

A P R I L 1 5 2 0 2 2



This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 1 John 4:10 (NIV).

Thought for today...

“I love you.” Many people long to hear those words said to them. Many people **have** heard those words said to them and have concluded that the words are meaningless, because the actions of the person uttering them seem to indicate otherwise.

Many people have said: “I thought you said that you loved me? If you **really** loved me you would... (you can complete the sentence as you deem fit).

It is oft said that ‘actions speak louder than words.’ Around Valentine’s Day each year, we are bombarded with images and stories of those who have gone to great lengths to demonstrate their depth of love for their spouse. No matter how elaborate or extravagant the gifts in such circumstances might be, none can rival the action that God took to demonstrate His love for mankind.

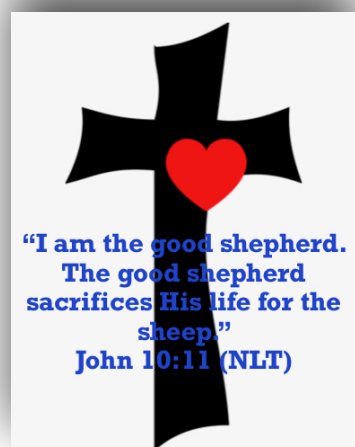
‘For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.’ John 3:16 (New International Version).



God was willing to sacrifice His only Son to demonstrate how much He loves us. With foreknowledge of our future sin and how we would fail Him, before Jesus went to die on the cross He could have said to His Father “Father, are You sure that You want me to die for ... ? (insert your name here), knowing that s/he is going to fall short time and time again and do and say ... (you know what to insert here). Father, with that in mind, I really don’t believe that s/he is worth dying for.”

Jesus could have said that, but He didn’t; instead **‘He humbled Himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross.’** Philippians 2:8 (New Living Translation). **‘He himself bore our sins in His body on the tree; ...’** 1 Peter 2:24 (Christian Standard Bible). Knowing that we were hopeless sinners and unworthy of the price that He paid (**‘As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one;”’**) Romans 3:10 (NIV), Jesus willingly chose an agonising death on the cross so that we might be reconciled with God.

Many people around the world today accept that Jesus Christ died for their sins and are rejoicing because they have been reconciled to God. Sadly, many people refute the fact that Jesus died for them and so reject Him as their saviour and Lord. Despite foreknowing which of these two groups you and I would choose to be in today **‘... God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.’** Romans 5:8 (English Standard Version).



In response to the question raised in the Bee Gees pop ballad ‘How Deep Is Your Love’, Jesus says: **“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”** John 15:13 (KJV).

No love is deeper than that.