

The Costliness and Blessed Self-Hiding of the Love of Christ

by John Nelson Darby

The love of Christ is a blessed and beautiful thing that delights in the sinner and gives them glory, and is more precious than its manifestation.

Scripture: Luke 15:20, John 17:23

Topics: "The Father's Love", "The Love of Christ"

Description

John Nelson Darby emphasizes the profound nature of Christ's love, highlighting that while the manifestation of His love is precious, the source of that love--the Father's love--is even more blessed. He illustrates this through the prayer of Jesus in John 17:23, where the glory given to the Church is a testament to the Father's love rather than a direct reflection of Christ's love for her. Darby further explains that the honor bestowed upon the Church is not tied to her sinfulness but rather to the Father's delight in her, akin to the parable of the prodigal son in Luke 15. The sermon invites believers to understand the depth and costliness of Christ's love, which ultimately leads to a greater appreciation of the Father's love and glory. This love is both touching and considerate, encouraging the Church to delight in Christ.

Transcript

(Words in Season, Vol. 4, 1890, page 36.)

The source of the glory which will be displayed is more blessed than the manifestation of it. It is blessed to be manifested in favour. Why? Because the favour of the person is precious to me. In John 17:23, the Lord prays "that the world may know that Thou hast loved them as Thou hast loved Me," while the Lord has obtained all the glory for us; yet when He comes to give His Bride her glory, He does not say it is a proof that He has loved her, but, in the blessed self-hiding of love, He says it is the Father's love. This is exceedingly blessed and beautiful. The Lord gives witness before the world, not that He loves her, for that was strewn in the necessity of her sinfulness (there is nothing more precious than the love between the Church and Himself), but to the world He exhibits the Church as loved by the Father which gives it honour, not in connection with sin and shame.

We see the same principle in Luke 15. However touching that love may be between the ruined sinner and the Father, which causes Him to fall on his neck and kiss him, yet before the servants He takes him home in honour, with the best robe on, and the ring on his hand. We have to know the depths of the love of

Christ in meeting the sinner. This brings out the costliness of the love; but there is something besides this: when He loves the Church before the world, it is the Father's giving her glory and taking delight in her. The love of Christ is perfectly blessed and touching, and considerate towards us; there the heart's affections learn to delight in Him.

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