

## Love Incorruptible

Ephesians 6: 21-24

This is #43, and the final message in our Series from Paul's letter to the Ephesians

Peter Hiatt

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[The worship leader sings: "All you Need is Love" by the Beatles.

## Prayer

Lord God we thank you that you are here with us, and now we pray that we would preach your Word, in Jesus' name we ask it, Amen.

## Message

This is our forty-third and last sermon from the book of Ephesians. And the last two words of Ephesians really summarize the whole letter.

Ephesians 6:21-24

*So that you also may know how I (Paul) am doing, Tychicus the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord will tell you everything. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage your hearts. Peace be to the brothers, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible.*

"Love incorruptible."

[Peter begins singing: "All we need is love, love, love is all we need."]

This sermon is about love...so I expect you to expect it to be

1. Vague or nauseating...or maybe
2. Narrow and guilt inducing.

If the pastor is liberal, it's easy to cite some poetry about love and say, "Love is everywhere," which really means, "nowhere" and "nothing" because folks define love as they see fit.

If the pastor is conservative, it's easy to define love saying, "Love is this or that," and "You better do this or that," because "If you don't do this or that...you don't love, and love is the law. That pastor tends to define law as he sees fit, and then define loves as he sees fit.

So...love is everywhere, intangible, impractical, liberal and nauseating as sin.

Or...love is specific, tangible, practical, conservative and impossible as a law that condemns you to death.

So, what is love?

[The song "What is Love?" by Haddaway is played from above.]

*What is love? Baby don't hurt me...don't hurt me...no more.*

*Baby don't hurt me...don't hurt me...no more.*

*Music...*

*What is love?*

Ephesians 4:23

*Peace be to the brothers, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible.*

More literally translated, the last line is:

*“Grace be with all who love (agapao) our Lord Jesus Christ in incorruption (aphtharsia).*

So commentators and translators debate as to what exactly that word “incorruption” refers.

1. Some say, it refers to the whole sentence that is: God’s Grace, (which is His love poured out) God’s Grace and our love for God.<sup>1</sup>
2. Most scholars say it most obviously refers to the verb *agapao*, that is: love. So most versions translate the phrase as: “Love incorruptible,” but some wonder: “How could our love be incorruptible?”
3. The King James translated the little phrase as “sincerity.” So... “Grace to those who love God with sincerity.” But if you loved God with sincerity, (that is all your heart) why would you need Grace? And the word *aphtharsia* really doesn’t mean “sincerity” but refers to something that cannot be destroyed or corrupted.

The Greek philosophers used to debate what *aphtharsia* was. What was “incorruptible,” and/or “indestructible.” Parmenides said, “What is, is. And what is not, is not,” which means: “What is” cannot move and cannot be divided; for “what is” could only be divided by “what is not.” But “what is not,” is not. And what is, could only move to “what is not. But “what is not,” is not. So “what is” cannot move or be divided; it’s like perfect beingness—the perfect noun *aphtharsia* or *aphthatos*.

Heraclitus said, “Parmenides is smoking crack. The only thing unchangeable is change itself.” So *Aphtharsia* is movement, the perfect verb. But how could our love be *aphtharsia*?

Well, love is a mystery. And yet, we all feel the need to define it.

[A clip of various romantic type pictures set to “*I Want to Know What Love is?*” By FOREIGNER is shown.]

*I want to know what love is  
I want you to show me.  
I want to feel what love is.  
I know you can show me.*

[Clip from SNL with Jim Carrey, Will Farrel, and Chris Katan dancing at their high school prom. The scene is set to the music: *What is love? Baby don’t hurt me...don’t hurt me no more.* ]

We all feel the need to define love.  
We all feel the need to nail it down.

I grew up with these cartoons:

[Image of a male character giving a female character a foot rub with the caption: “Love is when he gives you a foot rub.”]

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<sup>1</sup> F.F. Bruce, the “Michael Jordan” of Biblical Exegesis.

[Image of a male and female character floating in stars and hearts as they embrace. The caption says, "Love is like nothing you've ever experienced before..."]

But haven't you experienced a foot rub before?

[Image of a character putting on a smiley face t-shirt with the caption: "Love is putting on a smiley face"]

So love is an act? Like pretending to like a foot rub.

[Image of a male and female character opening a package together with a giant heart being revealed: "Love is your secret feeling revealed."]

(That's not an act!)

Love is two weird naked kids saying confusing stuff??

So, what is love?

Some say love is a feeling or a chemical in the blood [Peter begins to sing]: "Bless a my soul what's a wrong with me. I'm itchin' like a man on a fuzzy tree. My friends say I'm actin' wild as a bug....I'm in love—huh—I'm all shook up."

Is love a hormone or a feeling, an affection?

A few weeks ago, Andrew taught us that the Greeks had several words that can be translated as "love."

*Phileo* means affection (especially friendship).

*Stergo* means affection (especially between parents and children).

*Erao* or *Eros* refers to sexual affection, even consuming desire.

Well, as Andrew mentioned, the early church took a little used, and rather colorless, word that was often a synonym for those other words: *agapao* or *agape* and gave it new meaning. So, *agape* is not the same as *phileo*, *stergo* and *eros*, and yet, Jesus calls us "friends." That's *phileo*.

And Paul has told us that "God is our Father," that implies *stergo*.  
And "Christ is our Bridegroom, and we are his Bride."

The first commandment is: "*Be fruitful and multiply.*" My experience is that obedience to that command involves some feelings and hormones in the blood. Read Ezekiel 16 or the Song of Solomon. They're downright erotic. And Paul writes, "*Husbands agapeo your wives as Christ does the church.*"

So, *agape* love is not the same as *eros*, *stergo*, and *phileo*,  
but it is not opposed to *eros*, *stergo*, and *phileo*.  
It's more like it completes or fills *eros*, *stergo* and *phileo*.

So, maybe love is a feeling,  
but our feelings are corruptible.

So, maybe love is not our feelings.

Some people say, "Love is not a feeling. You can't command a feeling." Love is a commandment; Love is a choice; Love is a commitment; Love is covenant; Love is a promise kept.

In scripture, God makes a covenant with His children (Israel), and with His bride (Jerusalem). And the terms of the covenant are LOVE, or I should say, a description of Love called the Law.

Through Joshua, God says, “*Choose this day whom you will serve,*” and Joshua (which is the Hebrew form of the word Jesus) says, “*As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.*” And then he says, “But ya’ll can’t choose to serve the Lord.” Weird huh?

So, God makes a covenant with His people, and His people can’t fulfill the terms of the covenant. They can’t seem to love. We call that the Old Covenant. But God also made a new or eternal covenant, not *with* but *FOR* His people. And with that covenant, He fulfills the terms of the Old Covenant, and ratifies the new and eternal covenant.

The point being, God is the promise keeper, and we are not promise keepers. God’s choice, God’s judgments, God’s faithfulness, God’s actions are incorruptible, but ours seem to be entirely corruptible.

So, if love is a choice, and love is incorruptible...well, love is certainly not our choice. And if love is a commitment, and love is incorruptible, love is not *our* commitment. And if love is an action, it’s not *our* action.

[Suddenly, the song “What is Love?” by Haddaway is played from above.] See notes p.6

*What is love? Baby don’t hurt me...don’t hurt me...no more.  
Baby don’t hurt me...don’t hurt me...no more.*

In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul describes love. Most people seem to think that there’s a footnote somewhere in the text that says, “Hey, don’t take this seriously, it’s just a nauseating poem to be read at weddings.” But there is no footnote, so I dare you to take this literally:

*If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.*

Think about that: All faith minus love equals nothing...so all faith is love, and is my something...for without it, I’m nothing but an empty space waiting for the something ...that is love.

*If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful (keeps no records of wrongs); it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

Think about that!

If love bears all things, what do you bear? Do the math: you bear nothing...or you are love that bears all things...or if you bear something it’s love in you bearing that something. If love believes all things, what do you believe? Well, nothing or it’s love in you that’s doing the believing. If love hopes all things, what do you hope?

And if some kid, over in the darkest reaches of Africa, who's never heard of Jesus, hopes in something...What's doing the hoping? According to Paul, it's love. And what if he's hoping in something sinful? Well, every sin is something good infected with evil.

Maybe it's impossible to hope in pure evil, for evil is ultimately no thing. If love hopes all things and you hope all things, then it's love in you that's hoping the thing. If love endures all things, and you endure anything, it's love in you that's doing the enduring.

Next verse:

*Love never ends—"Love never fails."*

In other words, Love is incorruptible, indestructible, invincible, and eternal. It's immortal. In 1 Timothy 6:6 Paul makes it clear, "*God alone has immortality.*"

*Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophecy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways; for now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part.*

(Maybe sin is like our desire to know in part, to know about love, but not know and be known by love. It's our desire to take love as our own possession, like fruit plucked from a tree. It's our desire to nail love down.

*For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

[Peter starts singing the song "What is Love?" by Haddaway.]

*What is love? Baby don't hurt me...don't hurt me...no more.  
Baby don't hurt me...don't hurt me...no more.*

Who's singing that??

What is love?

Well, John just comes out and says it 1 John 4:8 "*God is love.*" He doesn't write, "God is loving," as if love were something outside of God that could define God. He doesn't write, "God is love *and* something else," as if God were part love and part *not* love, as if God were two and not one. He writes, "*God is love.*" And for some reason religious people are often quick to say, "Well, that doesn't mean 'Love is God.'" And truly, if I say, "Bacon is pork," it doesn't mean "pork" is bacon...because pork is a larger category than bacon. But what could be a larger category than God? And besides, who else or what else could bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, and endure all things? Who never fails? Only God.

So, God is love, and real love must be God.

Now, we may call things "love" that aren't love or only partially love or tortured love...things like adultery and fornication. But if God is love, real love is God. So of course, Love is incorruptible; love is eternal; love is beyond our space and time. So of course, Love is a noun and a verb like God is a noun

and a verb...perfect being and perfect action: *"I am that I am,"* and His Word through whom He creates all things.

He is the great dance.  
If love is a feeling, it's God's feeling.  
If love is affection, it's God's affection.  
If love is passion, it's God's passion.  
If love is something in the blood, it's something in God's blood.  
If love is a choice, it's God's choice.  
If love is a judgment, it's God's judgment.  
If love is an action, it's God's action.  
If love is a work, it's God's work.

And of course we can't define love.

Love defines us...and all things.

We can't define love, but by Grace, we recognize Love.

God is Love, and Jesus is the Revelation of Love.

So, check this out you liberal Christians: Love is bigger than space and time, and love is everywhere that's anywhere. Love *"binds everything together in perfect harmony,"* as Paul puts it. But Love is not defined by you. Love is not vague or whatever you want it to be. Love is small and specific as a baby in a manger or a man hanging on a cross.

And check this out you conservative Christians: Love really *is* that baby in that manger, but He also bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. He was crucified: *"once and for all,"* but for all what? For *all* sin, in *all* space, for all time. Love is humongous.

And check this out *all* of you: What is sin? Well, isn't sin the absolutely insane belief that *I* can create love...when in fact, Love creates me? Sin is thinking I can create love by taking "knowledge of love," like fruit from a tree. So, whenever we try to seize control of love, as if we could define love, possess love, and create love, we, in fact, crucify love.

What is love?

[Peter begins singing: "Baby don't hurt me; don't hurt me no more."]

Maybe Jesus is singing that to us...His Bride. For whenever we try to live as if love were our own accomplishment, we crucify love, and pretend to love, even though we hate real love. But, if ever we in fact do love, it's love rising from the dead in us. It's not our feelings, our choice, our work...but God's feelings, choice, and work in us. It's the promised and eternal Seed growing within us.

Listen to 1 John 4:7-8 *"Beloved let us love (that's a funny way to say it huh? Not get cracking on your love but allow love to happen). Beloved let us love one another for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God. God is love."*

So if you don't love, raise your hand. Now, I know you're hesitant to raise your hand, but I bet you have loved. I bet you've fed a hungry person (because you wanted to). I bet you visited a sick person (because you wanted to). I bet you handed a thirsty person a glass of water (because you wanted to).

You may say, "But when did I see Him hungry and give Him food, sick and visit Him, thirsty and give Him drink?" I mean, you probably don't remember trying to do it because it wasn't your ego that was doing it.

Well, God is love, but who are you? It's like there are two of you: 1) A you that tries to love, but doesn't love...like an imposter. 2) And a you that doesn't really try to love, but does love...like God, a you that loves in freedom.

God is Love, and Love is incorruptible *aphtharsia*.

In 1 Corinthians 15, which is after 13, Paul writes this:

*For this corruption, must put on the incorruptible (aphtharsia), and this mortal body must put on immortality. When (the corruptible) puts on (the incorruptible), and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O death (Hades) where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, (Believing you could create love.) and the power of sin is the law (The description of Love). But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (Who is Love). Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain (Your love is incorruptible).*

See? It's like there's an old corruptible imposter of a man that you think you create, that cannot love. And a new incorruptible man that God has created...that does love, for he is constructed of incorruptible Love, like a waterfall is constructed of water. I think the waterfall could say, "I am water," even though it isn't all water.

So, God is Love, and I am....what? I am constructed with the blood of Christ, which is to flow through me like blood through a body. Paul told us, we are members of Christ's body, so my new man knows: *"It's no longer I who live but Christ in me."*

Well, in Ephesians 4:20 Paul told us: *"To learn Christ is to 'put off the old man...who is corrupt through deceitful desires, and put on the new man, created (already created) after the image of God.'"*

The New Man loves,  
But doesn't take credit for love,  
Like a waterfall flows but doesn't take credit for the water.

The old man doesn't love,  
But he isn't to be condemned for that lack of love,  
For he's already been condemned at the cross.  
And it's not like he could've done differently; He's incapable of Love.

Love is God's feelings, God's choice, God's work in us.

See? Your work does not create Love, but Love creates your free will; Love is free will.

And you may say, "But what do I have to do?" Well, I'm not sure you have to do anything. The old man can do nothing, and the New Man doesn't have to do anything; He's free; He doesn't have to do anything, but desires to do everything. He desires to love because He is Love, and God is Love.

If you see that, if you learn that, if you see Christ and so learn Christ...then you will look at yourself from time to time and think, "Hey, look at that: I'm patient and kind; I'm not jealous or boastful; By jove, I think I loved!" But you won't take credit for the love. You will thank God for the love, which is the presence of more Love.

And if on another occasion, you look at yourself and say, "Hey, I was arrogant and rude; I was jealous and boastful: I didn't love," you will then say, "Hey that's not me; that's a lie about me; that's not the new man...but the old man."

And just that...exposes the old man, and destroys the old man,  
and in the place of the old man is a desire for the New Man.

In the place of sin is a desire for Grace.

In the place of "not love" is a desire *for* Love, which is, in fact, Love.

*"Where sin increased, Grace abounded all the more."*

So the old man is a space in which the New Man is revealed.

See? LOVE wastes NOTHING!

So, Love is not a work you do, but Love is working itself out in you. He is working Himself out in you. He is being formed in you. Love is the fruit of the Spirit.

In the Bible, what is the fruit of the woman called? A baby. We are the Bride of Christ, and when we love, which is the *"will of the Father,"* we are Christ's mother. He said so, and if we're His mother, He is our fruit.

I've seen a woman give birth, four times, and two things became entirely obvious on each occasion. 1) She did not make that baby, so she was overwhelmed with gratitude for that baby. That baby was the gift of God. 2) Although she did not make that baby, carrying that baby and delivering that baby was one hell of a lot of work. And...oh yeah, 3) It was a mystery.

Well, you don't make love: Love makes you. And you don't work love (but trust me), Love will work you, and in this world of space and time, Love is always working...until you enter His rest and are finished. Love is working you and all things. God's will is love, and God's will is that you would love.

Ephesians 1:10 God gets what God wills.

Ephesians 3:18 God wills to fill you with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 4:10 Jesus descended and ascended, in order to fill all things.

All creating is God's school of love.

So don't let any religious person tell you: "To do God's will you have to become a pastor, or a monk, or meditate in a cave." God's will is that you would love, wherever you are, and Love is working itself out, wherever you are. To be in God's will, just do what you do...in love.

If you find out you are a hit man for a terrorist group, and you find you can't do that in love...then quit...in love, and you've been saved by Love, and you can share your testimony of Love. Actually, that is exactly what happened to the *"chief of sinners"* the apostle Paul. That's his story of incorruptible Love.

To be in God's will, just do what you do in love:

It may look like a foot rub.

It may be a smile, God's smile that you put on.

It may look like two naked children saying confusing sappy stuff.

It may look like a painful confrontation.

It may look like Jesus rebuking Peter or the Pharisees.

See? It's very hard to judge from the outside. It's actually God judging you, from the inside.



So I'm not saying, "It won't be painful to love, and it won't be messy, and it won't be exhausting. God will use rebellious children, cantankerous parents, disgruntled employees, mass destruction. God will use disobedience, futility, and even the devil. Love feels like labor in this world. In fact, Paul writes: *"The whole creation is in labor."*

So, I really want you to hear this:

- Love is not a tool to get other things done.
- All creation is a tool to get Love done.
- Love is God's baby.

God is Love, and Love in you is God in you, and that's the incorruptible you, so Paul ends Ephesians with this line: *"Grace be..."* (Be is supplied by the translator so more accurately...) *"Grace is with all who love our Lord with Love incorruptible."*

You see? Love is not a curse, something like: "You better go love." Love is the ultimate gift of Grace. Grace is with all who love. You see? I just don't think we take the Bible seriously when it says, *"God is love."*

So let me summarize what we've said and wrap up.

**If Love is Incorruptible:**

- God is Love and Love is God.

If love is incorruptible:

Then God is Love, and Love is God.

**If Love is Incorruptible:**

- God is Love and Love is God.
- I don't create Love, but Love creates me.

I don't create love, but Love creates me

### **If Love is Incorruptible:**

- God is Love and Love is God.
- I don't create Love, but Love creates me.
- The incorruptible and eternal "me" is love and when I love, I'm giving birth to me.

The incorruptible and eternal me is Love, and when I love, I'm giving birth to me.

### **If Love is Incorruptible:**

- God is Love and Love is God.
- I don't create Love, but Love creates me.
- The incorruptible and eternal "me" is love and when I love, I'm giving birth to me.
- Love is not only a commandment; Love is a promise.

Love is not only a commandment. Love is a promise.

Remember, Jesus said this is the great commandment:

*"Hear oh Israel, the Lord your God is One, and you will (not you should or might; it's a simple future active indicative) You **will** love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength, and you **will** love your neighbor as yourself."*

That's a promise. See? Jesus is Love in flesh, and Jesus fulfills the law, and He fulfills it in you. Jesus is the will and Word of God that does not return void. Grace is with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ. They love in part, but that part is incorruptible. So, although you love with part of your heart, you will love with all of your heart. That love is not a curse...but a gift. That Love is its own reward. If God is Love and Love is God, how could there be a reward for Love...other than Love? Love is heaven. Heaven is filled with love.

Paul wrote, *"Creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption—pthonas, and obtain the glorious freedom of the children of God."* *"God will be all in all."* So: "All you need is love," for everything that's anything, actually, is love.

### **If Love is Incorruptible:**

- God is Love and Love is God.
- I don't create Love, but Love creates me.
- The incorruptible and eternal "me" is love and when I love, I'm giving birth to me.
- Love is not only a commandment; Love is a promise.
- Love is Heaven; not loving Love is Hell.

Love is Heaven, and not loving Love is Hell, and sin is lusting for Hell, which is already a bit of Hell. Once we see, truly see Love, we know sin is Hell, and we have compassion for sinners.

When I see Love...

### **If Love is Incorruptible:**

- God is Love and Love is God.
- I don't create Love, but Love creates me.
- The incorruptible and eternal "me" is love and when I love, I'm giving birth to me.
- Love is not only a commandment; Love is a promise.
- Love is Heaven; not loving Love is Hell.
- I have compassion on sinners; I love people.

I have compassion for sinners.

But if I think Love is my own work, if I think Love is the price I pay for some other rewards, then I think Love is the price I pay for "not love," and so...

I crucify Love.

I use Love to not love.

I compete with those I'm called to Love.

I don't have compassion for sinners

because I'm actually jealous of sinners because they get to "not love."

And deep in my heart, no matter what religious words I say, I hate the idea that God "saves sinners." Because I'm not saved, I don't love Love. In other words, I don't love God, for God is Love.

That me is my old man, and thank God he is a lie, and he is passing away. But my new man, the real me, is eternal and incorruptible, and I'm coming to meet Him in this world of space and time. His Love is incorruptible. Love can be very messy, and love is a lot of labor. Sometimes Love will seem to run out, so you'll be tempted to stop loving, but Love never ends.

Sometimes Love doesn't feel safe. In fact, Love will get crucified. Love may even die, or seem to die. And so, you'll be tempted to give up on love, but Love is incorruptible, imperishable, it is the

indestructible life of Christ. So when you love, the love is not wasted. It is literally your eternal treasure, and the Lord is your eternal treasure. You love God with the Love of God.

Because Love is incorruptible...

### **If Love is Incorruptible:**

- God is Love and Love is God.
- I don't create Love, but Love creates me.
- The incorruptible and eternal "me" is love and when I love, I'm giving birth to me.
- Love is not only a commandment; Love is a promise.
- Love is Heaven; not loving Love is Hell.
- I have compassion on sinners; I love people.
- I am incorruptible; I love God.

I am incorruptible. I am incorruptible; I love God.

I had a bunch of illustrations and stories, but there's no time for the illustrations and stories, and that's OK, for you are God's illustration; you are His image, and you are God's incorruptible story.

### **Communion**

For on the night we all betrayed Him, Love took bread and broke it saying, "This is my body given to you; eat it." And He took the cup saying, "This is the covenant in my blood, poured out for the forgiveness of sins [Peter pours wine into the communion cups and notes that it resembles a waterfall.] Drink of it, all of you." He Loves you, and He's causing you to Love Him, in incorruption. That's good news. So believe it, in Jesus' name, Amen.

[A few worship songs]

You know, there are a lot of songs about God's Love. I think, especially in recent years, it's kind of like: "Look at how God loves, and wouldn't it be great if you loved like that?" And love kind of becomes our responsibility, our work. There's this one old hymn that I really love; I think it says more than that. It's "Love Divine all Loves Excelling" by Charles Wesley.

I think we've kind of forgotten this, so I'd like to end by singing it:

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven to earth come down;  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling;  
All thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,  
Pure unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation;  
Enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit,  
Into every troubled breast!  
Let us all in Thee inherit;  
Let us find that second rest.  
Take away our bent to sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its Beginning,  
Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver,  
Let us all Thy life receive;  
Suddenly return and never,  
Never more Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,  
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing,  
Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish, then, Thy new creation;  
Pure and spotless let us be.  
Let us see Thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in Thee;  
Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in heaven we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

### **Benediction**

Grace is with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with Love incorruptible. Now, I know you are thinking to yourself, "But my love is so...sometimes I don't even know if I like Him." I know...all it takes is a mustard seed, and that mustard seed grows into a Kingdom, and that's why He created you in the first place. It's good news; believe the Good News, and get on with life. Expose the old man, and let him die, and walk into Life. In Jesus' name, believe the gospel. Amen.

*Disclaimer: The following document is a draft and has not been edited by the author. Therefore, there may be discrepancies. Some discrepancies may be minor; some may have to do with theology. When in doubt, please refer to the audio version of the sermon on this website and don't be shy about informing us of errors.*