

# The Primal Motive--love

by Allan Halton

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*The sermon emphasizes the importance of love as the evidence of being born again and the law of eternal life, highlighting God's ultimate purpose to fill all creation with the knowledge of His glory.*

**Scripture:** 1 John 3:14

**Topics:** "Eternal Life", "Gods Love"

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## Description

Allan Halton preaches on the evidence of being born again, emphasizing the importance of love as the identifying characteristic of those who are moving in an eternal realm. The connection between eternal life and love is highlighted, showing that those born again walk in love and are sowing the eternal word of God. Despite the decay and futility in the world, there is hope that the creation will be delivered from corruption into the glory of the liberty of the children of God, all stemming from the primal motive of God's love.

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## Transcript

What is the evidence we are born again, and therefore involved in the reversal of the primal fault?

Love.

Peter again:

"Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

Being born again not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever" (1 Pt 1.22,23).

The words "born again" get used pretty carelessly these days. Peter says the evidence we are born again is that we love one another with a pure heart--and fervently. This is the identifying characteristic of those who are born again, and moving in an eternal realm now. Much is made of "eternal life" being the portion of the born again. And rightly so--they are born again not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, the word of God that liveth and abideth forever. But see how eternal life and love are inseparably linked together? The law of eternal life is love.

This from the apostle John:

"We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer, and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in Him" (1 Jn. 3.14,15).

The evidence of eternal life, that we are living and moving no longer in the corruptible realm of the lusts of the flesh, but in the incorruptible realm of the Word of God, is that we walk in love...

"...Being born again not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever."

"For all flesh is as grass," Peter continues, "and all the glory of man is as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away;

But the word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word which by the Gospel is preached unto you" (1 Pt. 1.24,25).

This is quite something. How short-sighted we humans are when it comes to taking the measure of our days. All flesh--all mankind--is grass. How enduring is the blade of grass? And what of all the great works we boast ourselves in? All the greatest achievements of man, all his great works, all his finest art and music--all his glory-- Beethoven, Shakespeare, Leonardo da Vinci--it is all the flower of the grass that today is, and tomorrow is gone.

"For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone..."

But the word of the Lord endures forever.

And so, motivated by love, while they are in this transient world the wise sow the eternal word of God, sow to the Spirit. This creation is in bondage to a law of corruption, but in the one who sows to the Spirit a very different principle is at work, a very different law. Life everlasting is resurrection life--life that renews itself, rejuvenates itself, like the eagle's. It is indestructible, indissoluble. Whatever comes against this life only causes it to flourish. It is life that increases, that grows, that gets better... whatever comes against it. For, "though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day" (2 Cor. 2.16).

Yes it's true--we do not yet see the full outworking of what Christ accomplished at Calvary when He dealt with the primal fault right there and then. But the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus continues to work in those who are in Christ Jesus, though even yet we have scarcely tapped into the potential of this powerful law. But it is at work--at least in a measure--in the spirit, in the soul. It will yet come to full expression in us. Ultimately it will change even our mortal bodies.

...And the whole creation around us. There is a law of increasing entropy at work in our world. Not only in nature, but in the world of man, where moral decay is rampant now. But there is also another law at work in this world of ours--a law that means a feast that mends in length, a kingdom that grows in strength, till ultimately... let's go to the prophet Habakkuk to discover the ultimate outcome of it all.

"Behold, is it not of the LORD of hosts that the people shall labour in the very fire, and the peoples shall weary themselves for very vanity (futility)?" (Hab. 2.13).

That's the insight of the prophet Habakkuk, who saw the primal fault at work in God's creation about 600 years before Paul the apostle wrote about it in Romans 8. In fact I wonder if Paul wasn't thinking of Habakkuk's words when he wrote Romans 8 about the creation being subjected to futility. All the labour of man to build himself a life without God... it's complete futility. It's like labouring to build a house--that's already on fire.

But Habakkuk also saw the wondrous intent of God in subjecting His creation to futility like this. God had a primal motive behind it all. God subjected the same "in hope."

"For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea" (Hab. 2.14).

What comforting words--words that in a time of great difficulty inspire us to great hope! God subjected the creation to futility "in hope," Paul said. "Because the creation itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glory of the liberty of the children of God."

How wondrous wise--the ways of our God! Man, the creature God made to be the shining forth of His glory sins against him--the primal fault--and as a result the whole creation is brought into bondage to futility. But behind it all a God of eternal purpose--and great love--is at work. Behind it all there is a primal motive--love--the love of God as revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord at Calvary, and which continues to work in the children of His love, and which will yet fill all creation "far as the curse is found."

I know... I am mixing up the verses... and Christmas is over.

But I love this old and timeless hymn. I sing it all year round when the Spirit inspires me. Joy to the world, the Lord is come...

Let's sing a couple of the verses now.

No more let sin and sorrow reign,

Nor thorns infest the ground:

He comes to make His blessing flow

Far as the curse is found.

Far as the curse is found.

Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,

And makes the nations prove

The glories of His righteousness

And wonders of His love,

And wonders of His love,

And wonders, and wonders, of His love.

Hallelujah! There is more before us than there is behind us, beloved!

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