

**Series:**  
**That You May Know God's Love**



**The Pursuing Love  
of God**

**Ephesians 3:14-21**

# The Pursuing Love of God

## Introduction:

Today we begin a series of messages  
on the subject of God's Love.



# The Pursuing Love of God

## Ephesians 3:14-21

**14 For this reason I bow my knees  
before the Father,**

**15 from whom every family in heaven  
and on earth derives its name,**

# The Pursuing Love of God

## Ephesians 3:14-21

**16 that He would grant you,  
according to the riches of His glory,  
to be strengthened with power  
through His Spirit in the inner man,**

# The Pursuing Love of God

## Ephesians 3:14-21

**17** so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

**18** may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,

# The Pursuing Love of God

## Ephesians 3:14-21

**19 and to know the love of Christ  
which surpasses knowledge,  
that you may be filled up  
to all the fullness of God.**

# The Pursuing Love of God

## Ephesians 3:14-21

**20 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,**

# The Pursuing Love of God

## Ephesians 3:14-21

**21 to Him be the glory in the church  
and in Christ Jesus to all generations  
forever and ever.**

**Amen.**



# The Pursuing Love of God

In **Ephesians 1** Paul describes the eternal relationship we enjoy with God once we have trusted in Jesus alone and experience as a result of this trust having our lives eternally joined to Jesus life.

Paul describes it with the phrase **“in Christ”**.

Chapter 1 gives us many of the benefits of this relationship.

# The Pursuing Love of God

In **Ephesians 2** Paul describes who we were before we trusted in Jesus and who we are now **“in Christ”**. Specifically, He describes how we have been brought near to God, how we all have come together from many different backgrounds to make one body of Christ, one family of God.

# **The Pursuing Love of God**

**Together we are joint heirs with Jesus  
of His eternal kingdom.  
We are His Body, the church,  
and Jesus is our head  
-our leader-our life.**

# The Pursuing Love of God

In **Ephesians 3** Paul continues to speak about how God called him to serve as a faithful steward in the church. He communicates that all of us together are called to serve as faithful stewards. In the passage we have read Paul now in light of all of these truths begins to pray.

# The Pursuing Love of God

He prays to God that all of us would be strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit in our inner man so that Christ Jesus can **dwell** in our hearts by faith. To dwell means to be at home.

# The Pursuing Love of God

His prayer is not only would Jesus enter our lives but that he will be able to be at home there.

Paul then prays that each of us would be **rooted** and **grounded** in God's Love.

# The Pursuing Love of God

**This means we would allow God's love  
for us to be our source of life and our  
foundation for how we understand God,  
how we understand ourselves,  
how we understand others  
and how we understand the world  
around us.**

# The Pursuing Love of God

He is praying that our worldview, our view of self and our understanding of God would come from God's love. The roots determine everything about the formation of the tree as well as its fruit.

God wants us at the very core of who we are, in our inner man to be rooted and grounded in His love.



# **The Pursuing Love of God**

**These two images of roots  
and foundations speak to the  
starting place of our lives.**

**As born again children of God  
all we are, all we do, all we believe  
is to be rooted and grounded  
in the knowledge of God's love.**

# The Pursuing Love of God

Paul continues to pray that from this being rooted and grounded in God's love we would grow to comprehend all of the dimensions of God's love.

This growth in the understanding and implementation of God's love from every angle is done together with all the saints  
**(vs. 18) (believers).**

# **The Pursuing Love of God**

**We cannot fully understand the fullness  
of God's love by ourselves.**

**We must experience it  
and grow to understand and apply it  
in the context of being  
and serving together.**

# The Pursuing Love of God

**This love of Christ surpasses ordinary knowledge which is why the world is so confused in its understanding of genuine love.**

**The love of God must be revealed to us by God as we live out in daily life this relationship with Jesus together.**

# The Pursuing Love of God

**Verse 20** tells us that Jesus is able to work within us to accomplish things way beyond what we can dream up or ever think to ask.

Jesus alone receives glory for how God's love grows in us and through us.

# The Pursuing Love of God

**Our prayer is that Jesus would be glorified as He reveals to us the depths of His love for us and His love for the world.**

# The Pursuing Love of God

**Over the next few weeks as God leads we hope to consider together the pursuing love of God, the compelling love of God, the transforming love of God, and the eternal love of God. Today we will focus our attention to how God's love pursues us.**

# The Pursuing Love of God

In **Romans 3:10-11** Paul quotes from several passages of the Old Testament Scriptures to show us that no one is righteous.

We also see that no one understands God and there is no one seeking God.



# The Pursuing Love of God

## Romans 3:10-11

<sup>10</sup> as it is written,

“There is none righteous, not even one;

<sup>11</sup> There is none who understands,  
There is none who seeks for God;

# The Pursuing Love of God

Therefore, apart from God's love pursuing us we would never have a hope of being righteous in God's eyes. We would never be acceptable to a Holy God.

# The Pursuing Love of God

**Yet because of God's pursuing love  
we can know God personally.  
We can be forgiven of our sin  
and cleansed.**

**We can be covered by the blood of Jesus  
and therefore considered  
eternally righteous in Christ.**

# The Pursuing Love of God

**God pursued us by His love and grace  
and through Christ he can take away  
our unrighteousness and give us  
the gift of righteousness.**

# The Pursuing Love of God

**God pursued us by His love and grace  
and through Christ he can take away  
our unrighteousness and give us  
the gift of righteousness.**

# The Pursuing Love of God

## Romans 3:20-24

**20 because by the works of the Law  
no flesh will be justified in His sight;  
for through the Law comes  
the knowledge of sin.**

# The Pursuing Love of God

## Romans 3:20-24

**21 But now apart from the Law  
the righteousness of God  
has been manifested,  
being witnessed by the Law  
and the Prophets,**

# The Pursuing Love of God

## Romans 3:20-24

**22 even the righteousness of God  
through faith in Jesus Christ  
for all those who believe;  
for there is no distinction;**



# The Pursuing Love of God

## Romans 3:20-24

**23 for all have sinned  
and fall short of the glory of God,**

An open book is shown in a dark, low-key setting. The pages are slightly illuminated, and the text is overlaid in a bold, white font with a drop shadow. The book is open to a page that appears to be the beginning of a chapter, with the text 'Romans 3:20-24' and '23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,' prominently displayed.

# The Pursuing Love of God

## Romans 3:20-24

**24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;**

An open book is shown in a dark, low-key setting. The pages are slightly illuminated, and the text is overlaid in a white, serif font with a drop shadow. The book is open to a page that appears to be the beginning of a chapter, with the word 'Romans' visible at the top of the page.

# The Pursuing Love of God

## 2 Corinthians 5:21

**21 He made Him who knew no sin  
to be sin on our behalf,  
so that we might become  
the righteousness of God in Him.**

# **The Pursuing Love of God**

**No one understands God on  
his or her own.**

**God's pursuing love began to reveal  
Himself to mankind through  
relationships with a few people,  
through the giving of His Word,  
and through His love  
for His chosen people  
through whom He had promised  
to bless all of the nations.**

# The Pursuing Love of God

**Now because God's love pursued us  
in Jesus we can grow to understand  
God's will, God's ways, God's purposes,  
etc.-God Himself.**

# The Pursuing Love of God

We can also begin to understand ourselves in the light of the truth that God is our creator.

In **Ephesians 3:14** we read that Paul's prayer was to the "Father from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name."

# The Pursuing Love of God

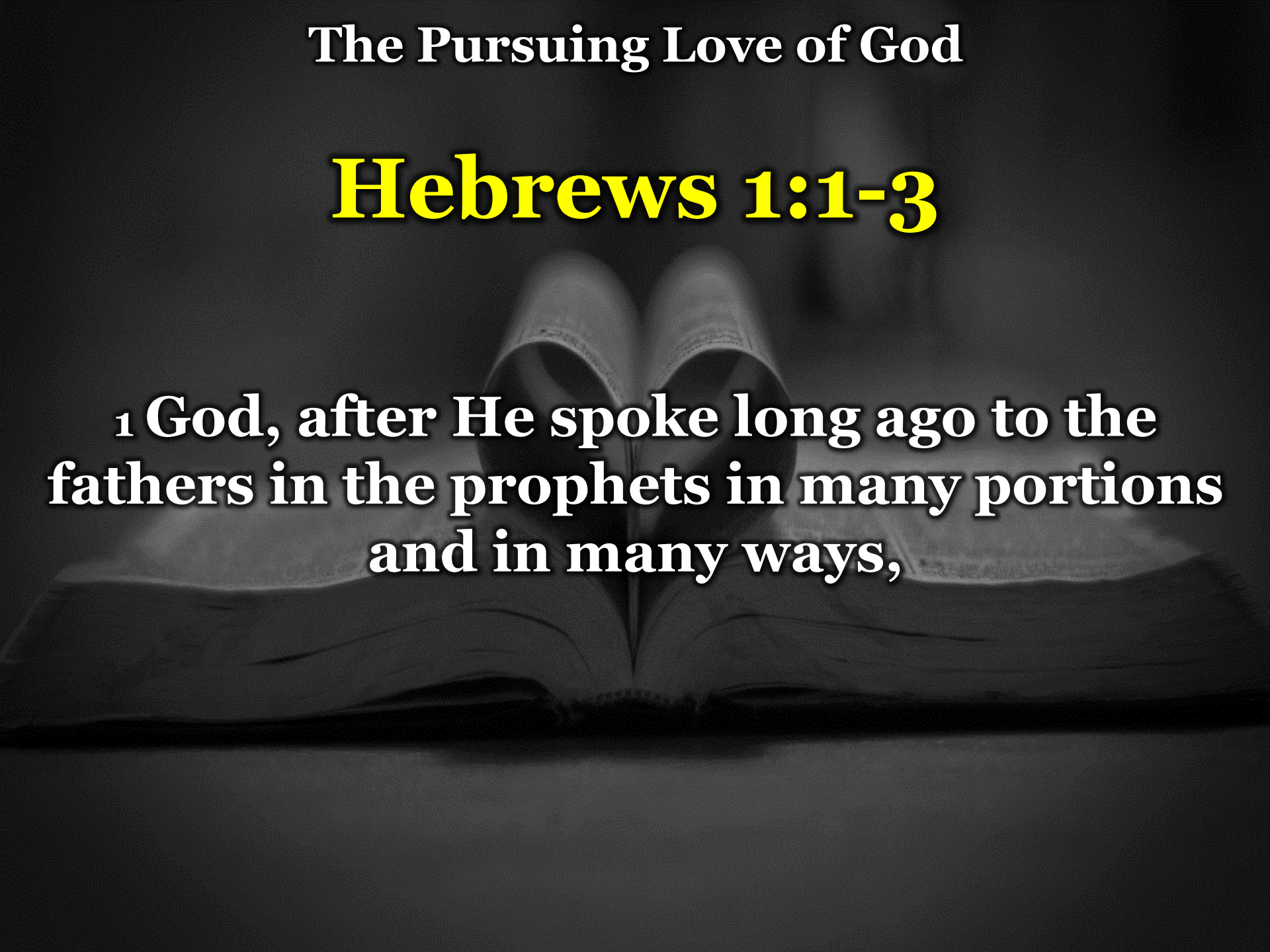
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# The Pursuing Love of God

## Hebrews 1:1-3

**1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,**





# The Pursuing Love of God

## Hebrews 1:1-3

**2 in these last days has spoken to us  
in His Son, whom He appointed  
heir of all things,  
through whom also He made the world.**

# The Pursuing Love of God

## Hebrews 1:1-3

**3 And He is the radiance of His glory  
and the exact representation  
of His nature,  
and upholds all things by the word  
of His power.**

**When He had made purification of sins,  
He sat down at the right hand  
of the Majesty on high,**

# The Pursuing Love of God

## John 14:6-9

6 Jesus \*said to him,

**“I am the way, and the truth,  
and the life; no one comes to the Father  
but through Me.**

# The Pursuing Love of God


## John 14:6-9

**7 If you had known Me,  
you would have known My Father also;  
from now on you know Him,  
and have seen Him.”**

# The Pursuing Love of God

## John 14:6-9

8 Philip \*said to Him,  
“Lord, show us the Father,  
and it is enough for us.”

An open book is shown from a top-down perspective, lying flat. A pair of hands is resting on the pages, with fingers slightly spread. The background is dark, and the lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the paper and the skin of the hands.

# The Pursuing Love of God

## John 14:6-9

9 Jesus \*said to him,

“Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip?

He who has seen Me  
has seen the Father;

how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?

# The Pursuing Love of God

**No one seeks God on his or her own.  
God's love pursues us.  
God places within each person  
the knowledge of Himself in a form  
which creates a spiritual thirst.**

# **The Pursuing Love of God**

**This is why mankind hungers  
to know God.**

**We do not have to search for God.  
God love has pursued us, found us,  
and revealed Himself to us in Jesus.**



# The Pursuing Love of God

In **Romans 5:3-8** Paul shares that we are able to rejoice in our tribulations because we know that God's love is working in us and around us even in the midst of tribulations.

# The Pursuing Love of God

## Romans 5:3-8

**3 And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance;**

An open book with a rolled-up scroll resting on top of it, set against a dark background.

# The Pursuing Love of God

## Romans 5:3-8

4 and perseverance, proven character;  
and proven character, hope;



# The Pursuing Love of God


## Romans 5:3-8

5 and hope does not disappoint,  
because the love of God has been  
poured out within our hearts  
through the Holy Spirit  
who was given to us.

# The Pursuing Love of God

## Romans 5:3-8

**6 For while we were still helpless,  
at the right time Christ died  
for the ungodly.**

An open book is shown in a dark, low-key setting. The pages are slightly illuminated, and the text is overlaid in a bright, bold font. The book is open to a page that appears to be the beginning of a chapter, with the number '6' visible at the start of the first line of text.

# The Pursuing Love of God

## Romans 5:3-8

**7 For one will hardly die  
for a righteous man;  
though perhaps for the good man  
someone would dare even to die.**

# The Pursuing Love of God

## Romans 5:3-8

8 But God demonstrates  
His own love toward us,  
in that while we were yet sinners,  
Christ died for us.

# The Pursuing Love of God

**We are led by God's love through these difficult times to the experience of hope. Hope is the final step of the maturing process God's love leads us through in each experience of life.**



# **The Pursuing Love of God**

**Throughout our journey in this world  
we experience God's love  
being poured out within our hearts  
by His indwelling Holy Spirit.**

# The Pursuing Love of God

How do we know God loves us?  
When we were helpless, hopeless,  
and lost in our sin Jesus died for us.

God demonstrated


**(Put on display) (targeted)**

His love towards us in that  
while we were sinners  
Jesus still chose to die for us.  
This is a pursuing love!

# The Pursuing Love of God

## Luke 15:1-2

**1 Now all the tax collectors  
and the sinners  
were coming near Him to listen to Him.**



# The Pursuing Love of God

## Luke 15:1-2

**2 Both the Pharisees and the scribes began to grumble, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”**

# The Pursuing Love of God

As we see in **Luke 15: 1-2**,  
Luke tells us that Jesus chose to allow  
the tax gatherers (**traitors**)  
and the sinners  
(**non-religious /non practicing Jews**),  
to sit with Him and eat a meal with Him.  
*We would call this group unchurched  
or de-churched people today.*

# The Pursuing Love of God

**This group, of non-religious people,  
was comfortable around Jesus  
and they were listening to Him.  
His welcoming presence in their midst  
was evidence of God's pursuing love.**

# The Pursuing Love of God

The religious leaders began to grumble  
and finally spoke up to say;

**“This man receives sinners  
and eats with them!”**

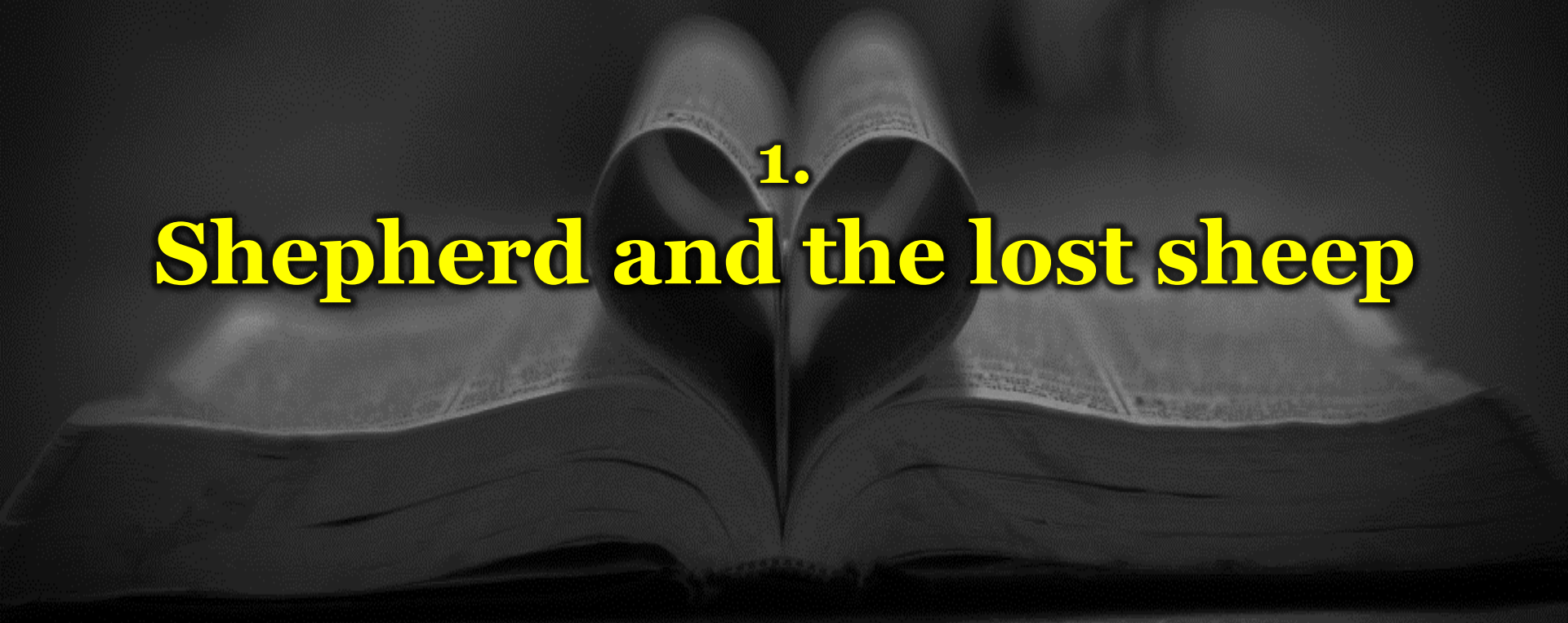
What a wonderful behavior of which to  
be accused!

Thank God Jesus receives sinners!  
Jesus responded by telling 3 stories  
which described God’s pursuing love.

# The Pursuing Love of God

1.

## Shepherd and the lost sheep

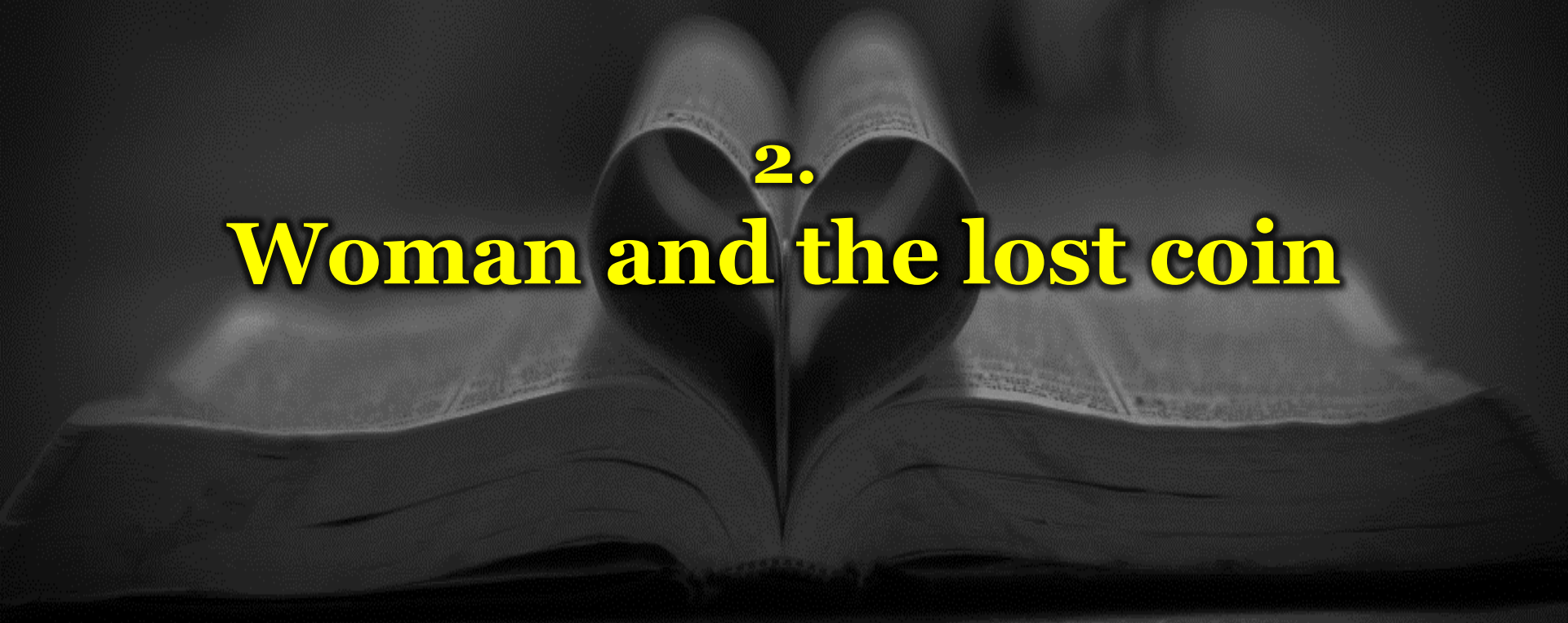




# The Pursuing Love of God

2.

**Woman and the lost coin**



# The Pursuing Love of God

An open book is shown in a dark, low-key setting. The pages are slightly aged and the lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the paper. In the center of the book, two pages are rolled up and placed together to form a heart shape. The text is overlaid on this central image.

**3.**  
**Loving father**  
**and the two lost boys**

# The Pursuing Love of God

**Those who seek to be accepted by God  
by doing religious works  
will seldom understand  
the grace of God's pursuing love.**

# The Pursuing Love of God

**Jesus knew the crowd to whom He spoke was filled with those who knew they were sinners in a pig pen of life. He also knew others saw themselves as close to God by comparing themselves to others and keeping a list of rules.**

# The Pursuing Love of God

*Both groups were equally far from God.*

**Both groups were being pursued  
by God's love.**

**Both would have to respond  
to God's grace by trusting in Jesus alone.**

# The Pursuing Love of God

**God's love pursues us seeking to bring us to trust in Jesus for salvation.**

**Our sin separates us from God and God's love reveals to us this truth.**

# The Pursuing Love of God

**God's love reveals to us the truth that  
Jesus paid for us the penalty  
of death and separation  
when He died on the cross for us.**

**Jesus paid the price so we who trusted  
in Him could be forgiven, cleansed,  
and made by God to be a new person  
in Christ.**

# **The Pursuing Love of God**

**Through Jesus death and resurrection  
we can be given an eternal relationship  
with God.**

**If today you do not have a personal  
relationship with God through Jesus  
please know that God loves you  
& God is pursuing you in love  
to offer you the gift of eternal life.**



# The Pursuing Love of God

**Let God catch you!**

**Acknowledge the truth  
that you are a sinner.**

**Seek God's forgiveness and cleansing  
of sin that is only possible  
through trusting Jesus.**

# The Pursuing Love of God

**Ask Jesus to rescue you from the penalty  
of death and separation from God  
which we all deserve because of our sin.**

The background of the image is a dark, grayscale photograph of an open book. The pages are slightly aged and the text is faint. A pair of lips is positioned as if about to kiss the center of the book, creating a romantic and intimate visual metaphor for the text.

# The Pursuing Love of God

**Jesus loves you.**

**Jesus died for you.**

**Jesus rose from the dead  
conquering sin and death  
to offer you eternal life.**

**Trust Him today!**

# **The Pursuing Love of God**

**God doesn't stop pursuing us with His love when we become His children.**

**Like a godly parent continues to love and guide a child from birth to maturity,**

**God's love pursues us to guide us,  
to mold us, to help us grow,  
to know all of the dimensions  
of His great love for us.**

# **The Pursuing Love of God**

**His love continues to pursue us  
until the day we see Jesus face to face  
and become like Jesus.**

**Even then His love will pursue us  
as we fully enjoy His presence  
for all eternity.**

# **The Pursuing Love of God**

**His Holy Spirit within us  
convicts and guides us.**

**His Spirit empowers and cleanses us  
as needed.**

**His Word teaches, reproofs, corrects,  
and instructs us.**

**All of these are evidence  
of God's pursuing love.**

# The Pursuing Love of God

## Application

How are you experiencing  
the pursuing love of God today?

- Pursuing you to offer you the gift  
of eternal life?

**Trust Jesus!**

# The Pursuing Love of God

## Application

How are you experiencing  
the pursuing love of God today?

- Pursuing you to lovingly reproof or correct you to help you get back to the best path?



# The Pursuing Love of God

## Application

How are you experiencing  
the pursuing love of God today?

- Pursuing you to guide you and mold you as you walk with Him through a difficult path on your journey

# The Pursuing Love of God

## Application

**How are you experiencing  
the pursuing love of God today?**

**Every circumstance He allows he can use  
to make us more like Jesus.**

**Every experience of His molding  
is preparing us for our eternal place  
of serving in His Kingdom**

# The Pursuing Love of God

## Application

How are you experiencing  
the pursuing love of God today?

However he is pursuing you today in His love  
please let Him catch you.

Let His love do its full work in your life today.

Seek to know His love in every way possible.

**Series:**  
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