What Christ has done for us - General Sermon

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And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the firstbegotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. - Rev. 1:5-6

I want you, if you will, to try and get straight a translation that I think is much more nearly true to the original and also true to the entire lineup of truth as Jesus taught it. The verb is used in the imperfect instead of the perfect tense - "Unto Him who is in love with us". Jesus doesn't just quit loving us - but this matter of loving is a continuous thing, ~~which~~ is a never-ending thing and the Greek word made it perfectly clear that He loved us, He loves us, He will love us all the way down through the ages. "HE LOVES US!"

The next word - washed - the Greek gives it as loosed rather than the word washed. In some few instances the word washed is used.

I want us to see a picture first of all. I want you to see the picture of a man standing on the street--maybe in Jerusalem, looking it seems almost beyond himself. He can't quite get control of himself. He is so happy he doesn't know what to do, is all upset. He is transformed! There is something new about him. There is a glory about him; a radiance about him. You ask him "what's the matter with you? You seem to be all ~~spunk~~ up in the air. You're mighty happy. Something has happened to you." Then he says, "I just don't know how to describe it, but something has happened. I'm not the same fellow I was." Then he tells you about it. "I've found out that I'm not just a poor outcast, unlovely, despised, unclean fellow. I found that someone is in love with me." Did you ever see a young girl or young man transformed by the thought that someone was in love with her, or him? There is a new radience there. Why is it that we can't litterally radiate this new something that has happened on the inside of us? .....for centuries have been trying to explain why it is that the world has not been won. It is mainly because you and I who have become Christians haven't radiated the strange, amazing, indescribable something that gives it away.

Did you ever have someone stop you on the street and say you look so happy. That is what John says the Lord Jesus has done for him. That is what he can do for you, my friends. John said "I am conscious of the fact that He is desperately in love with me." What that will do for your whole outlook on life is something no one can tell. What that will do for your confidence, etc. is something beyond description. He said "I was out yonder in a little room somewhere and no man careth for my soul". That sentence can't be spoken very beautifully- "no man cares for my soul". That is one of the loniliest expressions in the entire Bible. "I knew myself and knew I was very unlovely, knew things were in my mind, heart and life that shouldn't be - I knew I wasn't supposed to be loved, but the Lord Jesus came along and found me in that state, with all these cross-currents of sinfulness just oozing out of every pore but Jesus fell in love with me and is still in love with me." God said "I have loved thee with an everlasting love."

Another place in the Bible we are told "we love Him because He first loved us." Then another place - "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." Another place, "Having loved His own, He will love them to the end". Those four verses of scripture are definitely exegesis of this verse of our text. Those four verses are commentaries on this glorious word that He loves us. Calvary is the ans.

If someone asks - does Christ love me - you point them toCalvary - to a Saviour who died for poor, miserable, sinful creatures for you and me. You and I are that type and the Lord Jesus died for you and for me.

Let us go a step further - a person is not only altogether unlovely but he said,"I want you to see a slave! Will you let your imagination run a little? Will you picture a poor, defenseless slave with shackles on him, lieing at the feet of a cruel salve driver and the slave driver has a big whip in His hand and has big hobnailed shoes on and one of those shoes is setting squarly across the neck of this poor slave. John says that was my picture - that is where I was - I was a bond-slave; I was loathesome creature; I was to be despised; I had no rights. What right has a slave? He is utterly helpless under the cruel hand of a mighty slave drive and Jesus came along and said "What are you doing with your foot on that fellow's neck? What right have you to treat one that was created in the image of God in this manner?" The tyrant said "I'm the devil and have all the rights and I will advise you to leave me alone. This is my slave - he came and sold himself to me. You just as well leave him alone." Jesus said "Yes, I know that, but I am the only person in all heaven or earth who can do anything about it and I'm going to break those shackles just to show you who is master here. I'm going to lift your big hobnailed foot off his neck. " The devil said"You just try it." Jesus replied "All right, but I have to do something first. I will be back after awhile"and off He goes out on a cruel cross and dies Then he came back as a risen Lord and said to the Devil "I have absolute power now, provided this poor creature will give me the right". He whispers in the ear of the slave and said "I recognize you as a slave who belongs to the devil. You've sold yourself to him. Wouldn't you like to be free? Don't you like to have the blessings of freedom? I love you and when I saw you shackled like this, I loved you well enough to go to the cross and here I am ready to free you." The fellow said "Here I am - break all those shackles and free me." Jesus kxxxkk lovingly put His arm about a captive slave, raised him and lifted him, ministering to him - gave him new wealth, new security, a new body and put a song in his heart and set him free.

John said "That is what He did for me. One other thing in this strange new life which Jesus has given me - He has changed my character kx altogether. He has come into my life and demonstrated the fact that I am not a slave; I'm not to be bound by sins' chains but created me into a new creature and has given me a priestly heart. Instead of leaving me a poor, selfish creature, He has created me into a creature that is like Himself with a Christly heart, with Christly attitudes, with Christly interpretations of live instead of a selfish grasping fellow. He has made me a new creature and made it impossible for me to live any longer for myself alone. He has given me access to God.

He has made it a perfectly natural thing for me to want to go unto the throne-room of God. He has not only created a desire in my heart but has said that you are not a poor outcast any longer - you are an heir of God; joint heir along with me. You have access to the throne room of God. All the riches of the treasurery room is available to you. You are a son! You are a new creature and having access to God in prayer, you have all of the other relationships that a son has. You are privileged to exercise the priestly function of going out and ministering to all the people you meet."

I think that wrapped up in those two verses are more riches of theology than in any other part of the Bible. I think John has described for you and me the most glorious experience in the world and that is what the Lord Jesus has done for you and for me. Praise the Lord for it!

If you are here tonight and nOt right with Christ, or have never been saved and need just that to happen to you, it can happen right here.