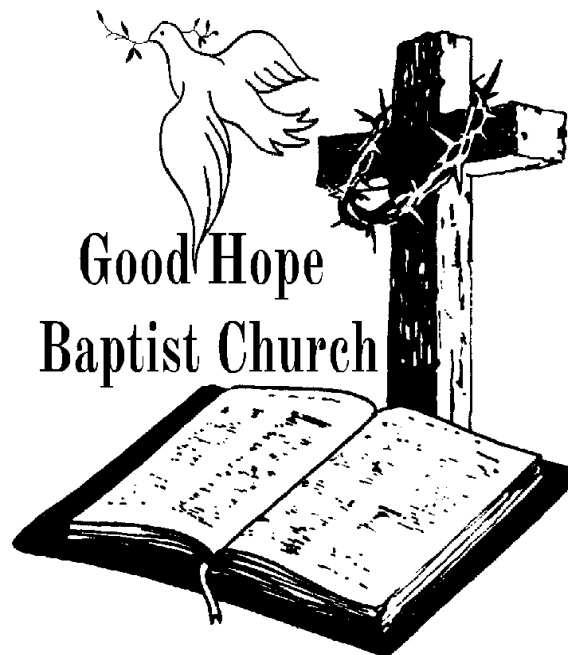


A Song From Patmos

Revelation 1:5-6



Living Together In The Love Of God

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FOCAL Revelation 1:5-6 ... Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, (6) And hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father; to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Life is not always easy, and we all have good days and bad days. The Book of Job tells us that “**man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward**”. (Job 5:7) That's a very poetic ways of saying it. Like sparks, our lives often seem to drift toward trouble. Sometimes this trouble is of our own making. **Judas Iscariot** betrayed the Lord Jesus Christ to execution for just *thirty pieces of silver* (Matthew 27:9). His action of betrayal led him to take his own life in an awful way (Matthew 27:5). The Bible tells us that “**whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he reap**” (Galatians 6:7). Judas is a stark testament to that Biblical truth.

Sometimes we bring trials on ourselves by doing the wrong thing. There there are the times when trials come our way because *others* do the wrong thing.

There are other times when trials come our way – not because we have done wrong – but because others have done wrong. It was dangerous to be a Christian in the Roman Empire. The Christian was hated, hunted, and harassed, not just by the Romans but also by the unconverted Jews. Jesus told His disciples:

Matthew 10:34-39 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. (35) For I am come to set a man at variance against

his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. (36) And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. (37) He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. (38) And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. (39) He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

Jesus called His disciples to fully surrender their lives to Him. You couldn't be a follower of Christ by night – Jesus never left us that option.

Nicodemus came to Jesus by night, and Jesus told him “you must be born again” (John 3:3). Jesus expects His disciples to follow *Him*. “Whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father which is in Heaven” (Matthew 10:33). But following Jesus has its consequences.

Of the other eleven original disciples – not counting Judas Iscariot - *most* were martyred – brutally killed – for telling the world about Jesus. **Peter** was **crucified**, some say upside down, on a cross. **James, the brother of John** was **killed with a sword** (Acts 12:2). **Andrew** preached the Gospel in Greece, Asia Minor, Thrace, and Scythia. He was **arrested and crucified** then at Patrae in Achaia, I am told on an X-shaped cross. **Philip** died as a **martyr** at Hierapolis. **Nathanael** (also called Bartholomew) preached the Gospel in India, Arabia, and Armenia before he was **martyred**. **Matthew** died as a **martyr** in Ethiopia. **Thomas** was **martyred**. **James the**

Younger was **thrown from the pinnacle of the Temple then stoned to death** by Scribes and Pharisees.

Thaddeus evangelized northern Mesopotamian, along with the Syrians and the Armenians, and was **killed with arrows** at the foot of Mt. Ararat in what is today modern day Turkey. **Paul the Apostle** was **beheaded** in Rome. As far as I can tell all of the Apostles, save **Simon the Zealot** and **John** died cruel martyr's deaths.

The **Apostle John** himself was supposed to die. He was thrown first of all into a pot of boiling oil by the Roman authorities. When that torture didn't produce death John was exiled to Patmos, an Island just 60 miles off the coast of Ephesus. Left on that barren place you would expect John to wail about his suffering. If John were to write a letter back home detailing his experiences on Patmos you would expect that letter to start out with:

**John, abandoned and alone, miserable and suffering.
Wish you were *here* and I was *there*.**

That's not what happened. You see, John loved the Lord Jesus Christ, and this passionate love brought light even into the darkest moment of John's life. **He was able to sing even while on Patmos**. Our text today is a *doxology*, a song of praise unto God.

When you read through the Gospel that John wrote he often referred to himself as “**the disciple whom Jesus loved**”. John is often found clinging to the Lord. As Jesus sat at the Last Supper with His disciples it was John who was “**leaning on Jesus' bosom**” (John 13:23). When Jesus was crucified and hanging from the

Cross ... **Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith ...**

John 19:26-27 unto his mother, **Woman, behold thy son!** (27) Then saith he to the disciple, **Behold thy mother!** And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.

What an honor that must have been to serve the Master as He hung, bleeding and dying, for you and for me!

Look at the empty tomb of Christ. Though Mary Magdalene was the first to arrive at the tomb, it was John who outran Peter to enter the tomb where **“he saw, and believed” (John 20:1-8).**

When Jesus came to the disciples as they fished on the *sea of Tiberius* it was John who first recognized the risen Savior, saying **“it is the Lord” (John 21:3-7).**

John loved the Lord Jesus! He looked for Jesus, he rested in Jesus, he cared for Jesus. *When times were good, John looked to Jesus. When bad things happened to John he looked for Jesus.* This is why John – though he was cast on Patmos to die – did not despair. This is why John could praise the Lord, for he was ever mindful that

FOCAL Revelation 1:5-6 ... **Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, (6) And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.**

Jesus loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father!

1. Sing, Dear One, For Jesus Loves You

FOCAL Revelation 1:5 ... **Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood**

Jesus **loved us**. The word translated **“loved”** in our focal text is the Greek αγαπω (*pronounced ag-ap-ah'-o*), and it is connected to the Greek λουω (*pronounced loo'-o*) or **“washed”**. Both of these words are **Aorist Active Participles**.

One translation of the Scripture renders the text as:

To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood New International

whereas another translation renders it:

To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood New American Std

Jesus Christ loves us. He *loved us freely*. He doesn't love us because we are without sin. He doesn't love us because we are always obedient, or because we follow a set of laws perfectly. Jesus saw us all as sinners, and yet loved us in spite of ourselves. If we were sinless or perfect then He would not have needed to **wash or release us from our sins by His Blood**. The Apostle said in another place:

1 John 4:19 We love him, because He first loved us.

Jesus loved us. Look at the Scripture and tell me how often you see a perfect and sinless person – outside of Christ – coming to Heaven on their own. The thief who hung next to Jesus lived his whole life doing wrong. By his own tongue he admitted that “**we receive the due reward of our deeds**” (Luke 23:41). This man wasted his earthly life, but before he died he repented, saying to Jesus:

Luke 23:42 ... Lord, remember me when thou comest into Thy kingdom.

The thief loved Christ, because Christ first loved him. And what of the disciples? The Bible says that every one of them **went to sleep in the Garden of Gethsemane** when Jesus asked them to stay awake and pray with Him. Later when the soldiers came into that Garden of Pain the Scripture says “**all the disciples forsook Him, and fled**” (Matthew 26:56). Even Peter, standing outside of the illegal courtroom where the Pharisees trumped up charges against Jesus, denied the Lord.

Mark 14:71 {Peter} began to curse and to swear, saying, I know not this man of whom ye speak.

and what of the Pharisee and murderer of Christians called **Saul of Tarsus**? The Bible tells us that Saul stood watching as the Pharisees **stoned righteous Stephen to death** (Acts 7:59-60).

The Scripture says “**Saul was consenting** (συνευδοκεω *pronounced soon-yoo-dok-eh'-o*) **unto his death**” - literally “**Saul applauded Stephen's death**”.

He wasn't just a witness, but he reveled in Stephen's grisly death. Following that death the Bible tells us that:

Acts 8:3 Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering into every house, and {dragging them} men and women {he} committed them to prison.

Jesus loved Saul, and, awakening him to his sinful state on the Damascus Road, Jesus turned Saul to Paul and a sinner into a Son. How amazing that the Lord would love such people as these. But more amazing still that Jesus loves us all!

No matter how deep and crimson your sin, Jesus loves you. The Church is filled with those that Jesus loved.

Ephesians 5:25 ... Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

Jesus loved us in spite of our sins. He loved us freely! He loves us mightily! He loves us completely! He loves us too much to let us wallow in our sin.

2. Sing Praises To Him, For We Are Loosed From Sin

FOCAL Revelation 1:5 ... Unto Him that loved us,

and washed us from our sins in His own blood

Illustrate Three men go to a doctor because they feel a lump in their chest. The doctor biopsies each man's problem, then calls them back into his office the following week. The doctor tells each man, "It appears that this lump is cancerous, but I can remove it all. Let's schedule your surgery".

The first man replies, "Doctor, I've read the book "Surgery for Dummies", and I think I can do the job myself. Let me give it a shot and, if it doesn't work out, I'll be back to see you sometime".

The second man says, "In my opinion I think I can just ignore it, and in time it will go away."

The third man says, "OK Doctor, I'll do what you think is best. Go ahead and do what you've got to do."

Which man will stand a better chance of survival?

This illustration may seem ridiculous, but it's the same way that many people approach their spiritual lives. They ignore their condition, hoping they'll get better. Or else they try and fix the problem themselves.

Jesus loves us, and pours out His love to you and I by offering to wash us from our sins in His own Blood.

He is the only Savior, and the only means of salvation. He took our sins on Himself for the express purpose of **washing us from our sins in His own Blood.** To the man who says "I am a good person. I know that, since I'm good and moral, since I keep the Law of man and avoid the *big sins* that I will be all right in the end." This

is like the man with the lump in his chest who says "I've read **Surgery for Dummies – I can do it myself**". What does God say? **We must be washed – loosed – from our sins in His own Blood.** The Scripture says:

Galatians 3:10-13 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, **Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. (11) But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. (12) And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them. (13) Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:**

Jesus Christ – perfect Man and Infinite God – hung on the Cross to **redeem us from the curse of the Law.** We who belong to Jesus are **not under the Law, but are under Grace.** The Christian, like the third man of our illustration, has said to the Great Physician Jesus "**OK Doctor, I'll do what you think is best. Go ahead and do what you've got to do**". The "**Blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin**" (1 John 1:7). What a great love this is that Jesus has toward us all. He has loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own Blood. Our SINS – PLURAL – no matter what they are, Jesus cleanses us from them.

Can I say this also: Jesus does not wash us *in sin*, but washes us *from sin*. He **washed us – loosed us – from our sins in His own Blood.**

There are some who profess Christ and yet believe that they may freely sin. The Scripture says:

Romans 6:12-15 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. **(13)** Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. **(14)** For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. **(15)** What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

Jesus loves us by **loosing us from our sins**. On the day that a person realizes he is a sinner in need of salvation – and that Christ is the cure – **he calls on the Name of the Lord and is saved**. The word of faith that we preach is

Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

The word rendered “confess” is the Greek (ὁμολογέω *pronounced* hom-ol-og-eh'-o), which means “to say the same thing as another”.

What is salvation? It means “to come into agreement with God”. A person is saved not by their own efforts, but by *saying the same thing that God says*. God says:

We are all sinners (Romans 3:23)

We are unable to save ourselves (Ephesians 2:1)

We need to be made alive and clean (Colossians 2:13)

God must take us to that state (Romans 5:8-10)

When we call upon the Name of the Lord Jesus we are saved. We repent, and turn from being our own god. We repent, and turn to the only solution for sin, the Blood of Jesus Christ.

God, Who looks at the heart, moves on the life of the new believer when he **repents** – changes his mind – and stops trying to be the Lord of his own life. “Repent” (μετανοέω *pronounced* met-an-o-eh'-o) – or “Change your mind”. Let God be God!

Peter preached on the Day of Pentecost:

Acts 2:38-39 ... Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. **(39)** For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

Turn from trying to do it your own way, and turn to Jesus believing. Quit trying to be the Lord of your own life! Turn to Jesus. God, who looks on the heart, moves to bring the New Birth to the repentant soul. You cannot be your own doctor and ask the Great Physician to fix you.

Acts 3:19-20 Repent ye therefore, and be converted,

that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; (20) And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

God moves on the surrendered life, changing it for His glory. What a wonderful truth. The Christian is a changed creature. The Scripture says:

2 Corinthians 5:17-18 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (18) And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

The believer is **reconciled to God**. He is changed. His *want to's are changed*. His position is changed. His state of being is changed. He is a **new creature**.

Before salvation a person doesn't *want to* go to Church. After salvation we don't go to Church because we have to, but because we *want to*. Before salvation we don't *want to* serve the Lord, but now we want to. **He hath loosed us from our sins** so that we can serve Him. C.H. Spurgeon rightly said:

“Every ability and possibility, every growth and progress made in knowledge and learning, must be laid at Jesus' feet. Say “To Him be glory and dominion” and then make a full surrender of yourself to His sway. So many in these days seem only to want the salvation of Christ without the Christ Who gives

the salvation. Both go together. He must be the Lord of the forgiven soul. He only washes those who will enter His Kingdom, and come under His government.”

What did Paul and Silas tell the Philippian jailer?

Acts 16:31 Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

The Doctor has said I'm sick. I'm going to give my life to Him and Him alone!

3. Sing Praises To Him, For We Have A Great Salvation!

FOCAL Revelation 1:5-6 ... Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, (6) And hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father; to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Abandoned by man on Patmos, John nevertheless sang praises to the Lord knowing that **he was loved, he was washed from his sins, and that he – along with all believers – made kings and priests unto God.**

A Christian is not a peasant. Whether you have riches in this life or not, you are all nonetheless:

Galatians 3:26 ... the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

and as Children of God two things are true whether you realize it or not. You are **kings and priests unto God and His Father**. You are **kings unto God**. You are not kings *above* God, or kings *instead of* God, but you are kings *unto* God. The children of the King are kings themselves. We are not to be defeated by the peasant forces of Satan. We who are His belong to God. He is ours and we are His. Would any parent worth the name abandon a child in trouble? Then God, Who is a Perfect Father, will never abandon His children. Cast out to die on Patmos John did not whine and cry, but looked for Jesus. John was on Patmos for God's reason, not for some pagan emperor's reason. **Jesus loved you, and washed you from your sins in His own Blood** so that He could **bring many sons unto glory (Hebrews 2:10)**. Walk as kings, not as peasants. You are kings under the care of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords if you are born into His Kingdom by faith. Let your faith be certain! God did not raise you up from spiritual death to abandon you. You are kings – walk in this life as kings.

But you are also **priests unto God**. The priest interceded for others. As priests, you have immediate and constant contact with the Lord Who saved you. As priests you have an obligation to tell others about Jesus Christ.

You are in the family by faith – you are kings. You have access to the Father by faith – you are priests. **Walk worthy of the profession into which God has called you (Ephesians 4:1-3)**. You are kings whether it be dark or light. You are priests on the mountaintop or in the valley. **He has made you so, if you are**

truly born again!

He has made US kings and priests – together – for His glory. Do you glorify your Lord? Give Him glory, Beloved of God, for what He has given you. Sing praises to Him! If you are saved then you can sing along with other saints:

**Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine!
Oh What A Foretaste Of Glory Divine!
Heir of Salvation, Purchase of God!
Born of His Spirit, Washed In His Blood!**

Are you saved? If not, surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ today. Don't delay. Remember that ...

Romans 10:11-13 ... Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. (12) For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. (13) For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

The Lord is watching you, waiting for you to call upon His Name and be saved.

May God touch your hearts with His Word!

FOCAL Revelation 1:5-6 ... Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, (6) And hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father; to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Job 5:7; Matthew 27:9; Matthew 27:5; Galatians 6:7; Matthew 10:34-39; Acts 12:2; John 13:23; John 19:26-27; John 20:1-8; John 21:3-7; Revelation 1:5-6

Sometimes we bring trials on ourselves by _____
_____ There there are the
times when trials come our way because _____

1. Sing, Dear One, For Jesus Loves You

Jesus loved us. The word translated “loved” is the Greek αγαπω (*pronounced* ag-ap-ah'-o), and it is connected to the Greek λουω (*pronounced* loo'-o) or “washed”. _____

1 John 4:19; Luke 23:41; Luke 23:42; Matthew 26:56; Mark 14:71; Acts 7:59-60; Acts 8:3; Ephesians 5:25

Jesus loved us _____. He loved us freely! He loves us mightily! He loves us completely! He loves us too much _____

2. Sing Praises To Him, For We Are Loosed From Sin

Galatians 3:10-13; Romans 6:12-15; Romans 10:9; Acts 2:38-39; Acts 3:19-20; 2 Corinthians 5:17-18

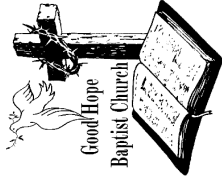
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Galatians 3:26; Ephesians 4:1-3; Romans 10:11-13



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