert Bersin, and Julie Roys.

## A Complete Love: His Love Demands Everything

Author C. S. Lewis said his conversion to Christianity occurred in stages. First, he was compelled to mentally acknowledge God's existence. Lewis writes, "I gave in and admitted that God was God, knelt and prayed: perhaps, that night, the most dejected and reluctant convert in all England." But his heartfelt conversion to Christ happened another day while Lewis was riding a bus. He says, "When we set out I did not believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and when we reached the zoo I did."

Finally, Lewis loved God with his mind *and* his heart. In today's passage, Jesus was being put to test, first by the Sadducees and then by the Pharisees. Both were trying to trap Him into giving answers that would contradict the Mosaic Law. They asked Jesus which commandment within the Law was the most important. His answer revealed an important characteristic of God's love.

Love the Lord your  
God with all your  
heart and with all  
your soul and with  
all your mind.

Matthew 22:37

Jesus says the first and greatest commandment is to: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" (v. 37). Notice the comprehensive nature of this command. The love we have for God is neither merely emotional nor merely a mental acknowledgment of who God is. It involves our mind, our heart, and our spirit. We are to love God in every way, and to set Him above everything else.

Jesus extends His answer with a second response. We are also to let this love for God affect our personal relationships. We are to love others as ourselves (v. 39). When these priorities are in order, it will set everything else straight. It is not enough simply to acknowledge that God exists. God's unexpected love demands everything from us.

### Apply the Word

Do you merely seek to know *about* God, or do you long to be in a relationship with Him that demands your mind, heart, and soul? Ask the Holy Spirit to examine your life and show you any areas that you are not devoting to the Lord, and then seek His guidance for how you can show that love to others.

### Pray with Us

Keeping our focus on Moody Radio today, please include their Engineering Services as you come to God in prayer. Pray for God's grace in the lives of Rodney Simon and Mark Williames who work hard to maintain broadcasting equipment in good order.

## A Complete Love: His Love Is Sacrificial

Ryan Arnold's brother, Chad, was diagnosed with incurable liver disease. At the age of 34, Ryan sacrificed a part of his healthy liver so his older brother could live. Tragically, a few days after surgery, complications arose, and Ryan Arnold died. He had made the greatest sacrifice of all: he had died for the sake of his brother.

In today's passage, Jesus tells us to love others in the way that He has loved us. Christ made an incomprehensible sacrifice on our behalf. He died on the cross, giving His own life so that we could gain eternal life (see Rom. 5:8). Surely, we cannot be expected to love like Jesus. Is such sacrificial love humanly possible?

Jesus agrees that sacrificing one's own life for another is a demonstration of great love. The ordinary human instinct is to protect our own life. In our passage today,

however, He asks that we set aside our own welfare for the welfare of others. The command is simple and clear: if we are to serve God well, we must love like Jesus.

Verse 14 describes the change of relationship that happens as we follow the commands of our Savior. When we follow

His commandments, we become not His servant but His friend. Because of this, Jesus has disclosed truth about God to us—friend to friend. He chose us. And He has given us an eternal purpose: to go and love others and to bear fruit (v. 16).

This life-giving, eternal fruit again refers back to His earlier command. We are to love one another, not in a guarded, human way, but in a way that reflects the unexpected love of God. We are to love sacrificially, and such love changes lives.

Greater love has  
no one than this: to  
lay down one's life  
for one's friends.

John 15:13

### Apply the Word

We are called to love like Jesus—a love that is selfless and puts others first. Consider today how you can imitate your Savior's love. Find one way that you can love someone like Jesus, putting that person's needs above your own. You might have to give up your preferences or your comfort or convenience, but this kind of love transforms both us and others.

### Pray with Us

Dr. John Jelinek, vice president and dean of Moody Theological Seminary, requests your prayers for the biblical training of Christian leaders at MTS. Pray also for God's blessing on faculty and staff.

## A Complete Love: His Love Is Unconquerable

After Courtney and Wyatt Kemp were married, Wyatt found a job on an oil rig forty miles out in the Gulf of Mexico, a job they knew was dangerous. One April, Courtney received a call. An accident had occurred at the site where Wyatt was working, and the Coast Guard was evacuating the rig. After her pastor arrived, she learned her husband had perished. The pastor told the grieving widow that Wyatt had shared a prayer with him: "I want to be so close to God that I can't get any closer." In her grief, Courtney noted, "He got his wish."

We are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Romans 8:37

the cross. If God would give up His own Son, He will give up everything for those who love Him. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we know that God has conquered death, and no one can defeat His children. What an incredible promise!

The apostle Paul knew firsthand what it meant to face opposition. He had been arrested, beaten, and jailed. He had faced strong opposition for his defense of the gospel. And yet he had confidence that despite these things, God's truth would prevail.

God's love for us is so powerful, so unconquerable, that nothing can separate us from it, not even death. In Romans 8, Paul declares that because of God's love, we are "more than conquerors" (v. 37). No one can defeat us (v. 31), because what God promises is eternal.

No matter how difficult the circumstance, believers can rest in the assurance that the God who gave them the ultimate demonstration of love, is on their side (v. 35). As Paul declares, nothing at all can separate us from God's love, not even death.

We know that God is loyal unto death because of the example of Jesus' death on

### Apply the Word

Do you feel like you face opponents who will prevail? Read these verses of hope and triumph and assurance today. Be reassured that God is on your side, and that nothing you do or face can separate you from God's love. What a powerful promise! Perhaps you can share this today with someone who needs this encouragement.

### Pray with Us

Paul Santhouse, vice president of Publications, would appreciate your prayer support today for the ministry of Moody Publishers. Thank the Lord for the opportunity to provide Christians with high-quality books and other printed materials.

## An Intimate Love: His Love Is Compassionate

In one hilarious clip from the television show *America's Funniest Home Videos*, a toddler is trying to eat a cookie. The trouble is that he's wearing inflatable flotation devices—"floaties"—on each arm. Every time he tries to lift the cookie to his mouth, the floaties make it impossible for his hand to reach his mouth. His frustration and inability to see what he is doing wrong is obviously frustrating to him, but also funny for us to watch.

In today's passage, a man approached Jesus and asked how he could inherit eternal life. The conversation revealed not only how much the man misunderstood the way of salvation but also how much compassion Jesus has for the lost.

Notice first how the man asked the wrong question about the right issue. He was right to be concerned about eternal life, and he was asking the right person—Jesus. But he assumed he could *do* something to earn his salvation. He had kept

the commandments, and he knew God's law (v. 20).

Next, see how "Jesus looked at him and loved him" (v. 21). Jesus felt compassion toward this man who was trying to find eternal life in the wrong way. The Lord gave him this instruction: "Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me" (v. 21).

This man would not follow this command. He was unwilling to leave everything for Jesus. The disciples were watching the exchange between their Lord and the wealthy man, and they heard Jesus say that it is difficult for the rich to enter the kingdom of God (v. 23). Why? Because many people cannot see what is of eternal value when their earthly goods block their vision. In His compassion, Jesus had pointed the man toward eternal life through following Him, but the man chose his earthly wealth instead.

Jesus looked at him  
and loved him.

Mark 10:21

### Apply the Word

Consider today if you sometimes misplace your priorities and put material possessions and goals above heavenly ones. Ask God to clear your vision today and to learn to follow Him in a way that values what will last. May we choose to invest our lives and resources in following Jesus and loving others—things with eternal value—rather than hoarding our earthly treasure.

### Pray with Us

It takes a lot of time and effort to ensure all our students on Chicago's campus have nutritious meals on time. During the next three days, pray with us for those who make it happen—Food Service staff: Rachel Campbell, Karen Davis, and Greg Dickson.

## An Intimate Love: His Love Is Extravagant

In December 2011, Christie's auctioned the engagement ring given to Elizabeth Taylor by Richard Burton. The huge 33.19-carat diamond was valued at a jaw-dropping \$8.8 million, topping the list of most extravagant engagement rings.

After yesterday's passage, where Jesus instructed the rich man to sell everything, today's reading might seem contradictory. Mary approached Jesus and anointed His feet with expensive perfume. This is one of the few events recorded in each of the four Gospels. The disciples, particularly Judas Iscariot, were put off by this extravagant gesture of love.

Why should Mary "waste" something so valuable, worth nearly a year's wages? Once again, Jesus looked beyond the action to the heart of the person involved. He loved Mary and recognized the pure intent behind her action.

First, the incident was timely. It occurred six days before Passover, when the Pharisees

were plotting to arrest Jesus. His disciples were unaware that the time of His death was quickly approaching. They were in Bethany at a dinner given in His honor. His dear friends Lazarus, Martha, and Mary were in attendance. This anointing, reminiscent of part of the burial ritual, foreshadows His death.

You will always  
have the poor  
among you, but  
you will not always  
have me.

John 12:8

Second, the incident was noticed by everyone in attendance. When Mary poured the perfume on Jesus' feet and wiped it with her hair, the house filled with the heady fragrance of the expensive oil (v. 3). Her extravagant act of love drew the attention of everyone in attendance.

Ironically Judas Iscariot, who would later betray Jesus for monetary gain, most vocally objected to Mary's wasteful action, insisting the money should go to the poor. But Jesus recognized their intentions: Mary wanted to honor Her Savior while He was still alive, and Judas intended to keep the money for himself.

### Apply the Word

Are we quick to judge another's act of worship? Do we appoint ourselves in charge of determining the value of someone else's service for God? Mary's act of love was misinterpreted as wasteful, while Jesus saw it as an act of worship and worthy of commendation. May we be slow to judge others and quick to praise the Lord with our gifts of service and worship.

### Pray with Us

As we continue to pray for the Food Service employees, please remember Nathan Garrett, Vinh Hoang, Hoa Lam, and Carlos Perez whose work may be behind the scenes, but so appreciated by our students and faculty.

## An Intimate Love: His Love Is Personal

In the ancient world, foot washing was not only a part of ritual cleansing, it was also practical. People wore sandals, and frequent washing of the feet was necessary. Traditionally, a host would provide water for guests to cleanse their feet. In the home, it was expected that wives would wash the feet of their husbands. This cleansing was also part of religious practice. Feet and hands were carefully cleansed before people were allowed to enter the temple.

In today's passage, Jesus washed the feet of His disciples, demonstrating the intensely personal nature of His love. Washing feet was an act of humility and service. Jesus' action was in the context of the evening meal of the Passover festival with the disciples. We know from the text that Judas was already preparing to betray Jesus.

Jesus knew what was about to happen (v. 3). He knew His own power and the nature of His relationship to God the

Father. His status as the Son of God is juxtaposed with His action of taking a basin of water to wash the feet of the men who had followed Him. He prepared to extend love to them in a personal, practical way.

Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet.

John 13:14

The incident beautifully illustrates the opening verses of Philipians 2: "Who, being in very nature God . . . made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant" (Phil. 2:6–7). As Jesus washed their dirty, soiled feet, He demonstrated an attitude of humility and servanthood that foreshadowed the ultimate act of service: His

death on the cross.

At the close of the passage, Jesus instructed His disciples that they are to wash one another's feet just as He has washed theirs. This is, of course, not merely about ensuring clean toes—even more important is following Jesus by having an attitude of love and service.

### Apply the Word

Acts of service, performed willingly and with a humble heart, reflect the love of Jesus to others. Consider one way today that you can demonstrate the love of Christ to someone you know. Do that menial task with a pure heart of love, expecting nothing in return. Follow in the example of our Lord and Savior. Wash the feet of another.

### Pray with Us

Concluding our prayers for the Food Service team, we invite you to mention Martin Rios, Jonathan True, Jeffery Williams, and Rebecca Williamson during your time with God today. Pray for the Lord's encouragement and strength for every day.

## An Abundant Love: His Love Fills Us

*Guinness World Records* declares the world's largest swimming pool is at the San Alfonso del Mar resort in Chile. Boats and kayaks cross the enormous pool that is .6 miles in length and holds 66 million gallons of water. Filling the \$2 billion pool would be like filling 6,000 26-foot-long swimming pools. The amount of water required means that it is tremendously expensive to fill.

Many people feel underappreciated and unloved, wishing someone would care for them in a deeply satisfying way. Today's passage declares that God's love is so abundant that it is able to fill us completely.

The beginning of the passage gives a description of the wicked, those who have "no fear of God" (v. 1). Many psalms contain these types of lament, asking why the wicked prosper (see Psalm 73). These people spend their days plotting evil. And at times they may seem to succeed.

The psalmist then switches abruptly to a beautiful description of God's love in verse 5. God's love is greater than these evildoers, and it exceeds anything we might imagine. He compares the abundance of God's love to nature, reaching beyond the skies and the highest mountain (vv. 5–6). If God's love were a feast, people would eat until they are completely satisfied (v. 8).

God's love promises to uphold the righteous. His love is just and strong and will shelter those who need Him (v. 7). The contrast of the first portion of this psalm to the second shows that God is greater than any evil person. His abundant love will conquer evil, shelter us from harm, provide justice, and help us see the light.

We can be assured of this: God's love will win, and evil will not prevail.

Your love, LORD,  
reaches to the  
heavens.

Psalm 36:5

### Apply the Word

Is your love tank full or depleted? On the days when we struggle to feel loved, it may also seem that the world is defeating us. This psalm reminds us that God is on our side and that His love is more than enough. Read verses 5 through 9 again and rejoice in the abundant, incomprehensible love of God.

### Pray with Us

Janet Stiven, vice president and general counsel, guides the legal matters at Moody with her experience and legal expertise, following the biblical principles of faith and integrity. She will appreciate your prayers for her and her team.

## An Abundant Love: His Love Demands a Response

In 2007, while waiting for the subway in New York City with his two young daughters, Wesley Autrey saw a man have a seizure and fall from the platform. With the train just seconds away, Autrey jumped from the platform and threw himself over the young man, pushing him into the drainage trench between the tracks. As the train passed just inches over the heads of both men, Autrey yelled to on-lookers to tell his girls that their father was okay. Both men were unharmed, and Autrey became known as the “Subway Samaritan.”

Today’s Scripture passage recounts the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Jesus used this story to explain what it means to love as God loves, and He told the parable in response to a question that should sound familiar: “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” (v. 25). Like the rich man, this teacher knew about God and knew the Law. He repeat-

ed what Jesus said were the two greatest commandments: Love God and love your neighbor (v. 27).

But when Jesus replied, “Do this and you will live,” notice how this teacher of the law tried to find a loophole (vv. 28–29). Sure, it sounds fine to say, “love your neighbor”—but really, who is considered a neighbor? Jesus makes the answer clear in the Parable of the Good Samaritan. When we see someone in need, *that* person is our neighbor. The love of God demands that we show mercy on those who need our help.

Like many others, the law expert wanted an out. He wanted an excuse not to help, not to love. Jesus corrected him. If God is love and shows us that unexpected, incomprehensible, all-encompassing love, it demands our response—that we in turn love others.

And who is my  
neighbor?

Luke 10:29

### Apply the Word

Whom do you pass by? Whether you walk through a city or push your cart through a grocery store, notice the people around you. Take time to talk to people, to offer a hand or a smile, to meet other’s needs as the Holy Spirit speaks to you. That person who seems the most unlike you may be the person who needs God’s love, compassion, and help the most.

### Pray with Us

Please join us in prayer for Moody trustees, their ministry at Moody, their work, and their walk with God. Would you bring before the Lord all the decisions they make affecting the future of Moody Global Ministries?

## An Abundant Love: His Love Is Enough

In Graham Greene's novel *The Power and the Glory*, the main character makes an observation about God's unexpected love for humanity. Standing in a cell and contemplating his fellow prisoners, he says, "It was for this world that Christ had died: the more evil you saw and heard about you, the greater the glory lay around the death; it was too easy to die for what was good or beautiful, for home or children or civilization—it needed a God to die for the half-hearted and the corrupt."

As we reach the end of this month's study on the unexpected love of God, we must be struck by the fact that God truly loves us, no matter how unworthy we might feel. This passage in Romans speaks in powerful ways about our hope in Christ, which is based upon our justification through faith (vv. 1, 9) and God's sacrifice of love for us.

God's love has  
been poured out  
into our hearts by  
the Holy Spirit.

Romans 5:5

Because we are justified in faith, "we have peace" (v. 1). Because we are "justified by his blood" (v. 9), we have hope and are reconciled to God. But even with this assurance, we may struggle to understand Christ's sacrifice. Why did God *choose us* to receive His love? The fact that "Christ died for the ungodly" (v. 6) should astound us.

It is reasonable to make a sacrifice for a great cause, but God loved us while we were still His enemies (v. 10). "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (v. 8). There is nothing we could have done or are

asked to do in order to earn God's love. It is a gift, freely given.

God sees us exactly as we are, and He still chose to pour His love into our hearts (v. 5). God's love is more than enough.

### Apply the Word

We started this month by saying, "God loves you." Do you believe it today? Do you realize how profound it is that the perfect, righteous, powerful and holy God loves you just as you are? No wonder people fall on their knees before Him. Thank God today for His unexpected and incomprehensible love that reaches out to sinners and reconciles us to Him.

### Pray with Us

Concluding our study this month of the love of God, we would like to pray for you, our readers, who show this love at work in your hearts when you faithfully, and sometimes sacrificially, support *Today in the Word*. We thank God for you!

# TODAY IN THE **Word** FAMILY



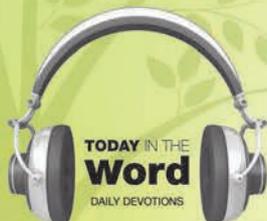
*Today in the Word*



*Today in the Word E-mail*



*Today in the Word Online*



*Today in the Word*  
Devotional (podcast) on  
Moody Radio with Mike Kellogg

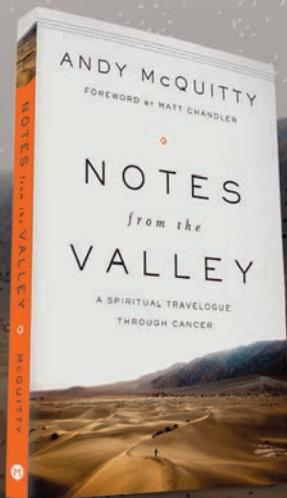


Learn more at [www.todayintheword.com](http://www.todayintheword.com).

WORDS OF  
WISDOM, COMFORT,  
AND PURPOSE.

*A spiritual travelogue through cancer.*

Find it at your favorite local or online bookstore, or buy directly from Moody Publishers by calling (800) 678-8812.



MOODY  
Publishers™

*From the Word to Life*

# TODAY IN THE Word

Visit us online | [www.todayintheword.com](http://www.todayintheword.com)

Like us on Facebook | Today in the Word

Follow us on Twitter | @TodayintheWord



## Get Your Daily Dose

Visit our Facebook and Twitter pages for a companion to your devotional guide. We feature links to daily devotions, encouraging Bible verses, and this month's entire issue of *Today in the Word*. Once there, post comments on what you read and connect with other *Today in the Word* readers. See you online!

[www.todayintheword.com](http://www.todayintheword.com)