

# JESUS DIDN'T DIE SO HE COULD LOVE YOU

GLEN SCRIVENER

*He rescued me because he delighted in me* —PSALM 18:19

As I prepared to preach from this verse, my first thought was, *Tricky! How will I navigate this? Navigate what?* you may be thinking. *Seems perfectly straightforward.* I hope that's what you're thinking because the verse is pure gospel goodness. But I'll admit that often I fall into a foolish and dreadful mistake. I regularly get the love of God backwards.

Here is my error. I imagine that Jesus died *so that* God could love me. I figure that God saves *in order* to love. He cleans me up a bit and then gives me his grace. I think that his atonement leads to love, not the other way around.

So when I encountered Psalm 18 speaking of the Lord delighting in me and *therefore* rescuing me, well, it seemed backwards. I had to let the Word confront me again.

Because in the Bible, God loves the world and so sends his Son to save it (John 3:16–17).

In the Bible, it's because of his great love for us that God makes dead-hearted rebels alive (Eph. 2:4).

In the Bible, God demonstrates his love for us through his Son's death for his powerless, ungodly, sinful enemies (Rom. 5:6–11). His love leads to atonement, not the other way around.

Do you see what these verses are saying? God loves and so he saves. It does not say God saves and so he loves.

Why is this important? For one thing, it means Christ loves me, sinner that I am. He doesn't just love *the saved me* (though of course he does). No, he loves me at my putrid worst. Again, he doesn't clean me up *in order to* love me; he loves me and so cleanses me.

Which means when I ask myself, *Does God love me?*—I can look to the cross alone. I don't have to check my saved status. I don't have to worry whether the cleansing has taken sufficient effect to allow me into his affections. I can simply look at Christ crucified and say, "God loves me." *There* is his demonstration of love for rebels at war with him. He hasn't fixed his love on me at my best. He has fixed his love on me at my worst.

My salvation—won through his blood alone—proves his love for me. His love isn't a bonus for the godly; it's aimed at his enemies. And such love is the very ground of all he does. If I'm looking at the Son lifted up on the cross, then I'm seeing God's love for me, because there I'm seeing my salvation. I'm seeing infallible proof of God's immovable, inexhaustible, unfathomable affection for me.

*He rescued me because he delighted in me* (Ps. 18:19).

Christian, God speaks that word to you right now. Believe it.

Because worship is something we do *in all of life*, and not just for an hour and a half on Sunday, our gathering together on Sunday should be a joyous overflow of the private worship we have prized all week.

So, let your joy be full and overflowing as you meet once again with others who treasure Jesus Christ more than his blessings—more than health, more than wealth, and more than life itself!

Let's greet one another heartily as we gather as a family in His presence.

The time for preparation for our worship service is not five minutes before 3:30 on Sunday, but in all of life, Monday through Sunday.

# Delightful

## PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

HUSBANDS, LOVE YOUR WIVES, AS CHRIST LOVED THE CHURCH  
AND GAVE HIMSELF UP FOR HER,  
THAT HE MIGHT SANCTIFY HER, HAVING CLEANSED HER  
BY THE WASHING OF WATER WITH THE WORD,  
SO THAT HE MIGHT PRESENT THE CHURCH TO HIMSELF  
IN SPLENDOR, WITHOUT SPOT OR WRINKLE OR ANY SUCH THING,  
THAT SHE MIGHT BE HOLY AND WITHOUT BLEMISH.  
THIS MYSTERY IS PROFOUND, AND I AM SAYING  
THAT IT REFERS TO CHRIST AND THE CHURCH.

EPHESIANS 5:25-27,32 (ESV)

## PALM SUNDAY FAMILY WORSHIP

LIFT HIGH THE NAME OF JESUS  
SHOUT HOSANNA!  
CHILDREN'S TALK  
HOSANNA

## WELCOME TO VISITORS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WORSHIP IN PRAYER

**WORSHIP IN GIVING ACCORDING TO GRACE**  
(PLEASE PLACE INFORMATION SLIPS IN OFFERING BASKET)

### WORSHIP IN HEARING GOD'S WORD

"THE BEAUTY OF THE BELOVED!"  
SONG OF SONGS 4:1-7 • STEVE HENDERSON

### WORSHIP IN RESPONSE

I STAND IN AWE OF YOU

### BENEDICTION

Sunday Worship 3:30 pm • Mozartstrasse 12

April 14, 2019

[www.munichurch.de](http://www.munichurch.de) • Steve Henderson, Pastor



## SMALL GROUPS AND BIBLE STUDIES

## INFORMATION USEFUL TO OUR VISITORS

## AND ANNOUNCEMENTS NEWS THAT EVERYONE NEEDS TO KNOW

### WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest;  
to all who mourn and long for comfort;  
to all who fail and desire strength;  
to all who sin and need a Savior;  
to all who feel worthless and wonder if God cares;  
to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and  
to whoever will come—this church opens wide her doors  
with a welcome from Jesus Christ.

He is: The Ally of his enemies,  
The Defender of the guilty,  
The Justifier of the inexcusable,  
The Friend of sinners. Welcome!

### NURSERY AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

We offer ministries for children usually according to the following schedule and ages. Our schedule is below:

Nursery (Ages 0-2)	Behind auditorium	4:00-5:00
Bubbles (Ages 3-4)	In classes	4:00-5:00
Splash (Age 5-Gr. 2)	In classes	4:00-5:00
XStream (Grades 3-6)	In classes	4:00-5:00

Nathan Nagan is directing our Sunday School ministry.  
Class for youth: Zachary Arden (z.arden@gmail.com).

**PLEASE** register your child(ren) if this is your first Sunday with us. Thanks!

### PRAYER ON SUNDAYS

Thank you also to all who do regularly pray for MICC either on Sundays or in small groups or at home. There will no longer be an *organized* prayer meeting on Sunday, but anyone is welcome to come and pray. Thank you to those who do regularly pray for MICC.

### SERMONS AVAILABLE IN .MP3

Recent sermons in .mp3 format are now available at our website: [www.munichurch.de](http://www.munichurch.de).

### THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

### TO CONTACT THE PASTOR

Steve Henderson is usually available for prayer, questions, discussion, fellowship or counseling Monday to Thursday. Friday is his day off. Please e-mail [steve@munichurch.de](mailto:steve@munichurch.de) or call him at 0179 - 696 4295. Other elders are also available; send email to all: [elders@munichurch.de](mailto:elders@munichurch.de).

**MICC Office email address:** [office@munichurch.de](mailto:office@munichurch.de)

### FINDING A PLACE TO SERVE IN MICC

A gifted body, transformed by the gospel and motivated by the grace and tender mercies of our God can hardly keep from expressing love through serving one another. "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love" (Galatians 5:9).

**There is a place for you! Current needs:** technical areas, music, coffee service, door duty, nursery and Sunday School. Contact the office: [office@munichurch.de](mailto:office@munichurch.de), or fill in a CONNECT card.

### CONNECT CARD: REPLACES THE INFO SLIP

If you're visiting with us today, there are "connect cards" available on the back table and in the lobby to help you get connected with others in MICC so that you find a place to grow and to serve in the body of Christ as you are able and interested. We're glad you're here and want to help you as we can. One of our ministry leaders may invite you to fill one in today. Thanks for helping out so we can get to know one another better. This is a work in progress, so let's work together on it!

### GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE ON APRIL 19 AT 11:00 AM

The service will feature special music, Scripture readings, and congregational singing as well. **Mark the date.** Contact the office or fill in a CONNECT card if you are available to serve with greeting, sound, door duty or coffee, or be the Servant on Friday. We still have needs for:

### NURSERY ON "SELF-CARE" FOR GOOD FRIDAY AND EASTER

During these services we have scheduled no nursery helper for infants. If you have your infant with you in the service and he begins to fuss, please go to the nursery room behind the auditorium to sit and comfort him. Thank you for your consideration of others.

### OFFERINGS TO MICC

If you haven't yet made the decision to joyfully worship God with your financial resources, this would be a great day to begin. It is never too late to begin trusting God.

*Remember: our worship in giving should be regular, prayerful, proportional, generous and cheerful.*

Tax deductible € contributions can be made by bank transfer (Überweisung) to MICC  
IBAN: DE4570 2501 5000 1006 9003 • BIC: BYLADEM1KMS • Kreissparkasse München Starnberg

Tax deductible gifts in US Dollars can also be placed in the offering basket.

**USD checks payable to Foothills Community Church: MICC**

Online giving in USD is possible through Foothills as well. Contact the office for details

When a person becomes a Christian, he doesn't just join a local church because it's a good habit for growing in spiritual maturity. He joins a local church because it's the expression of what Christ has made him—a member of the body of Christ.  
Mark Dever

### THIS WEEK'S MISSIONS FOCUS • FRANK AND TERRAE LIESEN

A native of Gröbenzell, Frank was an active part of MICC in the late 80s and early 90s before seminary training in Giessen and Dallas. After several years with Young Life in Germany, in July 2014 Frank assumed direction of Antiochia Teams, a church planting ministry in Germany and Austria, and his home is now in the Black Forest. Pray for life in Kandern, for friendships, and ministry in the area. Pray for ongoing efforts to secure full funding for their mission projects and support. New projects include the establishment of churches for refugee communities. Antiochia Teams has also recently joined together with Acts 29 Europe in the work of European church planting and assessment of potential church planters. The Liesens are now in Texas until this summer. Pray for their preparation and ministry, and for Frank's studies during this time.

Visit their website with family and ministry information at [www.liesen.org](http://www.liesen.org). Or go to [antiochiateams.org](http://antiochiateams.org).

**COMING IN MICC:**

**APRIL 19**  
Good Friday Service • 11:00 am

**APRIL 21**  
Easter Sunday • Our Bridegroom Lives!

**APRIL 28**  
Song 4:8-5:1 • A Royal Wedding

# THE BEAUTY OF THE BELOVED!

SONG OF SONGS 4:1-7 · STEVE HENDERSON

## INTRODUCTION

### I. THE SPLENDOR OF SOLOMON (3:6-11)

### II. THINKING FIGURATIVELY

### III. THE DEEP BEAUTY OF THE BELOVED (VV. 1-5)

A. HER EYES

B. HER HAIR

C. HER TEETH

D. HER LIPS

E. HER CHEEKS

#### SONG OF SONGS 4

HSV

<sup>1</sup> Wow! Look at you!  
 You are beautiful, my love,  
 Look at you!  
 You are beautiful!  
 Your **eyes** are doves  
     behind your veil.  
 Your **hair** is like a flock of goats  
     leaping down  
     the slopes of Gilead.  
<sup>2</sup> Your **teeth** are like a flock of shorn ewes  
     that have come up  
     from the washing,  
     all of which bear twins, and  
     not one among them  
     has lost its young.  
<sup>3</sup> Your **lips** are like a scarlet thread, and  
     your mouth is lovely.  
 Your **cheeks** are like halves  
     of a pomegranate  
     behind your veil.

F. HER NECK

G. HER BREASTS

<sup>4</sup> Your **neck** is like the tower of David,  
     built in rows of stone  
     on it hang a thousand shields,  
     all of them shields of warriors.  
<sup>5</sup> Your **two breasts** are like two fawns,  
     twins of a gazelle,  
     that graze  
     among the lilies.  
<sup>6</sup> Until the day breathes and  
     the shadows flee,  
     I will go away  
     to the mountain of myrrh  
     and the hill of frankincense.  
<sup>7</sup> You are altogether beautiful, my love;  
     there is no flaw in you.

### IV. THE CONCLUSION AND DECISION (VV.6-7)

### V. WHAT DOES THE LOVER OF YOUR SOUL SAY TO YOU?