

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

"God Is Love"



Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that ye might live

through him.

Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

I *John* 4: 7-11, 18

The author of this peerless spiritual message, the beloved John, is generally considered the most highly evolved of the twelve Disciples of Christ Jesus. Hence it is not surprising to the aspirant that the predominant theme of his letters, as well as of his Gospel, is *love*—the all-pervading cosmic principle which constitutes the Second Aspect of Deity. John well knew that the New Dispensation ushered in by the coming of the Christ was to be based upon a new and higher concept than had ever been taught before, and that this new concept, spiritual love, the most sublime of all emotions, would be a difficult one for humanity to learn.

Prior to the Great Sacrifice on Golgotha man progressed chiefly by learning to subdue the desire nature under the outer tutelage of Jehovah and His archangelic helpers, who used fear of severe retribution as a means of securing obedience to law. Selfishness was a marked trait, each individual's concern being chiefly with "me and mine."

Henceforth a higher influence was to be brought to bear upon man—a different side of his nature was to be

unfolded. In the future the mighty power of a Ray of the Cosmic Christ would radiate from the center of the earth, impelling the awakening and unfoldment within each individual of the Love-Wisdom Power. No longer were men to live in enmity with each other, to hate and retaliate, to fear the dire consequences of the law which required "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." Now all might learn of that "perfect love" which casts out selfishness and fear and emancipates one from race, caste, and creed. Now the call was sounding for whosoever might hear to learn of a God who so loved His children that He sent "his Son to be a propitiation for our sin." Those who turned a listening ear would become filled with an aspiration for the love which is of the soul and embraces all beings, high and low, increasing in proportion to the needs of the recipient.

The blessed Saint John dwelt in an aura of such holy spirituality that his message of cosmic wisdom became, with his utterance of it, re-imbued with the power to awaken and inspire the hearts of humanity. His God was above all else a God of Love—One who cares for His children with infinite and never-ceasing tenderness and compassion. Knowing the transforming power which exists in a complete assurance of God's love and mercy, he strove continually to inculcate this new ideal of God in the hearts of men. Those who live in an awareness of the all-pervading and ever-present Spirit of Love, eternally born of the Father and endlessly flowing into our solar universe, know the ineffable joy peculiar to the inner realization of the unity of each with all. Such aspirants feel from within that truly "God is love," and that life can be "abundant" only if directed in accord with this cosmic principle.