SOD WHAT KIND OF ove **THE FATHER** HAS GIVEN TO US!



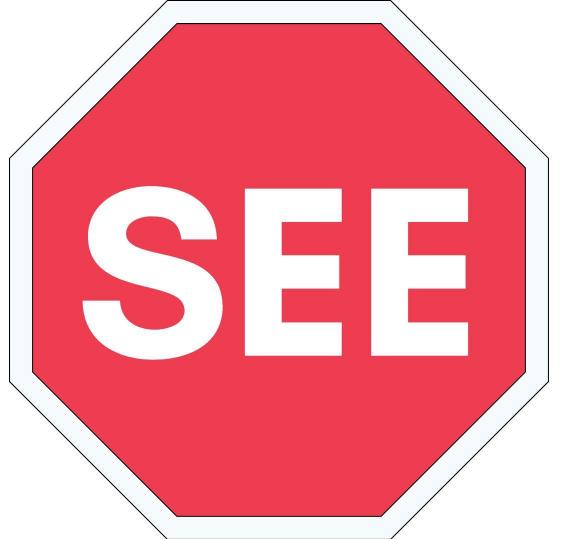
500, **"BEHOLD** WHAT WHAT KIND OF MANNER **OF LOVE** ave THE **THE FATHER** FATHER HAS HAS GIVEN **BESTOWED ON US...**" **TO US!** NKJV **1 JOHN 3:1A**

"[1 John 3] is a chapter in every word and a sermon in every letter. How it opens with a "Behold!" because it is such a striking portion of sacred Scripture, that the Holy Ghost would have us pay particular attention to it. "Behold!" says He, read other Scriptures if you like, with a glance, but stop here. I have put up a way-mark to tell you there is something eminently worthy of attention buried beneath these words."

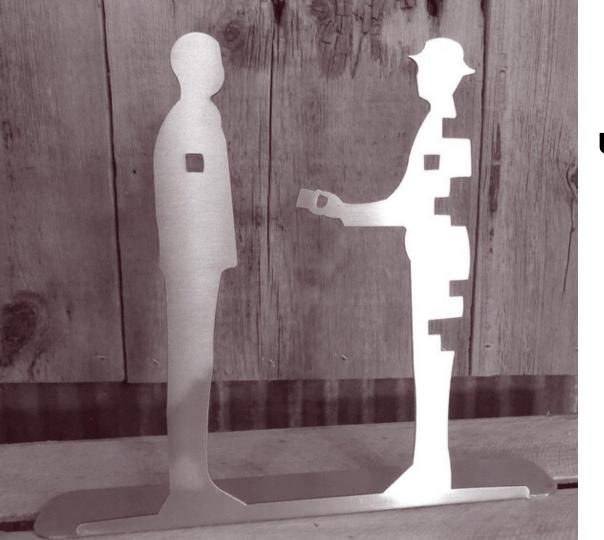
- Charles Spurgeon

SEE/BEHOLD (GK. HORAŌ) **TO DISCERN CLEARLY** WHAT A THING **TRULY IS**





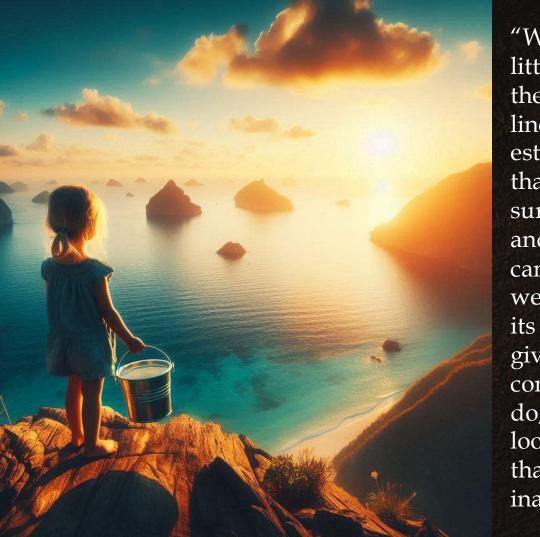
"Some things grow commonplace over time. We've heard about them and known them for years. Maybe at first, when it was new, an idea or experience affected us. But over the years, the effect grows weaker and weaker, until finally it's just a far-distant memory. But the Father's great love for us is the kind of experience that should grow stronger and stronger over the years, until it totally dominates every aspect of our lives. It should consume our thoughts and control our behavior. It should motivate us to serve God and to live holy lives. It should give us comfort in all our trials. It should fill us with the eager hope of being with Him in heaven. It should fill us with awe and worship, that He, the holy sovereign of the universe, would set His love on a sinful, selfwilled rebel like me! "Amazing love, how can it be, that Thou, my God, should die for me!" Don't let yourself ever hear of the Father's great love and think, "Ho hum!" It ought always - Steven Cole to amaze you."



LOVE GK. AGAPE UNCONDITIONAL, SELF-SACRIFICIAL ACTION SEEKING THE BEST FOR ANOTHER

GIVEN GK. DIDÓMI PUT SOMETHING INTO ANOTHER'S POSSESSION "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?"

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' "This is the great and foremost commandment."



"We are called upon to come with our little vessels to measure the contents of the great ocean, to plumb with our short lines the infinite abyss, and not only to estimate the quantity but the quality of that love, which, in both respects, surpasses all our means of comparison and conception. Properly speaking, we can do neither the one nor the other, for we have no line long enough to sound its depths, and no experience which will give us a standard with which to compare its quality. But all that we can do, John would have us do-that is, look and ever look at the working of that love till we form some not wholly inadequate idea of it.

SO WE HAVE TO TURN TO THE WORK OF CHRIST, AND ESPECIALLY TO HIS DEATH, IF WE WOULD ESTIMATE THE LOVE OF GOD. ACCORDING TO JOHN'S CONSTANT TEACHING, THAT IS THE GREAT PROOF THAT GOD LOVES US. THE MOST WONDERFUL REVELATION TO EVERY HEART OF MAN OF THE DEPTHS OF THAT DIVINE HEART LIES IN THE GIFT OF JESUS CHRIST....THE APOSTLE BIDS ME 'BEHOLD WHAT MANNER OF LOVE.' I TURN TO THE CROSS, AND I SEE THERE A LOVE WHICH SHRINKS FROM NO SACRIFICE, BUT GIVES 'HIM UP TO DEATH FOR US ALL.' I TURN TO THE CROSS, AND I SEE THERE A LOVE WHICH IS EVOKED BY NO LOVABLENESS ON MY PART, BUT COMES FROM THE DEPTH OF HIS OWN INFINITE BEING, WHO LOVES BECAUSE HE MUST, AND WHO MUST BECAUSE HE IS GOD. I TURN TO THE CROSS, AND I SEE THERE MANIFESTED A LOVE WHICH SIGHS FOR RECOGNITION, WHICH DESIRES NOTHING OF ME BUT THE REPAYMENT OF MY POOR AFFECTION, AND LONGS TO SEE ITS OWN LIKENESS IN ME.

And I see there a love that will not be put away by sinfulness, and shortcomings, and evil, but pours its treasures on the unworthy, like sunshine on a dunghill. So, streaming through the darkness of eclipse, and speaking to me even in the awful silence in which the Son of Man died there for sin, I 'behold,' and I hear, the 'manner of love that the Father hath bestowed upon us,' stronger than death and sin, armed with all power, gentler than the fall of the dew, boundless and endless, in its measure measureless, in its quality transcendent – the love of God to me in Jesus Christ my Saviour." -Alexander Maclaren



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