

God's Measureless Love

Wednesday's *Perspective* dealt with the power of love – between human beings, as well as the incredible depths of God's love for us.

Down through the tedious ages of time, man's heart has been cheered at the thought of the boundless love of God. So compelling is this love that it is often felt by the most unfortunate and seemingly hopeless of mortals.

Years ago, after the patient in a certain room in a mental institution had died and his room was being prepared for another occupant, the attendants found scrawled on the walls of the room the following profound lines:



*Could we with ink the ocean fill,
And were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill,
And every man a scribe by trade;
To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,
Though stretched from sky to sky.*

In his saner moments, this poor, troubled soul had poured out his simple heart of love to his God.

The verse was not original with the inmate; the words were written in 1050 A.D. by a Jewish poet, Meir Ben Isaac Nehorai. It is in the hymnology of the synagogue used for the Feast of Weeks (Pentecost).

Author and composer Frederick M. Lehman, in 1917, took the poem and added two stanzas and a chorus. He said of his creation, "One day, during short intervals of inattention to our work, we picked up a scrap of paper and, seated upon an empty lemon box pushed against the wall, with a stub pencil, added the first two stanzas and chorus of the song." The melody was harmonized by Lehman's daughter, Mrs. W. W. Mays. It was nearly 20 years later that the song first "caught fire," and people in all walks of life began singing it.

(more)

Here are the lyrics Lehman added:

*The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell;
It goes beyond the highest star,
And reaches to the lowest hell;
The guilty pair, bowed down with care,
God gave His Son to win;
His erring child He reconciled,
And pardoned from his sin.*

*When years of time shall pass away,
And earthly thrones and kingdoms fall,
When men, who here refuse to pray,
On rocks and hills and mountains call,
God's love so sure, shall still endure,
All measureless and strong;
Redeeming grace to Adam's race –
The saints' and angels' song.*

*O love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure
The saints' and angels' song.*

God loves you. And let the knowledge of His care for you bring you peace, comfort and assurance.

So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him (1 John 4:16 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter