

# THE DEPTHS OF GOD'S LOVE

By Pastor Greg Hooker

*"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (II Corinthians 5:21).*

It just occurred to me today (it does happen on occasions), God loves me unconditionally – even when I'm at my worst and utterly unlovable! In spite of my sins, shortcomings and slip ups, the Father loves me without reservation. So much so, that he allowed his Son to be stripped, bound, beaten, nailed, raised, stabbed and humiliated before an insatiable crowd.

In addition to the physical humiliation of his Son, God the Father beheld the unseen forces of pure, unadulterated evil pouring from the belly of hell and converging upon the hills of Jerusalem. Like voracious dogs fighting for the prize of the kill, disfigured demons hungered for God's Son. No doubt, Satan and his vile companions danced and paraded around the Son of God in jubilation creating a vile euphoria of unparalleled report. Evil and wickedness ran like swollen-rain driven streams generating a deluge of sin and malcontent.

And if that were not enough, God reached down through this caldron of filth and iniquity to his fallen creation perpetuating an episode even more astonishing – the Father's loving arms transferred OUR SINS upon his Son as he was suspended in humiliation between heaven and earth! Jesus Christ BECAME sin for us, "who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him!"

WOW!...what wonderful and boundless love of the Father! Listen to me folks, God loves you unconditionally apart from anything you or I can possibly do or not do. Long before we were born, our sins were placed upon the Son of God and followed him to a death he didn't deserve. A payment of infinite proportions was met by Jesus Christ! Why...because of LOVE!

Have you acknowledged and received that love? Have you placed faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? Don't put it off any longer, simply admit you are a sinner, believe that Jesus died and paid for your sins, and ask him to come into your life and be your Lord and Savior. "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" – that's God's personal guarantee!

Dear Lord, what glorious love you bestowed upon us through the sacrificial and atoning death of your precious son! Thank you for giving us eternal life through simple, child-like faith in Him. Right now, someone may be reading this devotion and contemplating receiving Christ as their Lord and Savior. Give them the courage and strength to overcome the powers of Satan encamping round about them. Holy Spirit, hold back anything that would hinder or keep that person from placing faith in Jesus.

In Jesus name, your son, Pastor Greg – Amen.