



News and Views

The official Newsletter for the Wilson SDA Church

February 1, 2018

Volume 25 Issue 2

The Father's Love

By Pastor Tom

Woven within the fabric of the human nature is found the innate expectation of consequence and reward. From a young age, we begin to grow accustomed to the fact that we reap what we sow. When we work hard, we expect positive results and due payment. When we perform poorly, while we may not like it, we expect corresponding results. When we perform a favor, we typically anticipate a reward of some kind, even if it's a simple thank you. If we have wronged someone else and an apology is offered, we anticipate that it will be well received and forgiveness will be extended. In our relationships with one another our love, appreciation, respect, and friendship are often based on the behavior of others. We tend to love the lovable.

This logic and belief has in many ways rolled into the realms of spirituality, prescribing these attributes to the Almighty God of heaven. Do our actions ultimately determine how much or how little God loves us? If you are bad, does His love diminish; if good, then does His love for you grow? Similarly, this line of reason can lead us to believe that in order to be found worthy of receiving the ultimate gift of salvation, we must be able to keep the letter of the law, and when failure becomes a reality, a very high price must be

paid in order to appease an angry, vengeful God.

Thankfully God's Word tells us the truth about the love of the Father. 1 John 4:8 tells us very plainly that "God is love", and then further more, Romans 5:8 says, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." When we understand the severity of sin, and the utter hopelessness of fallen humanity, we begin to comprehend the incredible gift of Christ. Through Christ's death in our place, we can be saved through His shed blood! It's incredible to think that God, who is all knowing, is also all loving. I am so thankful to know that there is absolutely nothing that I can do to cause God to love me any more or any less. His love is unconditionally perfect. He loves me! He wants what is best for me, and He has held nothing back.

It is this understanding that begins to change the old, callused, sinful heart, and draws humanity to their Maker. It is through this knowledge that the Law of God takes on new light. The Commandments are no longer seen as a list of 10 requirements, but rather 10 promises. God has promised in Jeremiah 31:33, "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts." This brings true joy, happiness, and most of all, love. Love for God and man. In Mark 12:30, 31, the Bible says; "And you shall love the Lord

your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Furthermore, John 13:34,35 says; "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

I am so thankful for the Father's love! May our love for God and those around us continue to grow stronger with each new day, that the world would be drawn to Him as the Father's love is seen in each one of our lives.

"Enoch walked with God. He honored God in every affair of life. In his home and in his business he inquired, "Will this be acceptable to the Lord?" And by remembering God and following His counsel, he was transformed in character, and became a holy man, whose ways pleased the Lord. A man is estimated at his true value by the Lord of heaven. If he is unkind in his earthly home, he is unfit for the heavenly home. If he will have his own way, no matter whom it grieves, he would not be content in heaven, unless he could rule there. The love of Christ must control our hearts. " My Life Today p. 98



Rose Ernest 4
Tom Champion 5
Morgan Priser 6
Hannah Miller 6
Jon Brusio 9
Betty Wery 9
Dana Zinke 19
Cindy Berger 28

Was it Love at First Sight?

By Betty Wery

When I read the story of Rebekah and Isaac in the book of Genesis, I found it to be a beautiful love story.

When Isaac was forty years old, he lost his mother. His father, Abraham, who was around 140 years old at the time, was growing feeble and had a sense of urgency in finding a wife for his son. He gave the responsibility to Eliezer, his faithful servant, and reminded him that an angel would accompany him - that he would, with God's help, pick out a suitable wife for Abraham's son, Isaac.

When Eliezer came to the town of Nahor with his camels, which were loaded with gifts, he tested God by praying that the girl who would be the one he would choose to be Isaac's wife would offer him a drink and also water the camels. When the girl, Rebekah, appeared, she not only offered Eliezer water but also watered his ten thirsty camels. By this he knew God had answered his prayer.

He then met with Rebekah's parents and told them of his mission. It would be Rebekah's choice to go with Eliezer if this was what she wanted to do. She didn't hesitate because she knew this was what God also

wanted by what had already taken place.

I can imagine that her travel of some five hundred miles over dusty trails gave her time to think about the man she would soon marry, someone she had never seen or talked to. But she had courage and her maturity showed that she had no doubt that Isaac would be the one for her.

On the evening that Rebekah arrived, Isaac was in the fields meditating. I'm sure his prayer was for blessings on the new home that was about to be established. When he spotted Rebekah, he saw her jump down off the camel and cover her face. Even though they were strangers to each other, both knew that God was leading in their lives.

She found Isaac to be a very well-mannered and mild person and fell in love with him, and of course, Rebekah won the heart of Isaac with her modest and meek personality, her kindness, and also her graciousness. Was it love at first sight? I would like to think so. God was involved in this union in a very direct manner, and there is no record of Isaac having another wife.

In this day and age we would say, "Theirs was a match made in heaven." Do you recall how God led you to your spouse? How many of you have found blessings in the person you chose? For those who are contemplating marriage, think of ways you can cooperate with God in leading you to make the right choice.

February 14 is Valentine's Day. Show how much you care about the one who is special to you. Say it with flowers, candy, small tokens of appreciation - but mostly, say it with love.

Church Plans

Sunday evening the church met in business session to discuss several options regarding the church plans. The pastor opened with a devotional stressing the need for the membership to express their ideas opening but to have a spirit of unity when the decision have been voted upon. It is important for the community to see that we are a people who love each other and the message that we have for the community and the world. Two elders and the pastor prayed for the Spirit of God to be with us to help us to work together with a spirit of cooperation and humbleness.

The pastor then presented four different floor plans for the platform area. Plan A would be to have the platform area eighteen inches high with three steps leading up to the platform. Plan B would be the same except that there would be an entrance into the east side room at floor level and steps leading up from it into the baptismary area. Plan C had the platform at 24 inches. This would mean a longer ramp which would take out some seating up near the piano. Plan D had the platform at 24 inches with a lift behind the piano that would enable handicapped people who couldn't go up the steps to be elevated to the platform height.

The pastor opened the floor for discussion. A number stepped forward to suggest different configurations for the rooms to the right and left of the platform. The ideas centered around the idea of having the people who were going to be going out onto the platform to have ground level entrance to the room beyond the organ. This discussion went on for more than an hour.

The pastor then presented the

concept of the steeple. One was the pointed steeple that the architects had drawn onto the building. A second was an open bell tower with the option of electronic bells. A third was louvered bell tower with electronic bells. A fourth was no tower on the roof at all. Then the floor was open for discussion. There were some who wanted it and some who did not want it and some who felt that there really was no need for a structure as it would serve no purpose.

Then the pastor presented the pictures of the church with dormers and without dormers. There was discussion on the appearance of the inside ceiling area. Some were concerned about leakage around the dormers. Some were concerned about the plainness of the ceiling area. There were pictures of the church without dormers and with dormers.

The pastor opened the discussion about the window behind the baptistery. Should it be shortened so that there was not as much glare behind the speaker on the platform or should it be left as the architects designed it. There were just a few comments about the back-lighting concerns and perhaps the stained-glass being used there. The pastor said that the idea of the special glass could be brought to the architects.

The last item to be discussed was the idea of putting a wall behind the baptistery so that people could move freely between the two changing rooms without being seen. The idea of having a system that would enable drapes to be pulled across behind the baptistery was presented.

At about 10:30, the pastor had pens and pencils and a ballot passed out to every church member. There were five items on the paper with multiple choices for

each item. This is the result of the secret ballots.

1. Plan A for the platform areas was accepted. You can see the design on the floor plan attached.
2. There will be no steeple or bell tower.
3. There will be dormers.
4. The window up front will remain the same as designed by the architects.
5. There will be a drape system set up behind the baptistery

The pastor closed the meeting with prayer, and I believe that the membership went home feeling that whatever the results were of the ballots, we would all be happy to have a new church to meet in and worship God as the close family that we are. We are all anxious to see the plans move forward and construction start as soon as possible.

Attached you will find two drawings as depicted by the architects. One shows the floor plans of the church and Sabbath School rooms. The others shows a 3-D view of the church from up above the church. This church will be a wonderful place for our church family to come and worship and a light in our community.

Church Board Actions

In the latest board meeting, a number of items were discussed and voted on. Voted to purchase an Automated External Defibrillator which is used in cases of life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias which can lead to cardiac arrest, which is not the same as a heart attack.

It was voted to purchase a new sound system for the school. A

vote was taken to purchase the parcel of land from Steve and Debbie Wery for the church.

It was voted to pursue fundraising projects for extra items that might be needed for the new church complex.

It was voted to pay for a dumpster for cardboard for the Escanaba Food pantry for three months.

It was voted to let the Pathfinders sell Dobber's Pastries and Saykly's Easter Eggs for fundraising.

Creeping into Adventism

At Sabbath School, Calvin presented some startling developments that have arisen without the SDA church. The article that he shared can be found on the website. Type this in.

<http://www.fulcrum7.com/blog/2018/1/4/they-crept-in-unawares?rq=They%20crept%20in%20unawares>

Some examples of what is happening in our churches in the North American Division are given in this article along with supporting documentation. Here are just a few examples.

A professor at La Sierra University declares his disbelief in a literal understanding of the Biblical creation story in Genesis.

2014 A retired Adventist professor and college president publicly embraces the practice of homosexuality within the church.

Sept. 2015 Pacific Union Conference formally rejects the action of the 2015 General Conference session regarding women's ordination, vowing to go forward with its unapproved ordination policy.

There are many more listed and there is a part two. You may want to study this yourself.