**R840 Rumination for 28 Feb. 2021 by K.C. Ung**

The **T**heme: **God’s Agape Love** **(Pt. 2)** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com)

The **T**ext: *God is love* [Agape] I Jn. 4:8b

The **T**hots:

Last Lord’s Day’s meditation **F**ocused **F**ully on Divine (*Agape*) Love, i.e., God’s **S**elf-emptying **S**acrificial Love.

The **S**tandard Text used to discuss this Love was taken from…

**John 3:16**

***For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son,***

***that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.***

**R**ecapitulation:

***For* C**onnectsGod’s Divine **Love** (in 3:16) to the **S**tory of the **S**erpent on the **C**ross in Jn. 3:14

***God*** The **C**reator, the **S**elf-existing **G**od, the **G**reat **I AM…**

***So*** i.e.“***I****n this manner...* ***in*** *the way described*" as in Jn. 3:14. Thayer

***Loved*** It is *agapaō –* a **S**elf-emptying **S**elf-**S**acrificing Love. Phil. 2:7-8, HSCB

***the world*** God Loved the **S**inners in the World:**Jn. 3:17**

***That He gave*** In Love for these **S**inners***,*** God **S**acrificed His **S**on to die in their **S**tead. Rom. 5:6, 8, 10

**R**eflection for today (Cont’d)

***His Only***

***Begotten Son*** *Monogenēs* [begotten] is**not** *only* or *one and only* [as in many modern translations].

 [See A Word for the Day by J.D. Watson]

* It is a compound from *mono* = only, alone, without others, and *genos* = offspring, stock.

Thus = only offspring or only born one – Jesus is **not** the only Son of God

* Cf. Rom. 8:29 - *For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed*

*to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brethren.*

* Cf. Heb. 2:10, 11 - *For it became Him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things,*

*in bringing many sons unto glory…For both He that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause He is not ashamed to call them brethren.*

* Cf. I Jn. 3:1 - *Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us,*

*that we should be called the sons of God…*

* However, Jesus is ***the uniquely begotten One*** cf. Jn. 11:14, 18; 3:18; I Jn. 4:9
* Jesus was **C**onceived of the Holy Spirit to be ***B****egotten* of a Virgin later - Mt. 1:18

*Now the* ***B****irth of Jesus Christ was on this wise…she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.*

…*for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.* Mt. 1:20

* Whereas a **C**hristian is first **C**onceived in and **B**orn of a Woman

to **B**e **B**egotten by the Spirit when he is **B**orn again later!

* *Jesus answered…Except a man be* ***B****orn again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.* Jn. 3:3

*Jesus answered…Except a man be* ***B****orn of water and of the Spirit,*

*he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.* Jn. 3:5

* ***B****lessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ*…[Who] *hath* ***B****egotten us*

*again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead*. I Pet. 1:3

* ***B****eing* ***B****orn again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God,*

*which liveth and abideth for ever.* I Pet. 1:23

***That whosoever*** Whosoever will **C**ome to Him will not be **C**ast out. ***Jn. 6:37***

 *And the Spirit and the bride say, Come.* Rev. 22:17

 *And let him that heareth say, Come.*

 *And let him that is athirst Come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*

***Believeth in Him*** To believe is to **C**onfess Him as Lord, Rom.10:9, HCSB

 *If you* ***C****onfess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart*

 *that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*

* + - In Faith, believe His **P**erson and **P**recepts, and show **P**roofs of this in their **P**erformance.

***Should not perish*** *My sheep…follow Me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish,*

 *neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand.* Jn. 10:27-28

***but have*** It is a **P**resent **P**ossession. I Jn. 5:12

 *He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*

***everlasting life.*** It is a **P**resent **P**ossession with a future **P**rospect.cf. Jn. 10:10

*I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

*For God so loved the world, I find it written In verse sixteen, John's Gospel chapter three*

*He gave His Son who was for sinners smitten, When nailed upon the cross at Calvary*

*Such wondrous love it passes human knowledge For Jesus died that we might ever live*

*Eternal Life, so none need ever perish This Life to all believing souls*

*He now will give.*

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 840**

1. “*For God so* ***loved*** *the world*” – His Love is Self-Emptying and Self-Sacrificial, a love where God *Gave His Only Begotten Son,* Jesus Christ*, Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be used for His own advantage. Instead He emptied Himself by assuming the form of a slave, taking on the likeness of men. And when He had come as a man in His external form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death— even to death on a cross.* Phil. 2:6-8 (HCSB)

Can anyone ever fathom or comprehend that love completely?

Paul prays for the believers in the church at Ephesus that they *may be able to comprehend with all saints what is* ***the breadth, and length, and depth, and height***[of Divine Love]

*And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God*. (Eph. 3:18-19)

He also shared with the Christians in the Church at Rome his personal persuasion and conviction concerning this Intensive, Infinite and Incomprehensible Love of God and the Love of Jesus Christ, as follows:

*I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,* ***Nor height, nor depth****, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.* (Rom. 8:38-39)

What then is ***the breath, length, depth, height*** of Divine Love?

 JD Warden in his book A Word For The Day defines each as follows:

 **The Breath of Divine Love** –

*This is platos <G4114>, which is used figuratively here (and in Rev. 20:9) to mean the great expanses of the earth, so the breadth of Christ's love shows the extent of His love, just how all-encompassing it is.* [Cf. Eph. 2:11-18; Rev. 5:9]

**The Length of Divine Love** –

*The Greek is mēkos <G3372>, which simply speaks of length and here pictures the duration of Christ's love; that is, it shows that His love is eternal.* *The love of Christ for us spans eternity past and eternity future. Ephesians 1:4, for example, declares that God loved us in eternity past, and 2:4 and 7 tell us of his love in eternity future. What a beautiful thought God conveyed to Jeremiah the prophet: "Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love" (Jer. 31:3).*

**The Depth of Divine Love** –

*Depths" translates bathos <G899>, from which is derived such English words as bath and bathysphere. It is used in its literal sense in the Parable of the Sower, where some of the seed "fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth" (Matt. 13:5). Used metaphorically, however, as it is here, it refers to greatness, immensity, profoundness, inscrutability, and abstruseness.* [Also see Eph. 3:18]

**The Height of Divine Love –**

*The Greek hupsos <G5311> figuratively means elevation and dignity. This word appears, for example, in James 1:9-10…The height of Christ's love, then, shows the position to which believers have been elevated; that is, it shows God's ultimate and final purpose for us. How blessed that is! Not only has Christ's love come down to us, but it also elevates us to a new and exalted position.*

Can you ever comprehend the four-dimensional love of God for you? **REFLECT**.

1. Yesterday, **27th February, 2021** was the **16th Anniversary** of Ruminations. The first rumination appeared on 27th February, 2005. It is attached herewith for those who were with us from the beginning as a reminder, and for those who joined later to understand the original purpose of these ruminations. Please **R**efer to it below and… **REFLECT**

**Points To Ponder:** *A* ***C****ow* ***G****razes the* ***G****rass,* ***C****hews the* ***C****ud before it* ***F****inally* ***S****wallows its* ***F****ood to* ***D****igest it. May the* ***C****hristian* ***R****ead,* ***R****eflect and* ***Ruminate*** *on the Word to* ***R****emind him of the Lord so as to* ***R****emember and* ***R****evere Him each Lord’s* ***D****ay at His* ***S****upper.*

**Ruminations for the Remembrance of the Lord**

        The ruminations are to prepare you for the Remembrance Feast. Each one will take the form of a short Biblical link or outline to lead you to meditate and ruminate on thoughts that will focus on the remembrance of the Lord as He commanded when He instituted the Lord's Supper - " *this do in remembrance of Me.* " (I Cor. 11:24, 25). Often believers find this difficult – either they allow their thoughts to stray because of “***empty minds***” resulting in “***empty hands***” that cannot **R**emember and **R**evere because of “***empty hearts***” which are not prepared, hence, the "***silence of emptiness***" at many a Remembrance Feast in many assemblies.

One condition in approaching the Lord is “*they shall not appear before the LORD empty, every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD thy God which he hath given thee.*” (Deut. 16:16, 17).

Note: 1. The **P**recondition - *they shall not appear before the LORD empty*

 2. The **P**rerequisite – every *man shall give as he is able*

 3. The **P**reparation - *according to the blessing of the LORD thy God which he hath given* *thee*

The Ruminations are Bible texts that will lead you to the Remembrance of the Lord. Few thoughts are given with the texts. It is expected that with further meditation on these texts, your spirit will be in tune with the Spirit Who will expand these thoughts further to lead you to Remember the Lord and Revere Him.

How to use these Ruminations:

Before attending the Lord’s Supper, prepare your mind, heart and spirit. Spend a time of self-examination before the Lord (I Cor. 11:28). Then refer to the outlined rumination and further meditate on it seeking the Spirit’s help to expand the outline further with thoughts that are focused on the Lord.

Then go to the Lord’s Supper.

During the service, pay attention to the words of the hymns sung, listen carefully to the sentiments expressed in the prayer and praise of each participant, and refer to any Bible passage reading when called upon to do so. Should any of the thoughts so expressed be in line with what you have been meditating seek to connect these thoughts with what you have been ruminating and recall your ruminations to further express or join the others to lead them into a further expansion of what the whole congregation is meditating upon, keeping in mind all the time the purpose of the gathering to remember the Lord.

On the other hand, if the thoughts of the congregation do not seem to link up with your ruminations, do not insist on using them, but follow what the Spirit is leading the congregation to focus their thoughts upon, and *think on these things* (Phil 4:8) as the Spirit leads you to do so.

Your ruminations are still good because they have benefited you personally in your preparation. You can keep them to yourself and *edify yourself*. This is not the time to *edify the church*. (I Cor.14:4). Do not insist on using them publicly.

To help you in your preparation, these Ruminations will be posted every Thursday (to also help those who observe the Lord’s Supper on Friday in the Malay States in Malaysia) so that you can prepare yourself for the Lord's Supper on the Lord's Day. May this weekly feature make the Lord’s Supper a time of meaningful remembrance of the Lord for you.

As a side benefit, these ruminations can also be basic outline studies to help you prepare any sermonettes that you are called upon to deliver or share from time to time.

**1. Rumination for February 27, 2005**

The **T**heme: ***Remember ME***

The **T**ext: *this do in remembrance of Me.* **I Cor. 11:24, 25**

The **T**hots:

A. The Lord commanded I Cor. 11:24, 25

1. *Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in* ***remembrance of Me****.*

*2. This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in* ***remembrance of Me****.*

B. Joseph, a picture of the Lord, requested the chief butler:

 ***Think on me*** *when it shall be well with thee.* Gen. 40:14

C. Sadly that was not to be.

 *Yet did not the chief butler* ***remember*** *Joseph, but* ***forgot*** *him*. Gen. 40:23

App. Is it possible that while I am at this Remembrance Feast instituted by the Lord Himself to remember Him, that I forget Him and think of other things else?

*King of my life I crown Thee now – Thine shall the glory be;*

*Lest I forget Thine thorn-crowned brow, Lead me to Calvary.*

*Lest I forget Gethsemane, Lest I forget Thine agony.*

*Lest I forget Thy love for me, Lead me to Calvary.*