

God Love You John 3:14-21

Some years ago, the great boxer, Mohammed Ali, was asked by a ghetto youth how he could quit school and start a boxing career since he had bad grades. Ali smiled at the young man and said in his poetic fashion:

"Stay in college and get the knowledge,
And stay there! Til you're through
Cause if God can make penicillin out of moldy bread,
He can make something out of you."

This is the good news of John 3. Because God so loved the world, He SENT His only son to make something out of us; when we accept Him into our lives and commit our hearts to Him, then He gives us new life in this world - and new life in the world to come.

The famous theologian Karl Barth wrote massive volumes of theological reflection about the Christian faith. He was the kind of intellect who understood far more than the average person. A reporter once asked him what the greatest theological idea was. He was expecting something equivalent to Einstein's $E=MC^2$, the theory of relativity, or some other esoteric concept that hardly anyone could understand. But Barth simply replied, "Jesus loves me this I know for the Bible tells me so."

Let us remember a childhood song that sums up the theology of the Bible.

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

- *Refrain:*
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

2. Jesus loves me! This I know,
As He loved so long ago,
Taking children on His knee,
Saying, "Let them come to Me."

3. Jesus loves me still today,
Walking with me on my way,
Wanting as a friend to give
Light and love to all who live.
4. Jesus loves me! He who died
Heaven's gate to open wide;
He will wash away my sin,
Let His little child come in.
5. Jesus loves me! He will stay
Close beside me all the way;
Thou hast bled and died for me,
I will henceforth live for Thee.

Let us embrace the knowledge that we are loved and precious in God's sight. Let us celebrate that life is worth living because we are loved by God.

God bless,
Pastor Barbara