

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON JOHN'S FIRST EPISTLE

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUNDER THAN WORDS!

1 John 4:9-10 "In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

A young man, looking intently into the eyes of his fiancé, says, "I love you." She responds back to him, "Are those just words or do you really mean them?" There is more to love than simply saying the words I love you. There is a maxim that says, "Actions speak louder than words." President Abraham Lincoln expanded this maxim a bit in 1856 when he said, "Actions speak louder than words, and are to be more regarded." This maxim reminds me of another one that says, "put your money where your mouth is."

John wrote, "In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him." (1 John 4:9) It is one thing for the Scriptures, as does John in the previous verse say, "God is love." It is another thing to read in the Scriptures that God demonstrated His love for us sinners by sending Jesus, His one and only Son, into the world knowing He would be put to death in payment for the sins of the entire world.

God sent Jesus because "God is love." John says, "In this the love of God. . .God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him." Talk about love! How great God's love is for you and for all sinners. Because of His unconditional love for you and all sinners He gave His all, His very Son, as a sacrifice, as a ransom payment, to give you life. Luther explains why God sent Jesus to earth, ". . .to redeem lost and condemned sinners, purchasing and winning them from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death so that I might be His own and live under Him in His kingdom. . . " (Small Catechism, paraphrase of Luther's explanation of the Second Article of the Apostle's creed.)

Prayer: Thanks, and praise to You, Heavenly Father, for loving me so much that you sent Jesus to ransom, redeem and save me from eternal death and provide me with the gift of eternal life. Amen.

God loves me dearly, Grants me salvation,
God loves me dearly, Loves even me.
Refrain: Therefore I'll say gain: God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, Loves even me.

I was in slav'ry, Sin, death, and darkness;
God's love was working To make me free. Refrain:

He sent forth Jesus, My dear Redeemer;
He sent forth Jesus And set me free. Refrain:

Jesus, my Savior, Himself did offer;
Jesus, my Savior, Paid all I owed. Refrain:

Now I will praise You, O Love Eternal;
Now I will praise You All my life long. Refrain:
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