



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

April 28, 2024

"The Good News of God's Love and Grace"

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)*

God's Love: Who hasn't heard or read John 3:16? I used to see "John 3:16" scribbled on hand-made signs held up during TV sporting events when the cameras were pointing at them. In fact, I think I reached the point where I saw these signs on TV so much, I began to ignore them! But that is a shame because...when we say, "For God so loved the world," we are speaking of a love that transcends human understanding – a love that is mystery, unconditional, sacrificial, and unending. This love is not based on our worthiness or goodness – it's not a reward - but it is a statement of God's own character and nature. The act of giving His one and only Son, Jesus Christ, to live with us, teach us, bear the hard lives we live and then to die for our sins demonstrates the lengths to which God goes to reconcile us to Himself.

*"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—
and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God." (Ephesians 2:8-9)*

God's Grace: Grace, in Paul's letter to the Ephesians, refers to the unearned blessings and undeserved kindness God has imparted to humanity: God's boundless love and grace, freely given to those who believe in Him. Paul teaches that salvation is not earned through human effort or merit but is entirely a gift from God. This is the radical nature of grace – it is not something that can be achieved through good deeds or religious observance, but rather it is a divine gift motivated solely by God's love.



*"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)*

At the heart of the Gospel: Romans 5:8 sums the essence of the Gospel message of God's love and grace. This verse emphasizes the incomprehensible depth of God's love, manifested in the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ for humanity's salvation, even when we were undeserving and estranged from Him. The act of giving His one and only Son, Jesus Christ, to die for our sins demonstrates the lengths to which

God is willing to go to reconcile us to Himself. The Gospel is an invitation to experience the fullness of God's love and grace which transforms us and leads to a restored relationship with our Creator.

At the heart of the Gospel message lies the profound truth of God's love and grace towards humanity. We might even say that the entire Bible is a narrative of God's expansive love for creation and humankind. The gift of *Jesus' life and teachings is a model for our lives.*

"Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action" 1 John 3:18 reminds us. And this is a good start for us to not just hear, but act on the "Good News"! May it be so. Amen

- God's peace, Vance

Prayer Box: pray for healing for Barbara, Keith, Mia, MaryBeth, Jazmine, and Elizabeth; pray for all who grieve; pray for those suffering from extreme weather; pray for peace in Ukraine and the Middle East; pray for those who seek God or a deeper understanding of God. Remember the National Day of Prayer Thursday, May 2, 2024. *Lord, hear our prayers!*