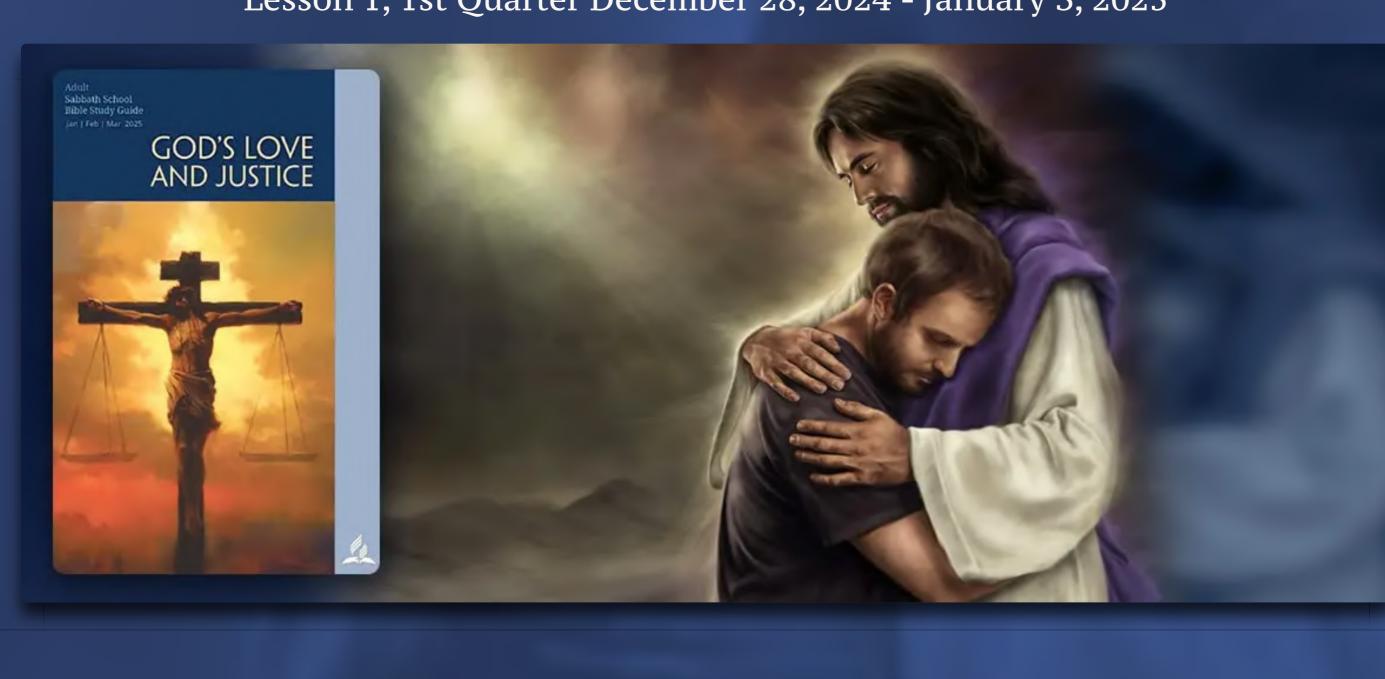
## **God Loves Freely**

Lesson 1, 1st Quarter December 28, 2024 - January 3, 2025



"I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him." KJV —

Sabbath Afternoon December 28

## Hosea 14:4

**Memory Text:** 

"Before his fall, Peter was always speaking unadvisedly, from the impulse of the moment. He was always ready to correct others, and to express his mind, before he had a clear comprehension of himself or of what he had to

He could then feed the lambs as well as the sheep of Christ's flock. DA 812.5 "The Saviour's manner of dealing with Peter had a lesson for him and for his brethren. It taught them to meet the transgressor with patience, sympathy, and forgiving love. Although Peter had denied his Lord, the love which Jesus bore him never faltered. Just such love should the undershepherd feel for the sheep and lambs committed to his care. Remembering his own weakness and failure, Peter was to deal with his flock as tenderly as Christ had dealt with him. DA 815.1

say. But the converted Peter was very different. He retained his former fervor, but the grace of Christ regulated

his zeal. He was no longer impetuous, self-confident, and self-exalted, but calm, self-possessed, and teachable.

"The question that Christ had put to Peter was significant. He mentioned only one condition of discipleship and service. "Lovest thou Me?" He said. This is the essential qualification. Though Peter might possess every other, yet without the love of Christ he could not be a faithful shepherd over the Lord's flock. Knowledge, benevolence, eloquence, gratitude, and zeal are all aids in the good work; but without the love of Jesus in the heart, the work of the Christian minister is a failure." DA 815.2

no means clear the guilty." PP 329.2

Sunday, December 29

## no human being had ever made before: "I beseech Thee, show me Thy glory." PP 328.2

What does this passage, especially verse 19, reveal about God's will and love?

**Beyond Reasonable Expectations** 

mountains, and they know not" (Job 9:5), took this creature of the dust, this mighty man of faith, and placed him in a cleft of the rock, while the glory of God and all His goodness passed before him. PP 328.3 "This experience—above all else the promise that the divine Presence would attend him—was to Moses an

assurance of success in the work before him; and he counted it of infinitely greater worth than all the learning of

Read Exodus 33:15–22 and consider the context of these verses and the narrative in which they appear.

"Every prayer had been answered, but he thirsted for greater tokens of God's favor. He now made a request that

"God did not rebuke his request as presumptuous; but the gracious words were spoken, "I will make all My

Moses was assured that he should behold as much of the divine glory as he could endure. Again he was

summoned to the mountain summit; then the hand that made the world, that hand that "removeth the

goodness pass before thee." The unveiled glory of God, no man in this mortal state can look upon and live; but

Egypt or all his attainments as a statesman or a military leader. No earthly power or skill or learning can supply the place of God's abiding presence. PP 328.4 "To the transgressor it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God; but Moses stood alone in the presence of the Eternal One, and he was not afraid; for his soul was in harmony with the will of his Maker. Says the psalmist, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." Psalm 66:18. But "the secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him; and He will show them His covenant." Psalm 25:14. PP 329.1

"The Deity proclaimed Himself, 'The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in

goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by

Monday, December 30 **Unrequited Love** 

In Hosea, chapters one and two, the first and most important thing to ascertain about these chapters is the time

heaven, and with the creeping things of the ground: and I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of

freedom as set forth in this verse of Scripture. It is, therefore, quickly seen that the subject of the chapter reaches

even beyond our time. As we study the chapters verse by verse, the time element will appear still brighter and

Hos. 2:18 – "And in that day will I make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field and with the fowls of

in which their prophetic import unfolds. To find this out, we shall read:

hath committed great whoredom, departing from the Lord."

backsliding," He declares; "I will love them freely." Hosea 14:4." PK 84.1

## the earth, and will make them to lie down safely." Up to this very day God's people have never as yet experienced such a complete and absolute security and

on the other side (Ezek. 4:4-6).

brighter.

Hos. 1:1,2 - "The Word of the Lord that came unto Hosea, the son of Beeri, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jereboam the son of Joash, king of Israel. The beginning of the Word of the Lord by Hosea.

And the Lord said to Hosea, Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: for the land

The prophet Hosea was commanded to take a wife of whoredoms for no other reason than to portray the sad and abominable condition which then obtained in Israel.

This marriage is, of course, only visionary just as is the prophet Ezekiel's lying 40 days on one side, and 390 days

Read Hosea 14:1–4. What do these verses reveal about God's steadfast love for His people? "All who enter the City of God will enter through the strait gate—by agonizing effort; for "there shall in no wise

enter into it anything that defileth." Revelation 21:27. But none who have fallen need give up to despair. Aged

men, once honored of God, may have defiled their souls, sacrificing virtue on the altar of lust; but if they repent,

forsake sin, and turn to God, there is still hope for them. He who declares, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will

give thee a crown of life," also gives the invitation, "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon." Revelation 2:10; Isaiah 55:7. God hates sin, but He loves the sinner. "I will heal their

"To those who had lost sight of the plan of the ages for the deliverance of sinners ensnared by the power of

his roots as Lebanon. His branches shall spread, and his beauty shall be as the olive tree, and his smell as

Satan, the Lord offered restoration and peace. "I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely," He declared:

"for Mine anger is turned away from him. I will be as the dew unto Israel: he shall grow as the lily, and cast forth

Lebanon. They that dwell under His shadow shall return; they shall revive as the corn, and grow as the vine: the

scent thereof shall be as the wine of Lebanon. Ephraim shall say, What have I to do any more with idols? I have heard him, and observed him: I am like a green fir tree. From Me is thy fruit found." PK 283.3

**Love Freely Given** Compare Revelation 4:11 and Psalm 33:6. What do these verses tell us about God's freedom relative to Creation? "In Revelation 14, men are called upon to worship the Creator; and the prophecy brings to view a class that, as

the result of the threefold message, are keeping the commandments of God. One of these commandments

thy God: ... for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the

points directly to God as the Creator. The fourth precept declares: "The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord

seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it." Exodus 20:10, 11..." Exodus 31:17."

"The Bible recognizes no long ages in which the earth was slowly evolved from chaos. Of each successive day of

creation, the sacred record declares that it consisted of the evening and the morning, like all other days that have

followed. At the close of each day is given the result of the Creator's work. The statement is made at the close of

Genesis 2:4. But this does not convey the idea that the days of creation were other than literal days. Each day was

O what a request! What tender, inexpressible love is contained in this petition! Our living Head longs to have the

"Jesus denied that the Jews were children of Abraham. He said, "Ye do the deeds of your father." In mockery they

circumstances of His birth, were intended as a thrust against Christ in the presence of those who were beginning

to believe on Him. Jesus gave no heed to the base insinuation, but said, "If God were your Father, ye would love

answered, "We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God." These words, in allusion to the

the first week's record, "These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created."

called a generation, because that in it God generated, or produced, some new portion of His work." PP 112.1

Read John 17:24. What does it tell us about God's love before the world existed?

members of his body associated with him. They have had fellowship with him in his sufferings, and he will not be satisfied with anything less than that they shall have fellowship with him in his glory. This he claims as his right." RH August 15, 1893, par. 9

Me: for I proceeded forth and came from God." DA 467.2

Read Matthew 22:1–14. What is the meaning of this parable?

messengers, as Stephen and James, were put to death. COL 308.2

GC 437.1

**Tuesday, December 31** 

Wednesday, January 1 Many are called, but few are chosen

"The call to the feast had been given by Christ's disciples. Our Lord had sent out the twelve and afterward the

gospel. But the call was not heeded. Those who are bidden to the feast did not come. The servants were sent out

come unto the marriage." This was the message borne to the Jewish nation after the crucifixion of Christ; but the

Spirit. Many did this in the most scornful manner. Others were so exasperated by the offer of salvation, the offer

of pardon for rejecting the Lord of glory, that they turned upon the bearers of the message. There was "a great

"Thus the Jewish people sealed their rejection of God's mercy. The result was foretold by Christ in the parable."

pronounced came upon the Jews in the destruction of Jerusalem and the scattering of the nation. COL 308.3

"The third call to the feast represents the giving of the gospel to the Gentiles. The king said, "The wedding is

ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy. Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall

"The king's servants who went out into the highways "gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and

good." It was a mixed company. Some of them had no more real regard for the giver of the feast than had the

advantage for the sake of attending the king's banquet. And of those who accepted the invitation, there were

some who thought only of benefiting themselves. They came to share the provisions of the feast, but had no

"Few receive the grace of Christ with self-abasement, with a deep and permanent sense of their unworthiness."

They cannot bear the manifestations of the power of God, for this would encourage in them self-esteem, pride,

ones who rejected the call. The class first bidden could not afford, they thought, to sacrifice any worldly

The king "sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city." The judgment

persecution." Acts 8:1. Many both of men and women were thrust into prison, and some of the Lord's

seventy, proclaiming that the kingdom of God was at hand, and calling upon men to repent and believe the

later to say, "Behold, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready:

nation that claimed to be God's peculiar people rejected the gospel brought to them in the power of the Holy

and envy. This is why the Lord can do so little for us now. God would have you individually seek for the perfection of love and humility in your own hearts. Bestow your chief care upon yourselves, cultivate those excellencies of character which will fit you for the society of the pure and the holy." 5T 50.3

Thursday, January 2

483.5

Isaiah 53:4-6. DA 484.1

possess." CT 37.1

**Crucified for Us** 

find, bid to the marriage." COL 309.1

desire to honor the king." COL 309.2

Read John 10:17, 18. Compare with Galatians 2:20. What's the message to us here in these texts? "Therefore doth My Father love Me, because I lay down My life, that I might take it again.' That is, My Father has

so loved you, that He even loves Me more for giving My life to redeem you. In becoming your substitute and

surety, by surrendering My life, by taking your liabilities, your transgressions, I am endeared to My Father. DA

"I lay down My life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power

to lay it down, and I have power to take it again." While as a member of the human family He was mortal, as God

under its dominion; but voluntarily He laid down His life, that He might bring life and immortality to light. He bore

the sin of the world, endured its curse, yielded up His life as a sacrifice, that men might not eternally die. "Surely

He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows.... He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for

our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep

have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all."

"In His resistance of evil and His labor for others, Christ gave to men an example of the highest education. He

urging us to allow Him to do in our hearts. There are many who in dwelling so largely on theory have lost sight of

revealed God to His disciples in a way that wrought in their hearts a special work, such as He has long been

He was the fountain of life for the world. He could have withstood the advances of death, and refused to come

the living power of the Saviour's example. They have lost sight of Him as the self-denying, humble worker. What they need is to behold Jesus. Daily they need the fresh revealing of His presence. They need to follow more closely His example of self-renunciation and sacrifice. CT 36.2 "We need the experience that Paul had when he wrote, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me." Galatians 2:20. CT 36.3

"The knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ expressed in character is the very highest education. It is the key that

opens the portals of the heavenly city. This knowledge it is God's purpose that all who put on Christ shall

Friday, January 3

ear of faith can hear His voice saying, Fear not; I am with you. "I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive forevermore." Revelation 1:18. I have endured your sorrows, experienced your struggles, encountered your temptations. I know your tears; I also have wept. The griefs that lie too deep to be breathed into any human ear, I know. Think not that you are desolate and forsaken. Though your pain touch no responsive chord in any heart on earth, look unto Me, and live. "The mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but My kindness

Son, He who is in the bosom of the Father, He whom God has declared to be "the Man that is My fellow"

(Zechariah 13:7),—the communion between Him and the eternal God is taken to represent the communion

"Through all our trials we have a never-failing Helper. He does not leave us alone to struggle with temptation, to

battle with evil, and be finally crushed with burdens and sorrow. Though now He is hidden from mortal sight, the

thee." Isaiah 54:10. DA 483.1 "However much a shepherd may love his sheep, he loves his sons and daughters more. Jesus is not only our shepherd; He is our "everlasting Father." And He says, "I know Mine own, and Mine own know Me, even as the Father knoweth Me, and I know the Father." John 10:14, 15, R. V. What a statement is this!—the only-begotten

**■** Jump To

between Christ and His children on the earth!" DA 483.2

shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of My peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on

**Further Thought** 

Because we are the gift of His Father, and the reward of His work, Jesus loves us. He loves us as His children. Reader, He loves you. Heaven itself can bestow nothing greater, nothing better. Therefore trust. DA 483.3

For further studies, feel free to contact: WhatsApp: (+63)961-954-0737

**5** Contact Us

contact@advancedsabbathschool.org