**God Loves You He Really Does**

**By Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Isaiah 41:9-10**

**Sunday Morning**

**March 1, 2020**

**Isaiah 41:9-10**

9 You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, And called from its farthest regions, And said to you, 'You are My servant, I have chosen you and have not cast you away: 10 Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

**At low points in our lives, we may be tempted to believe that we don’t really matter to God**

Saints, the hardships, difficulties, and suffering we experience may seem like evidence that the Lord doesn’t care, but this is not true. Some of the greatest saints in Christian history have endured unimaginable suffering without doubting God’s love for them.

**1 Peter 5:6-7**

6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

Although the Lord has not promised us an easy life, even in the middle of our trials we can know with certainty that our lives matter to Him.

Saints, to matter means to be of importance to someone, and that is how God feels about His people.

God knows each of us intimately—including our sins, failures, and weaknesses— but still loves and values us. Even in the pain and suffering He allows in our lives, He is still caring for us, and His promises have not failed.

**Hebrews 13:5-6**

5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." 6 So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

Saints, When John the apostle wrote the epistle of 1 John, he was an old man between 80 and 90 years of age. His letter was addressed to believers, and in the first three verses of Chapter 3, he encouraged them regarding God’s love displayed in their salvation.

**1 John 3:1-3**

1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Saints, salvation begins with a realization of our separation from God because of our sin. Then knowing who Jesus is and what He has done on the cross, we trust in Him to save us, forgive our sins, and reconcile us to God.

**Romans 5:8-10**

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. 10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

Saints, once we are truly saved, we are forever changed and can never be the person we were before Christ because we are now united permanently to God for all eternity. The guarantee of this assurance is the Holy Spirit who comes to live within us forever.

**Romans 5:8-10**

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Saints, as God’s children, we are sensitive to sin, and desire to read His Word and live an obedient, godly lifestyle. When we do commit sin, we can come back to the Lord for cleansing, but if we continue in it, He will discipline us as a lovingly heavenly Father.

Saints, although God allows trials in our lives for a variety of reasons, sometimes He uses them to turn us back to Him in repentance.

**Romans 2:4-6**

4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? 5 But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, 6 who "will render to each one according to his deeds"

**1. The Evidence of God’s Care for Us**

Saints, although we may feel that we don’t matter to anyone in this world, as God’s children we matter deeply to Him, and John gives us evidence that demonstrates His care for us.

**1 John 3:1**

“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore, the world does not know us, because it did not know Him”

Saints, the display of His great love is seen in all He has done for us.

**In Salvation**

Saints, God reached down into our lives through His Word and opened our minds and hearts to understand the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit convicted us of our sinful condition and our need for forgiveness. Knowing that Jesus was the only one who could save us, we trusted in Him for salvation and the forgiveness of sins.

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**In Sanctification**

The Lord set us apart for Himself so we could live for Him. His Spirit now sits on the throne of our hearts guiding our lives, giving understanding of His Word, empowering us to obey God, and transforming us into the image of His Son.

**1 Thessalonians 5:23-24**

23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

**In His Provision**

God has promised to provide for all the needs of His children.

 **Philippians 4:19**

“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. 20 Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.”

Salvation would have been enough, but God also commits Himself to supply all our needs because He cares for us. His resources are inexhaustible, and our blessings in Christ are abundant.

**In the Holy Spirit**

Upon our salvation, the Lord sent His Holy Spirit to indwell us. Without Him, we would be powerless to live the Christian life. He is the one who enables us to become the person God created us to be.

**Acts 1:8**

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

**1 Corinthians 2:4-5**

4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

**2. “Now we are Children of God”**

**Galatians 3:26-29**

26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Saints, we all understand the special love parents have for their children, yet this is only a shadow of the great love and care God has for us as His children. He has showered us with spiritual blessings and promises, and nothing can ever separate us from Him.

**3. “It has not Appeared as Yet what We will Be”**

**1 John 3:2-3**

2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Saints, what we see now in our world and in our human condition is only temporary. If we look at our society, we could become discouraged because it is worse than it has ever been. Many do not know God or understand us because they have ignored or rejected Him!

The busyness, riches, and pleasures of the world threaten to draw our attention away from the Lord and distract us from reading His Word. Yet the scriptures are what we need in order to live as God desires. His commands do not deprive us of anything but give us what our heavenly Father knows is best when we obey them.

**4. “We know that when He appears, we will Be Like Him”**

**1 John 3:2**

2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

Saints, when Christ returns, we will be raised to be like Him. In the greatest chapter on resurrection, Paul wrote,

**1 Corinthians 15:20**

“But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep”

God not only provides everything we need for life and godliness in the present, but even greater provision awaits us in the future when we will be resurrected with glorious bodies. Although we do not know what heaven will be like, we have the promise that our names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life, and we will be with God forever.

**Luke 10:19-20**

19 Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. 20 Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

**In Closing:**

**5. “And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure”**

**1 John 3:3**

“And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure”

Saints, our lives matter because God desires the best for us—that we live pure, holy lives by the power of the Holy Spirit. Knowing our glorious future should motivate us to obey God’s Word and be led by His Spirit.

**2 Timothy 2:19-26**

19 Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity." 20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor.

21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. 22 Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. 23 But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife.

24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, 25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, 26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

**1. Do you ever feel that you don’t matter to God?**

**2. What circumstantial evidence supports this feeling?**

**3. What truths of Scripture prove His love for you?**

**4. How has knowing you matter to God motivated you to live for Him rather than yourself?**

**Let’s Pray**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.” In Jesus Name!**