

## Loving the Lord

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*I love the LORD, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications.*

*– Psalm 116:1 –*

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Psalm 116 is an inspired outpouring of a grateful heart and a public proclamation of a deep devotion to a God who is both near and interactive in the life of the psalmist. A careful meditation on its nineteen verses will reveal that the author has multiple reasons for exultantly articulating his heartfelt love for his God including the Lord's attentiveness, His deliverance, His grace, His mercy, His preservation, His help, His bountiful care, His benefits, and His salvation. Indeed, God is good and never leaves His beloved overwhelmed in their troubles.

Only the Bible presents mankind with a God such as the one adored in Psalm 116. There is no other religion on earth that can or ever could boast a deity that inspires love from its devotees or that demonstrably and personally interacts with its individual adherents. Search and you will find that all non-Christian religions pay their homage to nothing more than egotistical, maniacal, or austere "gods" that are hopelessly contradictory in themselves and helplessly aloof from the troubles of mankind. But our God, the living God, is not only magnificently consistent in His holy character, but also wonderfully gracious and incessantly active in His wooing of and working with every individual of fallen humanity. Yes – we love Him, because He first loved us.

Our God who offered His Son on Calvary, our Christ who redeemed us there, and His Spirit who indwells our hearts, continues to lovingly engage and work with each of us in order to meet out His eternal purpose in our uniquely individual lives. In the truest sense of the old hymn, "He walks with us and talks with us along life's narrow way." The Lord provides our every need. The Lord hears and answers our prayers. The Lord comforts our broken hearts. The Lord remembers us. The Lord never leaves nor forsakes us. The Lord does exceedingly abundantly above all that we could ask or think. Indeed, the Maker of the universe is also the Rock of our salvation and the Lifter of our heads. He is our portion. Our cup runneth over. (Replace "our" and "us" with "my" and "me" in the preceding thoughts and it all remains equally as true.)

The finished work of our redemption and the continuing work of our sanctification should cause us to have our hearts ever and always in such a state as to readily and publicly proclaim "I love the Lord because...". Let us continue to compile the wonderfully unending list of reasons of our love for Him and may we find opportunity to rehearse them with someone today!

-- D. Murcek