



water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – June 20, 2024

The Lord be with you.

I've heard it said that there were three kinds of prayer: there's "help", there's "thanks", and there's "wow." And it's a "wow" kind of prayer that I'm praying today. And a "wow" prayer that I'm eager to share with you is a, here is a sense of astonishment, amazement. I mean, it's something that takes your breath away. I'm praying "Wow," as I read here a verse in the little New Testament book of First John chapter three verse one.

Well, it leaves me praying "Wow." I read it here. It is. Behold, what great love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called Children of God. And that is what we are. And I read this and I am in astonishment and amazement at what God's word says about God's love for you and for me, and I'm struck by how this first begins. It, it begins with the word behold. And you know, when you see the word behold in the Bible, that is a call to just stop right where you are and to pay close attention.

Behold, it's a translation of the Greek word *Ida*. And it's not just a casual looking, a casual reading, but it is to stop in your tracks, to ponder, to contemplate, to really think about the words that follow. Behold, what great love the father has lavished on us. And it's not just love. It's a unique love. It's a one of a kind love that isn't just given to us. It says, but the Father's love is lavished on us. And I really like that word. Lavish. The Father's love for you. For me, it is lavished, it is heaped unto us in loads. It is deluged unto us. So behold, pay close attention, consider what great love the father has lavished on us.

And I have to stop right here and I have to behold and I have to pay close attention to the Greek word that is translated as what as in what? Great love it is the Greek word *Potapos*, that's P O T A P O S. And in early Greek back in the days of Homer and Plato *potapo*, well, it was, it was a question asking what from what country, what from, from what region does this come from? I mean, we've never seen any kind of love like this from around here, a anything like this. So, so the Greek idea is from, from, from what kind of region from what kind of world does a love such as this come from?

That's why whenever we talk about God's love, we, we have to remember that God's love for you and for me, it's, it's not like anything from around here. God's love is beyond human comprehension. And that's why the Apostle Paul in Ephesians three prays that we might come to know the love of God. Beyond comprehension. From where from where does such a love come from? Behold, what great love the Father has lavished on us. From where with us.



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A little book of First John tells us that God is love. God doesn't have love. God is love. Now, I have a glass of water right here beside me. I am not the glass of water. I have it. God does not have love for you and me. God is love. Love for us comes from God's essential nature. God's essential being, it's who God is. So God cannot stop loving you. God cannot stop loving you any more than God can stop being all powerful, all wise. This love is lavished on you and me, not because of who we are but because of who God is.

So let's behold for a moment. Let's stop and ponder what great love the Father has lavished on us from what world does such a love come that we should be called Children of God? And that is what we are. You see, it's not just something that God calls us, that is what we are, that is what God has made us through Jesus Christ. That is not our identity in Christ, when we put our trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior, we are adopted into God's family so that we are co heirs with Christ. We inherit his life, his riches. What Jesus is by his eternal nature. We are by God's grace, Children of God.

And this now shapes how we think about ourselves. This is our identity and how we live our lives. We're not defined by our past, by our sins, by our failures, what other people think of us. God calls us, He has made us his children. Behold, embrace what great love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called the Children of God. And that is what we are.

When I was a young man, I, I think was probably still in my teens and, and I was struck by the words of the old hymn, The Love of God. And I remember it was especially the third verse of that hymn that just reached out and grab me.

Could we with ink, the ocean fill
and were the skies of parchment made?
Were every stalk on earth a quill and every man ascribed
by trade to write the love of God above would drain the oceans dry?
Or could the scroll contain the whole though stretched from sky to sky?

Wow, that's my prayer today. Wow, behold. What great love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called the Children of God. And, and that is what we are.

I am Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thank you for listening. Until next time.