

# The Baptist Defence

First Baptist Church - Hill & Broadway Sts. - Harrison, Ohio 45030 - (513) 367-6713  
*Acts 22:1 - Hear ye my defence . . .*

Pastor Dr. Ronnie Wolfe

First Baptist Church

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## God's Love And Our Debt To Him



*Dr. Ronnie Wolfe*

### The Necessity Of God's Love

Much is said about love today. Since I was a child I have heard many sermons, read many poems, and heard many songs about love. Most of us are aware that the love we have heard from poems and songs is not the kind of love that is taught in the Bible. God's love is so superior to ours that no comparison can be made between his love and ours.

It is not the nature of man to love God, but it is in the nature of God to love men (people). I John 4:7 tells us that ". . . love is of God; and everyone that loveth is born of God." The necessity is that God love us first, since we shall never love him unless he first loves us: 1 John 4:19 *We love him, because he first loved us.*

Man's nature is such that he will resist even God's revelation of

himself in nature. He will turn from the righteousness of God and become vain in his imagination: Rom. 1:21 *Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*

So the necessity is for God to do something for us, since we cannot do these needed things ourselves. God's mercy is wonderful: Eph. 2:4-6 *But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:*

### The Comfort Of God's Love

The manner of love that God has bestowed upon us is an amazing love. We read in 1 John 3:1 *Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.*

When I first left home at the age of seventeen, I lived in a room that

was in a house where some other men lived. One day a man from downstairs came up the stairs to my room and told me that he was my father. This surprised and shocked me, even though I knew this probably was not the truth. It also disappointed me, because I loved my father. I did not want this man to be my father. It was finally learned that this man had a mental disease and thought he was one person, then another. Once he thought he was Jesus Christ.

To be this man's son was a great disappointment to me; but when God became my father and he pronounced that I was his son, this was the greatest thing that has ever happened to me. He is the God of all comfort (2 Cor. 1:3), and this love comes directly from his love for us.

### The Priority Of God's Love

The love of our fellowman is wonderful, and it is needed in our society, but the love of God has top priority to us who are his children.

The love of God prompts us to do his commandments: John 14:15 *If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

We are to abide in his love, and this will encourage our hearts to remain faithful to him. John 15:10 *If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.*

*(Continued on page 2)*

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His love is a “great love” toward us, and each believer should daily be both surprised and comforted by his love and the joy and assurance that comes with that love.

### **Our Great Debt Because Of His Love**

Due to the fact that God loves us with an amazing love and that he loves us because he desires to do so, we should realize that we owe a great debt to him.

#### A Debt Of Gratitude

2 Cor. 4:15 *For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.*

Because of God’s great grace, each one of us should give continual thanks to him and be grateful for that grace that saved our souls and brought us into fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

How many days go by without our being thankful to God for the great work that God has done in our hearts? We owe, at the least, a gratitude toward him for that grace that brought us out of sin and into his kingdom.

#### A Debt Of Service

Rom. 12:1 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

Why do we think so much of the world when we have service to accomplish for our Savior? Why do we love the world and the things of the world when we have a God and a Savior who loves us?

Remember this wonderful

verse: 1Jo 5:3 *For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.* We should love the work of God. Because he worked grace in us, we should work out our salvation for him, working out that which he has already worked in us: Phil. 2:12 *Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.*

Those who will not serve the Lord should search their hearts to see whether they be in the faith (2 Cor. 13:5). This may seem to be a harsh statement, but it is a true one. We are living in a time when the

**Are we willing to venture our diligence to seek the Lord’s coming? Are we ready for his return?**

soldiers of Christ should stand tall and be ready to serve the Lord: Psalm 100:2 *Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.*

#### A Debt Of Diligence

To be diligent means to be watchful. Many commands are given in the New Testament for the Christian to be watchful.

We are to watch in order that we do not fall into temptation: Matt. 26:41 *Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*

We are also to watch for the coming of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, for his coming is imminent: Mt 24:42 *Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.*

Will it not be wonderful when

our Lord comes? But we are to live and be faithful to him while we are here, while it is yet day, even as our Lord said: John 9:4 *I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.*

Can we see the signs of the time? Are we willing to venture our diligence to seek the Lord’s coming? Are we ready for his return? What a wonderful time it will be when he returns to give us our inheritance and to receive our crowns for himself, for he is worthy!

#### A Debt Of Praise

Time and space will not render itself to our giving the many passages that are available on the subject of praise. It is the opinion of this author that many have a complacent attitude toward God, because they do not praise him enough.

We can praise him in our personal devotions. We can praise him in our worship in the Lord’s church. We can praise him with our service. We can praise him by appreciating his creation and caring for it. We can praise him by standing for what is right and by being a witness of God’s saving grace through the redemption that is in Jesus Christ.

### **Conclusion**

God loves us first; therefore, we love him. His love is an amazing and an enduring love. He shall never leave us nor forsake us (Heb. 13:5).

Therefore, we owe God a debt that we can never pay but one that we should constantly endeavor to pay. Remember that in the end it is our love by which God measures our service: Rom. 13:8 *Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.* Ω

# Search The Words

By Pastor Ronnie Wolfe - Based on Matthew 23:1-12

A G B I C S E R V A N T Z O P S R  
 F A T H E R X A Z V M A S T E R S  
 Q O W P N B A B R F J M O B E W X  
 A D A L K D L B O B I I S U Z P O  
 S B O H G P T I O K Q N R R I S V  
 I D A O R T Y F M M S U G D D H Y  
 T U B S R O T S S J I M P E W M C  
 P R O B E O O R P D J B K N R E F  
 Q P R D K D O O S F D L E S U S O  
 I M S G N I T E E R G E M S C O O  
 I Y S E I R E T C A L Y H P W P A  
 J R T P W O D K J A B N X M Q O R

BURDENS  
 FINGERS  
 PHYLACTERIES  
 ROOMS  
 GREETINGS  
 RABBI  
 FATHER

MASTERS  
 SERVANT  
 EXALT  
 ABASED  
 HUMBLE

## Color Ruth



So she kept fast by the maidens of Boaz to glean unto the end of barley harvest and of wheat harvest; and dwelt with her mother in law. *Ruth 2:23*

# God's Amazing Love

By Pastor Ronnie Wolfe

The love of God is so Supreme  
 That voices cannot tell  
 What sway it has on each new heart  
 Whose soul is saved from Hell.

This love has captured each new man  
 And set his heart apart  
 From sin and death and this old world;  
 And dwells in each new heart.

Amazing as it seems to be  
 And wonder that it is,  
 God's love has changed this sinful heart  
 And made this sinner his.

Persuaded by this love divine,  
 I'll stand with Christ alone  
 And praise him with my every breath,  
 Await my journey home.

Come life or death I pray to him  
 That he will give me strength  
 To witness of him day by day  
 And speak of him at length.

Amazing love constrains me now  
 To rich diurnal rest  
 And with a strength that is not mine  
 I work to do my best.

With Bible in my hand I go  
 To pray at Jesus' feet,  
 Disdain my love to honor his  
 To make my life complete.

His love has raised my hands to work,  
 My eyes to see his worth,  
 My feet to walk the upright way,  
 To follow him on earth.

Then love will lead me all the way  
 To Heaven's glorious shore,  
 Where I will with him ever be  
 And weep and work no more.

So with my hope assured in him,  
 My eyes to Heaven gazing,  
 I think the word for his great love  
 Is nothing but Amazing.

Put your faith in this great God,  
 His Son your Savior be,  
 And you will have amazing love.  
 Trust him. You will see!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Creation Sunday

February 15, 2009

While the world is celebrating the birthday of Charles Darwin, we shall be celebrating God's wonderful creation of this world.

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## 61st Anniversary & Revival

March 22-25, 2009

We shall enjoy good fellowship on this special day and pray for revival in our extended services through Wednesday

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## Blue Grass Boys Reunion

August 3, 2009

A great time of fellowship and singing with the Blue Grass Boys  
Don't Miss This!

## The Change That We Need

The change that we need in our country is not in a new government or in a new leader. The change we need in our country is a change in the hearts of people.

*2 Cor. 3:3 Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.* In order for our hearts to be this kind of heart, they must be changed by the grace of God. He can and will through faith in Jesus Christ make our old hearts of stone to be hearts of flesh wherein he can mold and make us malleable for himself to use in his service.

The fact that he would change our hearts is prophesied in the Old Testament in Ezekiel 11:19 *And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh:*

This must be done by God's grace. Notice Ro 10:10 *For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

Can you believe in Jesus' death, burial and resurrection today?

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