



God has Chosen to Love  
You!  
Easter Sunday

NorthRidge Church  
Dr. M. David Myers  
April 5, 2026

*The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. – John 10:17-18*

It is impossible for us to love God as He desires to be loved without the presence of others around us. When we love God directly, we are loving because we were first loved and because of the promise of life eternal. When He loved us, He did so without promise of that love being returned or even appreciated. So, if we are to love as He loved, we must choose to express love to others whom we could love without any prospect of reward, or benefit, or even appreciation. We can only love God the way He has designed by loving other people who cannot benefit us.

**By This We Know We Have Been Loved**

- By the \_\_\_\_\_ that's Paid to Love
- By how Little we \_\_\_\_\_ Their Actions
- By the \_\_\_\_\_ we Receive through Their Act
- By the Freedom they have in \_\_\_\_\_ to Love or Not

**God has Loved us by Freely ... John 10:1-18**

- I. \_\_\_\_\_ us to be His and \_\_\_\_\_ each one ... (1-6)  
Cp. Isaiah 43:1; 2 Timothy 2:19; John 6:37
- II. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ those that are His ... (7-10)  
Cp. Eph. 2:18; Heb. 4:16; 10:19-25; Isaiah 41:10; 2 Thess. 3:3
- III. \_\_\_\_\_ down His Life for His Own ... (11-15)  
Cp. Isa. 53:7; Phil. 2:8; Gal. 2:20; Rom. 5:8
- IV. \_\_\_\_\_ for those that are His ... (16-18)  
Cp. John 6:39; Rom. 8:32; John 11:25-26; 1 Cor. 15:20-22

**Love Freely Given is in the Image of a Shepherd**

In John 10, we see ...

- A Shepherd who \_\_\_\_\_ ...
- A Shepherd who \_\_\_\_\_ ...
- A Shepherd who \_\_\_\_\_.

The Shepherd has already chosen you—now it's time for you to \_\_\_\_\_ ... your \_\_\_\_\_, no matter what it is will be your \_\_\_\_\_ today.

**Appointment with God – Prayer Focus**

**HONESTY AND PRAISE IN PRAYER**

What is the Posture of your Heart as you Pray, Worship, and Come into the Presence of God?

The ideal answer is that we would always come to the Lord with thanksgiving and praise! However, let's look at David in many of his psalms. He often starts out with questions and expressing a hurting heart! *"Why do You stand afar off, O Lord? Why do You hide in times of trouble?"* To be honest, I believe EACH of us sometimes comes into His presence with these same thoughts and emotions.

If you pay attention as you read the Psalms, you will discover that even when David honestly expresses his questions and sorrows, he never lingers there. He moves His focus from what he sees and feels upward by speaking out truths of who God is and how He works. He speaks God's promises back to Him. He doesn't allow emotions to rule but speaks out truths to pierce the darkness.

A summary of many of David's prayers is that he was brutally honest with His Father and expressed all he was experiencing along with his questions and doubts. But he didn't linger there! He moved to praise and thanksgiving and a full focus on the Lord.

In what ways might you change how you are going to God in prayer to experience a deeper sense of praise and thanksgiving?

How can you put yourself in a better position to express praise and thanksgiving?

- Be intentional to do so!
- Highlight and/or keep a journal of scripture that speaks God's promises, His character and His ways.
- Meditate on Scripture that speaks truth into the darkness.



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### By This We Know We Have Been Loved

- By the **Price** that's Paid to Love
- By how Little we **Deserve** Their Actions
- By the **Benefits** we Receive through Their Act
- By the Freedom they have in **Choosing** to Love or Not

### God has Loved us by Freely ... John 10:1-18

- I. **Calling** us to be His and **Knowing** each one ... (1-6)  
Cp. Isaiah 43:1; 2 Timothy 2:19; John 6:37
- II. **Receiving** and **Protecting** those that are His ... (7-10)  
Cp. Eph. 2:18; Heb. 4:16; 10:19-25; Isaiah 41:10; 2 Thess. 3:3
- III. **Laying** down His Life for His Own ... (11-15)  
Cp. Isa. 53:7; Phil. 2:8; Gal. 2:20; Rom. 5:8
- IV. **Living Again** for those that are His ... (16-18)  
Cp. John 6:39; Rom. 8:32; John 11:25-26; 1 Cor. 15:20-22

### Love Freely Given is in the Image of a Shepherd

In John 10, we see ...

- A Shepherd who **comes** ...
- A Shepherd who **calls you by name**...
- A Shepherd who **lays down His life—willingly**.

The Shepherd has already chosen you—now it's time for you to **Choose** ... your **Response**, no matter what it is will be your **Choice** today.

### Appointment with God – Prayer Focus

#### HONESTY AND PRAISE IN PRAYER

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The ideal answer is that we would always come to the Lord with thanksgiving and praise! However, let's look at David in many of his psalms. He often starts out with questions and expressing a hurting heart! "Why do You stand afar off, O Lord? Why do You hide in times of trouble?" To be honest, I believe EACH of us sometimes comes into His presence with these same thoughts and emotions.

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