

## Do I Love God?

-Jim Huest-

Unlike the Old Testament the New has very few direct, unequivocal commands. Christians have made quite a few where none exist and sometimes fail to perform well those that are very clear, but on the whole the NT has very few. Of those that are there the quintessential is, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind (Mt. 22:37).” But, do we obey that command? If we say we do, how do we know that we do? And further, what is the basis for our love? With the many references in our Christian lives to gratefulness for our salvation through Jesus Christ’s sacrifice, it appears that perhaps we love God for the grace He bestowed upon us. C. S. Lewis in his book, *Reflections on the Psalms*, after observing the lack of conversation in the OT about salvation and eternal life therein, raised an interesting question. He asked whether there could be too much attention to our salvation, suggesting that if it comes in too early or is focused on too much, we could be honoring God not so much for who He is, but only for what He can give us. He concluded it was possible. We should note that God did not create this world merely for our salvation. God created us in order to demonstrate who He is, using our rescue to eternal life as the instrument to that end. Jesus also came to show the world what God was like through His life. Furthermore, the whole world was arranged to use Jesus’s redemptive labors as a response to the rebellion among the “principalities and powers in the heavenly places (Eph. 3:10; 6:12).” All of these things demonstrate that God is everything that He claims about Himself in heaven and on earth. The salvation of man was an integral part of God’s purpose in the world, but not the only part. As we become familiar with the larger scope of God’s work, we should see increasingly the magnificence of our God and love Him in His own right, not merely for what He has done for us.