

MUTUAL INTEREST

Strange, isn't it, that the Lord Jesus Christ came from heaven to earth because of His deep interest in mankind, yet so many of us show so little interest in Him.

He surely could have done no more than He has done to demonstrate the genuineness of His interest in us—in our welfare and our future. His interest is wholly objective and selfless because it springs from *love*. Yes, believe it or not, Jesus Christ *loves* this world of sinners and died to save them.

It was in reference to "*the love of Christ*," that the Apostle Paul declared: "*He died for all*" (II Cor. 5:14). In a more special way, says the apostle, "*He loved the Church and gave Himself for it*" (Eph. 5:25). And best of all, He loves individuals, personally, for this same Paul cried: "*He loved ME, and gave Himself for ME*" (Gal. 2:20).

Of all men, Paul was the greatest demonstration of the infinite love of Christ, for he had been Messiah's bitterest enemy, "the chief of sinners," persecuting to death those who dared to profess His name. But one day the love of Christ overtook him too and he responded. Bitter hatred suddenly gave way to loving, devoted service.

But this change did not take place until he responded to Christ's love. You see, there has to be *mutual* interest. The Bible may tell the story of Christ's love in entering the human race to pay the penalty for man's sins at Calvary, but this will do *you* no good until you believe it and, responding to His love, trust in Him as your own personal Savior.

And what is more, God the Father has an interest in this matter too.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Those who do not respond to such love are not merely the losers, but God must judge them for their calloused rejection of His Son and His work in their behalf. This is why we read in John 5:35,36:

"The Father loveth the Son and hath given all things into His hand. He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

Friend, don't *you* be so cold and indifferent as to reject the infinite love of Christ for you. And don't be so foolish as to incur God's wrath by so unreasonable an attitude.

Respond to the love of Christ and make it *mutual interest*. “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and *thou* shalt be saved” (Acts 16:31). If you do this you will soon be singing with George W. Robinson:

Heav’n above is softer blue,
Earth around is sweeter green!
Something lives in every hue,
Christless eyes have never seen.
Birds with gladder songs o’erflow,
Flow’rs with deeper beauties shine,
Since I know, as now I know,
I am His, and He is mine.

—C. R. Stam

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