

God's Love Causing Our Love.

I John iv. 19.

Scripture-reading: - context; John xv

Hymns: -

1. Oh for a shout of joy
2. Jesus the very thought of thee
2. Trembling before thine awful throne
3. Savior teach me day by day
3. Chosen not for good in me

Preached

1875	Aug. 22	A.M.	207	Brauehville
1885	April 12	Evng.	107	Bridgeton, "West"

# God's Love Causing Our Love

I John iv, 19:

We love Him' because He  
first loved us

Revised Version: - 'omit Him

---

Am. sermon on "Go preach!" But to  
do this requires love to H.; how can we  
make ourselves love Him? By contemplating  
Him so as to open way for love to spring up.  
This, our text leads to.

Loving God is not natural to  
us since Fall

Urgent persuasion necessary  
because 1 Our kn. of God is of Him  
as of (1) infinite power (earthquake  
a terrible proof, cholera similar)  
or of (2) mysterious purposes (whether

a blind force or a Personal Will 2  
rules all — Providence in history). On  
both these our imagination is ex-  
tremely active (so Chalices, v. Bib. Mu-  
seum v, 205 in loc.)

and 2. Our Kn. of ourselves is  
not merely of inferiority to deity  
but an inf. partly due to our own  
faults (sins)

So we fear, not love God, naturally  
this fear an univ. natl. charac-  
teristic of men, ex. fr. Pagan sacrif.<sup>s</sup>

So God sets himself to persuade  
us to love Him

1. By giving us (such is Paul's  
reproch, Acts xiv, 17) "rains from heaven  
& fruitful seasons filling our hearts  
with joy & gladness"

But this doesn't make us love  
God, only love the gifts or wonder at  
~~purpose of them~~

2. By Providential preservations

3 or direction

Same result.

3. But now he announces beforehand his plan, that when the events occur, their true relation to him can't be gainsaid.

~~He forgets his purpose~~

(1) He declares his love for men, & forgets his purpose to them a great, unquestionable favor ("seed from man shall bruise serpent's head," & similar promises all thro' O.T.); His math. ap. sin, &c.

This too forgotten; yet wait!

(2) The plan wrought out:

The Babe born - lovely charming boy (in temple, &c.) young man, gracious (Luke iv, 22) — two characteristics:

(a) Hater of sin (small contrast begin. of him.; anti-Pharis.) — remarkable in

any one, specially in one week (do 4  
yr. gentle friends prove themselves the ones  
to do the rebuke & reform?)

16) meek & gentle & kind —  
never missing oppor. to do good

He declares that he is to die mis-  
erably, consents to it for others' sakes

Men see as they grow familiar  
w. his life that he is more than mere  
man, is Divine

He suffers & dies: Why

Then we see that it is God  
who takes this form in order to die —  
that God is loving in His nature, wh.  
the X. reflects in Himself

4. Now we see that God is love;  
now we revert to His faithful sea-  
son &c. & see them too proof of a  
loving God

To His Providence & see  
the same.

Thus we are persuaded of God  
to love God, & love to "go preach!"