**2024 12 29 Motto Text NOTES for 2025**

East Dulwich Tabernacle Sunday School, Bible and College Class New Year Motto Text 2025

Hymn: My song is love unknown (254)

Read: Romans 5v1-21.

***‘God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.’ (Romans 5.8)***

**Imagine your friend makes some surprising claims** e.g. “I own a horse; my dad is a famous sportsman, or we eat using solid gold cutlery at home.”

**Would you believe them?** Surely, you would say **“Prove it!”**

**More seriously**, in our fallen and sin-sick world, people can be taken hostage and ransom money demanded for their release.

In situations like these, desperate families ask for **‘proof of life’** to ensure their loved one hasn’t been fatally harmed.

**Proof is important.**

The word **‘commendeth’** in our motto text is like the word **‘proves’**.

You could say Almighty God demonstrates, shows, reveals or **proves** His love towards us.

**God has taken the initiative to do this.**

**How?**

Proof of God’s Love to us. **John 3v16.**

 ***“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”***

**We note that God ‘SO’ loved the world.**

**The love of God** is so vast and powerful. It is like a never-ending ocean with its continuous rolling waves.

We all know the love of a parent, brother or sister, friend.

**But their love is imperfect.**

**2**

**God’s love is a perfect love** and so is far greater and purer than all other loves combined.

The wonder of God’s love is difficult for us to fully understand and appreciate because it is so large and very overwhelming.

**Do you remember the Chorus?**

**The love of God is so wonderful, so high we cannot get over it, so low we cannot get under it, so wide we cannot get round it, Love, wonderful love!**

**By Christ dying for us, the guilt of our sin is removed, forgotten.**

**Psalm 103v12, *“As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions* (sin) *from us.”***

**O, the amazing love of God - To send His Son to die to save sinners such as us, His enemies!**

**Let Us Explore God’s Amazing Love: -**

1. **God is Love.** Agape. **1 John 4v8**. One of God’s many unchanging characteristics.
2. **Eternal Love** – From eternity, before the creation of the world. Never ending.

**From Everlasting to Everlasting**.

**Speaking of the Lord Jesus Christ as The Creator, The Eternal Son of God, John 1v1-3**.

***“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.***

***The same was in the beginning with God.***

***All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made.”***

**Jerimiah 31v3. God’s Everlasting and Unchanging Love.4**

**3**

**“Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore, with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.”**

1. **Sovereign Love** – Under obligation to no one.

He loves and saves whomsoever He pleases. **Romans 9v15.**

***“For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.”***

1. **Infinite Love** – **Immeasurable Love**. Giving us peace beyond our full comprehension. **Philippians 4v7.**
2. **Immutable Love** - Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and for ever. Hebrews 13v8.

***God has no variableness, neither shadow of turning***. **James 1 v17.**

1. **Holy Love** – **Regulated by Divine Principle.** God’s love never conflicts with His Holiness. As a loving Father He chastens His children. **See Hebrews 12v6.**
2. **Gracious Love** – Christ died, **not** to make God love us, **but** **because He loves us**.

If ever you doubt God’s love for you, go immediately to the foot of Calvary’s cross.

**Seek assurance that Christ died for you.**

**God’s Love Towards Us Was Even When We Were His Enemies. As our Motto verse says. How amazing!**

1. **Uninfluenced Love** – **God is Omniscient**, He knows all things – past, present, and future.

**4**

Yet He did not look to see who would believe and so Elect them (as some falsely teach).

If God followed this rule, then no-one would be saved. **Romans 3v10,** ***“There is none righteous, no, not one.”***

1. **Loved whilst we were Enemies of God.** **Romans 5v10.** ***“For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”***
2. ***Eternal, Electing Love. Ephesians 1v4,5.***

***“According as He (God) hath chosen us in Him (Christ) before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love: Having predestinated us.”***

**God has elected a people to be saved out of His free mercy and grace.**

**These are the ones for whom Christ died to save.**

**The Lord Jesus said, John 6v39. *“And this is the Father's will which hath sent Me, that of all which He hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.”***

So, God Commends His Love to Us. He has proved His Love on Calvary.

**What greater proof do you want?**

**5**

**The Lord Jesus said, *”This is My commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”***

**So, we must accept His great act of love for us (dying to save us), and love and obey Him.**

**Have you done this yet?**