

January 24, 2010

Beloved.

The apostle Paul described the Christians in Rome as “beloved of God.” (Rom.1:7). He described the Thessalonian Christians as “brethren beloved by God.” (1Thess.1:4; 2Thess.2:13). In all three instances it is proper to say that Christians are God’s beloved.

In Rom.1:7 “beloved” is a verbal adjective with a passive sense. Christians are the recipients of Divine action. In this case Christians are the recipients of God’s love. Leon Morris wrote, “That Christians are loved by God is not a truism but a truth to be received with awe and wonder.”

In the Thessalonian passages the word “beloved” is a passive verb in the perfect tense. We have already seen the implication of the passive. The perfect tense emphasizes the permanence of God’s love for the Christian, a love that began in past time, is active and unchanging in the present and will most certainly continue in the future. The God who began to love you in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, will never cease loving you.

In Rom.8:39 Paul’s contextual emphasis is that nothing “will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” The awe and wonder must increase. God loves you in Christ, a sinful enemy whom He has saved by grace. He will never cease loving you. In other words, you will never lose your salvation in Christ.

In 1Thess.1:4 Paul wrote, “knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you.” In 2Thess.2:13 Paul wrote, “brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation.” Note two important words : choice & chosen. God’s love for you is based on His sovereign uninfluenced choice of you. God’s choice of you was not based on any merit in you.

God chose to love you and in love He chose you “from the beginning” or from “before the foundation of the world.” (Eph.1:4). In other words, God chose to love you and in love chose you in eternity. The awe and wonder stretches from eternity past into eternity future. Contemplate that!