Jesus Loves Me
Ephesians 3:14-19 (NKJV)

Please turn with me in your Bibles to tonight’s scripture text in Ephesians the third chapter.

Ephesians 3:14-19 (NKJV)

14 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,

17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—

19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

P R A Y E R

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Introduction

Swiss theologian, Karl Barth, was one of the greatest religious thinkers of the 20th Century. He is said to have penned more than 10 million words on the subject of Biblical theology.

Once a newspaper reporter asked Mr. Barth to summarize his theological beliefs. Mr. Barth thought for a moment then replied, “Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.”
“Jesus Loves Me” was probably one of, if not the first song, you and I ever learned in Church.

The song was written by Anna B. Warner back in 1860, at the request of her sister, Susan. She asked Anna to write the song for a Sunday School teacher who wanted to cheer a dying boy in her Sunday School class.

Imagine that little dying boy hearing those soothing and comforting words sung to him for the very first time………

*Jesus loves me, this I know.*
*For the Bible tells me so.*
*Little ones to Him belong,*
*They are weak, but He is strong.*

*Yes Jesus loves me.*
*Yes Jesus loves me.*
*Yes Jesus loves me.*
*The Bible tells me so.*

To truly believe that JESUS LOVES ME is perhaps the most life-transforming truth one can know.

You see, if I truly believe with all my heart that JESUS LOVES ME, then I must also believe that HIS LOVE will sustain me and strengthen me in every trial, every trouble, every heartache, every sorrow and every loss I encounter in this life.

If I truly believe JESUS LOVES ME then I must also believe that everything that happens to me happens for a reason, and that God will ultimately work all things together for my good.

“YES JESUS LOVES ME! THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO!”
I have just three simple thoughts I would like to briefly share with you this evening.

First of all, THE BIBLE TELLS ME............

I. Jesus Loved Me FIRST

I John 4:16 (NKJV) By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

1 John 4:19 (NKJV) We love Him because He first loved us.

Romans 5:8 (NKJV) But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

1. Do you know your parents loved you before you loved your parents? Even before your were born your parents loved you. From the time your mother found out she was expecting you, she and your dad began loving you. And as you grew bigger and bigger in your mother’s womb, your parent’s love for you grew bigger and bigger.

On the day you were born your parents held you and kissed you and held you in their arms. It didn’t matter if you were the cutest baby who was ever born or uglier than homemade sin on a popsickle stick, your parents loved you. They loved you FIRST! They loved you even before you knew them!

2. Likewise the Bible tells me JESUS LOVED ME FIRST.

-Jesus loved me before the foundations of the world were laid.

-before my parents ever saw me the first time, Jesus saw me while I was being formed in my mother’s womb and JESUS LOVED ME!
-Jesus loved me before I drew my first breath.

-Before my name was ever written on my birth certificate Jesus had my name written on His heart.

-Jesus held me in His heart before my parents ever held me in their arms.

3. JESUS LOVED ME WHILE I WAS YET A SINNER BEFORE I EVEN KNEW HIM AS MY SAVIOR!

4. Yes Jesus loves me. 
   Yes Jesus loves me. 
   Yes Jesus loves me. 
   The Bible tells me so.

Secondly, THE BIBLE TELLS ME…………..

II. Jesus Loves Me FAITHFULLY

Please turn with me to Romans chapter 8.

Romans 8:35-39 (NKJV)

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”

37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,

39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
1. I believe many Christians go through times of doubting the love Christ has for them. Quite often these doubts stem from feelings of guilt and shame over sin in one’s life.

2. But one thing we can be certain of is that just as nothing “caused” Christ to START loving us, nothing can “cause” Christ to STOP loving us.

3. There is nothing you or I can do to make Christ love us more than He already loves us, nor is there anything we can do to make Him love us any less.

4. Jesus’ love for you and me is not based on our performance, our position in life or our possessions. He loves us because HE is love!

5. In these verses Paul uses a figure of speech called a merism. A merism is the totality between two contrasting parts.

6. We see three merisms in verses 38,39........

(A) Neither DEATH nor LIFE can separate us from the love of Christ.

Think about that! Whether you live or die, Jesus will never stop loving you!

-Your circumstances may change, but Jesus will still love you.

-Your health may change, but Jesus will still love you.

-Your financial situation may change, but Jesus will still love you.

-Your job status may change, but Jesus will still love you.

Regardless of whether we live or die, Jesus love will never let go!
Next Paul says, “Neither things PRESENT nor things to COME can separate us from the love of Jesus.

This means no matter what I have been through, no matter what I am presently going through, and no matter what I may go through in the future can ever separate me from the love of Jesus.

Sometimes when our circumstances change our earthly friends forsake us. We call them “fair-weather friends.” Jesus promises never to leave us or forsake no matter what!

Next Paul says, “Neither HEIGHT nor DEPTH can ever separate us from the love of Jesus.

Figuratively speaking, neither the height of success and prosperity, nor the depths of failure and defeat could ever cause Jesus to stop loving us.

Physically speaking, we could ascend to the most distant planet above us or descend to the lowest cavern beneath us, and we would never be able to separate ourselves from the love of Christ.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so!

THE BIBLE TELLS ME JESUS LOVED ME FIRST!

THE BIBLE TELLS ME JESUS LOVES ME FAITHFULLY!
And thirdly, THE BIBLE TELLS ME........

III. Jesus Loves Me FOREVER

Jeremiah 31:3 says, “The LORD has appeared to me, saying, “I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.”

1. Virtually everything in this life has “an expiration date.”

   - The food you buy in the grocery store has an expiration date stamped right on the package.

   - If you order something over the telephone or on-line and use your credit card, they will ask you for the expiration date on your card.

   - If you will look at your driver’s license you will see it has an expiration date.

   - All medications come with an expiration date.

   - Every gravestone in a cemetery is a reminder that even we humans have an expiration date.

2. An expiration date is simply a reminder that nothing in this world lasts forever. Everything in this life is limited by TIME and SPACE.

3. But the love of Christ has no expiration date....no time limit. Christ’s love for us knows no beginning or end. Jesus loves you and me forever.

4. Perhaps the last two verses of the song say it best.

   Jesus loves me, He who died,
   Heaven’s gate to open wide;
   He will wash away my sin,
   Let His little child come in.
Jesus loves me, He will stay,
Close beside me all the way;
He’s prepared a home for me,
And some day His face I’ll see.

The Bible tells me JESUS LOVED ME FIRST!
The Bible tells me JESUS LOVES ME FAITHFULLY!
And the Bible tells me JESUS LOVES ME FOREVER!

Yes, JESUS LOVES ME!

CONCLUSION

Thousands of our Christian brothers and sisters in China have faced terrible persecution from the communist government.

During the height of the persecution, a Christian sent a message to a dear friend. The message escaped the attention of the government censors because it simply said: “The this I know people are well.” That simple, yet profound message let that friend know the Church in China was alive and well.

Brothers and sisters, we, too are “the this I know people.”

Jesus Loves Me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so!