

***The longest "love letter" ever written** was the work of a French painter named Marcel de Leclure in 1875. The recipient was Magdalene de Villalore. The letter contained the phrase "I love you," 1,875,000 times -- a thousand times the calendar year. However, Marcel did not pen the letter with his own hand...he simply hired a scribe!*

***The longest kiss on record??**-105 minutes 48 seconds by a young couple from Hannover, Germany. They had to stop kissing, because they almost passed out from a lack of oxygen!*

In the entire volume of Scripture, "**Love**" is mentioned hundreds of times:

- *RVR - 226 times; NKJV- 546 times; NIV- 762 times; NLT- 836 times.*

Did you know that Valentine's Day has Christian roots?? That it was actually named one of two martyrs in the early church who, who refused to abandon their love for Jesus Christ. It's either named after **Valentine of Rome**, "Valentinus Romanus" who was murdered on February the 14th in the year 269 AD, or another Christian by the same name, **Valentine**, who was the Bishop of Terni, who was martyred by the Emperor Aurelian. We don't know exactly which one but the Christian origins of Valentine's Day are historically solid.

But over time, the secular culture has mutated Valentine's Day to make it a celebration of purely romantic love... but the original concept comes from the truth of love of God for the world, displayed thru the life and love of Jesus Christ!

There seems to be an **unconscious awareness** within the human race, that **we were made for LOVE**. In our **heart** of hearts, in the bottom of our **souls**, in the depths of our **being**, we crave **LOVE** more than anything else. We also desire to be able to GIVE **LOVE** to those around us...

- ***Dr. Carl Menninger, was an accomplished American psychiatrist** who founded the Menninger School of Psychiatry and Menninger Clinic in Kansas. He was also awarded the Presidential Freedom Medal by Jimmy Carter for his accomplishments. Dr. Menninger was determined to measure the impact of **LOVE** upon his medical patients and choose to create what he called "an atmosphere of creative love" in his clinic. Patients were given "**large doses of LOVE**" and no unloving or negative attitudes were allowed from his medical staff. **THE RESULT:** His patients began to heal, and heal twice as fast as before the "**LOVE** treatment". Within 6 months, the average stay of all patients was reduced by 50%. After his research, Dr. Menninger concluded: "**LOVE cures people. Both the ones who give it, and the ones who receive it.**"*

NKJV- "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

RVR 1960- "Porque de tal manera amó Dios al mundo, que ha dado a su Hijo unigénito, para que todo aquel que en él cree, no se pierda, mas tenga vida eterna."

AMP- "For God so greatly loved and dearly prized the world that He [even] gave up His only begotten (unique) Son, so that whoever believes in (trusts in, clings to, relies on) Him shall not perish (come to destruction, be lost) but have eternal (everlasting) life."

*"If we were asked to read to **a dying man** who did not know the gospel, we should probably select this chapter as the most suitable one for such an occasion; and **what is good for dying men is good for us all, for that is what we are;** and how soon we may be actually at the gates of death, none of us can tell."*

- Charles Spurgeon

I. THE GREATEST PERSON: "For God.."

- **"Theos"** - This is the original Greek word for "God, specifically God the Father in the New Testament".
 - **Infinite attributes..**
- **Exodus 34:6-7 (NKJV):** "The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin.."
 - **"So will I"** - Hillsong United - God of creation; There at the start; Before the beginning of time; With no point of reference; You spoke to the dark; And fleshed out the wonder of light
 - **And as You speak**

A hundred billion galaxies are born

In the vapor of Your breath the planets form

If the stars were made to worship so will I

I can see Your heart in everything You've made

Every burning star

A signal fire of grace

If creation sings Your praises so will I

- **God of Your promise**

You don't speak in vain

No syllable empty or void

For once You have spoken

All nature and science

Follow the sound of Your voice

- **And as You speak**

A hundred billion creatures catch Your breath

Evolving in pursuit of what You said

If it all reveals Your nature so will I

I can see Your heart in everything You say

Every painted sky

A canvas of Your grace

If creation still obeys You so will I

So will I

So will I

○ *If the stars were made to worship so will I*

If the mountains bow in reverence so will I

If the oceans roar Your greatness so will I

For if everything exists to lift You high so will I

If the wind goes where You send it so will I

If the rocks cry out in silence so will I

If the sum of all our praises still falls shy

Then we'll sing again a hundred billion times

○ *God of salvation*

You chased down my heart

Through all of my failure and pride

On a hill You created

The light of the world

Abandoned in darkness to die

○ *And as You speak*

A hundred billion failures disappear

Where You lost Your life so I could find it here

If You left the grave behind You so will I

I can see Your heart in everything You've done

Every part designed in a work of art called love

If You gladly chose surrender so will I

I can see Your heart

Eight billion different ways

Every precious one

A child You died to save

If You gave Your life to love them so will I

o Like You would again a hundred billion times

But what measure could amount to Your desire

You're the One who never leaves the one behind

II. THE GREATEST ACTION: *"..so loved the world.."*

- **"agape"** - This is the original Greek word for "a self sacrificial, self-sacrificing, unconditional love, this love is action, this Love is an intentional choice, with no thought for what you will receive in return.."
 - o GOD's love is for **ALLtime**, and for **ALLpeople**, in **ALLcircumstances!!**
- **Before we move on, REALIZE just how much JESUS LOVES YOU.** I want you to know that Jesus Christ would do anything to get you to heaven. In fact, He did everything He could. Stepping out of heaven, coming to the earth, robed in a man's body, suffered the rejection of people and death on a cross, to get you to HEAVEN.
 - o **1 Jn 4:8-9(NLT):** "But anyone who does not love does not know God, for **God is love**. God showed how much **He loved us** by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him."
 - o **Rom 5:8(NLT):** "God showed **His great love for us** by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."

III. THE GREATEST GIFT: *"..that He gave His only begotten Son.."*

- **Imagine that, mom and dads...**
- **"monogenes"** - This is the original Greek word that means "completely unique, one-of-a-kind, the only offspring, and of the same essence and nature."
 - o *Mary did you know that your baby boy will one day walk on water? Mary did you know that your baby boy will save our sons and daughters?*
 - o *Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new? This child that you've delivered, will soon deliver you*
 - o *Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod? And when you kiss your little baby, you've kissed the face of God*
 - o *Mary did you know...the blind will see, the deaf will hear and the dead will live again The lame will leap, the dumb will speak, the praises of the lamb*
 - o *Mary did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation? Mary did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations?*
 - o *Did you know that your baby boy is heaven's perfect Lamb? This sleeping child you're holding is the great I AM.*
- **John 1:1,14 (NLT)** - "In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the **Word was God...** the **Word became human** and made his home among us."
- **Colossians 2:9 (NLT)** - "..in Christ lives all **the fullness of God in a human body.**"

IV. THE GREATEST INVITATION: “..that whoever believes in Him..”

- It's easier to get into **HEAVEN** than most **establishments** on earth...
- “**pisteuo**” This is the Greek word “**pisteuo**” which means “to trust, to place your **confidence** into something, to place your **assurance** upon something, to believe that something is real and true, to place your **life completely into the hands** of another person - Jesus Christ.
- **Saving Faith is NOT** just “mental agreement” or “intellectual acknowledgement” about Jesus. True biblical **FAITH** in Jesus, is placing all of your **CONFIDENCE** into Him, and **TRUSTING** Jesus with “the clutching intensity of a drowning man.”

V. THE GREATEST DANGER: “..should not perish..”

- “**apollumi**” - This is the original Greek word which means to “come to distraction, be completely and utterly lost, to be absolutely destroyed and lost forever.”
 - Many say, “ I don't know if I can **PAY THE PRICE** to become a Christian...”
- Why is the **NEW BIRTH** Necessary??
 - **Mankind is Separated fr. God.- Isa 59:1-2**(AMP): “The Lord's hand is not shortened at all, that it cannot save, nor His ear dull with deafness, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.”
 - **Mankind is At War w/ God.- Rom 5:10**(AMP): “..while we were **enemies** we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son..”
 - **Mankind is Dead to God.- Eph 2:1,5** (NLT): Once you were **dead** because of your disobedience and your many sins...even though we were **dead** because of our sins, he gave us **life**..”
- **Jesus did not come to CONDEMN- Mankind was CONDEMNED ALREADY!!!**
 - To not **SURRENDER** to Jesus, is to **REBEL** against Jesus!
 - To not **TRUST** Him, is to **DENY** Him!
 - To not **RECEIVE** His gift, is to **REJECT** Him, and His great love for you!

VI. THE GREATEST BLESSING: “..but have everlasting life.”

- “**aionios**” - This is the original Greek word which means “everlasting, time without end, infinite eternity, and time forever more.”
 - It speaks of **QUANTITY** but also of **QUALITY!**