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*"Preaching The Same Truth We Preached Before Kentucky Was A State"*

## THE GREATNESS OF GOD

By: Poulouse Thudian

Greetings to you all in the most wonderful name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I take it as a great privilege and I am very happy to speak to you in this manner even though I have not met anyone of you. When I received a letter asking me to give a message on the occasion of celebrating the 200th anniversary in the month of April, the first thought came into my heart is what a great God we have. I read through the leaflet, entitled, "Two Hundred Years Ago," and praised God for His wonderful work in keeping you in His mercy and grace and also for His faithfulness.

Yes, our Lord is Great. In all respects He is great. He is great in His glory, in His power, in His grace, in His love, and in Himself, He is great. We see His greatness in His creation of this universe. The scientist of this world in all their researches are not able to explain authoritatively that how this world came into existence. They found that even in an atom there is great power which they are not able to control if it

explodes, and they admit that this universe is composed of such atoms. Our Bible, the Word of God, says without any doubt that this was created by God who is great and we know it. "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God" (Hebrews 11:3). His greatness has manifested through this universe and we are not able to reach to the height of His greatness. What a pity that the wise men of this world are not able to see this greatness of our God. The word of God has revealed His greatness in its pages. One who reads it can see the great works He performed through the history of mankind for the last several centuries. "He upholds all this by the Word of His power," Hebrews 1:3. He is greater than all. We are not able to comprehend His greatness. Several people tried to explain it through writing, through preaching, through singing and still He is greater than all human understanding. We have to admit with David, the sweet psalmist of Israel, that "Great is the Lord and great-

ly to be praised;" and His greatness is unsearchable. Psalms 145:3. If we can search and find out the greatness of God, He will be no more a God. He has no greatness than that a man who found the greatness of God! Oh, it is impossible. But I see the real greatness of God not in this impossible aspect. In His greatness, He knows me. Have you ever thought of that? Our God is such a great God that He knows me, a feeble dust of this universe. And He remembers that I am a dust. Who can have this kind of knowledge? The great men of this world cannot know me as my Lord knows me. How many of you are known to your president personally? Even if he knows your name, what can he do regarding your life and its problems? This impossibility of the human greatness is possible with my Lord because He is great. Only He has this wonderful knowledge. The Great God of this universe knows me and He calls me by my name, even my pet name. Is it not wonderful? My pet name is from my loving parents. Nobody else calls

me by that name and nobody knows it. What a joy fills my heart to have that confidence.

I enjoy his greatness in that He loves me with an everlasting love. Oh, what a manner of love it is, and who knows the height and breadth and length and depth of that love. After my birth only, my parents began to love me. In school days, I had several friends who began to love me. After my marriage only, my wife began to love me and I her also. All human love has its beginning and an end. But my Lord's love is eternal, from eternity to eternity. I do not know what is eternity and I am not able to explain it to you but I know the love of my Lord and I know that it is eternal because His word revealed it through Jeremiah. "The Lord said yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love," Jeremiah 31:3. And I believe it. Don't ask me the scientific explanations for that, as some young people do. I know it in my heart that my Lord loves me. That love is greater than any other love of this world. And I see the greatness of that love as I behold on that cross of Calvary. That great love of that great Lord was fully manifested in Christ Jesus on the cross. "God is rich in mercy for His great love where with He loved us even when we were dead in sins hath raised us up together and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus," Ephesians 2 : 4 - 6. Note the word TOGETHER. It is used three times. Quickened TOGETHER, shows us the death of Christ, and raised us up TOGETHER shows His resurrection, and made us sit TOGETHER in heavenly places shows His exaltation. Lord has done it in order "TO SHOW US THE EXCEEDING RICHES OF His grace through Christ Je-

sus in the ages to come." It shows us our life TOGETHER with Christ in eternity. In this TOGETHER. Oh, I see the greatness of the love of my Lord. From the bottom of the hell-fire, where I was worthy of living eternally, He lifted me up to the heavenly places and seated me in Him for eternity. What a great love it is! This reminds me of another greatness of my Lord, that is He has chosen me.

Who am I to be chosen by this great God. He has chosen me not after my birth, or after finishing my studies, or after earning my qualifications and certificates. No, He has chosen me even before the foundation of this world. I do not doubt about that for He has spoken it through His eternal Word and I believe it. He said that He has chosen me in His BELOVED and it is because of His good pleasure of His will. So I enjoy the pleasure of His will in my Saviour Jesus Christ. Oh, what a great pleasure it is to know the heart of God. Do you believe that? All these things show forth the greatness of our Lord. No human beings, how great they may be, are not able to do any of these things in our life. Their greatness is nothing but zero. As Isaiah says, "behold the nations are as a drop of a bucket and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold He taketh up the islands as a very little thing....All nations before him are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing and vanity!" Isaiah 41:15, 17. And nations are less than nothing? What? Is it not exaggeration? Is it reasonable? Is it scientific? Can we believe it? Oh, the greatness of our Lord, no, my Lord. It is a personal thing. He is my Lord. Thom-

as said it in the midst of his friends, "My Lord, My God." Yes, He is mine. He, who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and meted out heaven with the span and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure and weighed the mountains in scales, and hills in the balance, is my Lord. No greater blessings in this world I can have than to know this great God as my personal Lord.

What a great joy and encouragement to have His knowledge. Have you got this knowledge? Are you hearing His whispering everyday in your life?

As I think of His greatness, it reminds me about His care for me. That great God, my heavenly father, cares for me. No man in this world is able to provide everything I need. Some may give some help. If we approach the great men of this world or wealthy people in great position, and ask them to help us in our needs, what do you think about their response? They may provide you to some extent. They can do only in their capacity, which is limited. But my father, that great Lord, has promised that He will meet all my needs and not only that, He knows what I needed even before I know my needs. Do you believe that? Read Matthew 6:32.

"Your heavenly father knoweth that ye have need of all these things." What things? Whatever we need. Our dress, our meals and what else? Do you have a father who numbered your hair? I don't think that my earthly father ever tried for that. But my heavenly father has numbered my hairs and without His knowledge any of the will never fall down. Have you ever noticed that verse in Matthew's gospel, chapter ten and verse twenty-nine? It

reads like this, "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your father." I believe in the verbal inspiration of the Bible. I don't want to add nor leave any word from that. Read that verse once again. One of them shall not fall on the ground without your father. Do you believe that? Next verse says, "But the very hairs of your head are all numbered." Oh, the care of my Father. How great He is. One day our Lord said to His disciples, "Consider the ravens," and reminded them that "God feedeth them." What a nonsense it is to say that God feedeth raven. No man will spend time to feed a crow. Who cares about the food of this filthy bird, raven. Leaders of the nations of this world are troubled to provide food for their people. Then who will spend time to make study of the food supply of this kind of birds. But the Son of God said that "God feedeth them." Yes, my Father feedeth the ravens. In the book of Job, it is recorded that Jehovah asked Job some questions. One question was "Who provideth for the raven his food? When his young ones cry unto God they wander for lack of meat." The clear answer is, God provides. Job was not able to provide anything at that particular situation but his God who provides even for a filthy raven is able to provide everything for his children. God wanted Job to believe that his God is greater than Satan and his friends. The God of Job is our God and He is our father. Read through the Psalms. You will see the greatness of God. Psalm 104, verse 21, says that the young lion roar after their prey and seek their meat from God. Psalmist says that this young lions know God as their pro-

vider. Oh, what a great God He is. Read verses 24 and 28. Both small and great beasts in this earth and sea wait upon God that He may give them their meat in due season. And God gives them food. Is it not showing the greatness of our Lord? Today our great Lord asks us a question. "Are you not much better than they?" Matthew 6:26. What is our answer? Do we accept His greatness in the practical side of our Christian life?

Again, I see the greatness of our Lord as it is manifested in the fifth chapter of the letter to Ephesians. He is the head of the church, the Saviour of the body, He wants His church should be holy and without blemish. He nourisheth and cherisheth her. The church should be glorious. What is that glory and from where should it come? It should come from her Lord because He is the only one who is having real glory. Glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ is the glory of the church. "We all with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory even as by the spirit of the Lord." II Corinthians 3:28. If there is not glory for Jesus Christ, there is no glory for His church. Take notice of the word changed into the SAME IMAGE from GLORY TO GLORY. The glorious Lord wants to give His glory to us, the church. For that purpose, He gave Himself on the cross for HIS CHURCH. What a great giving. Do we realize this great truth? He adoreth the church. What is the adoration? Isaiah 61:10 reads, "I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God for He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, He hath covered me with the robe of righteousness as a bride-

groom decketh himself with ornaments and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels." Oh, what a beautiful adoration. What are her jewels? Oh, the righteousness of Christ. She has no jewels as her own, all her garments and jewels are from her Master and Lord Jesus Christ.

Because He is great, his church should be great and His beauty should be seen in her face. This world should see the glory and beauty of Jesus Christ in the face of the Church. Many churches today are ugly because they do not know who is their Lord. There are several so called lords in this world but our Lord is not like them. He is THE GREAT LORD. That short history of this church (the Bryan Station Baptist Church) brought in my heart these thoughts about our LORD. For the last 200 years, He manifested His greatness through this church. Now we are celebrating it. Thank God for His faithfulness. "O come let us sing unto the Lord; Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. For the LORD is a GREAT GOD and a great KING above all gods." Psalms 95:1-3. May the greatness of that great King be manifested in and through the life and activities of us all.

