

Message

Past

Let's look at the two things that are past tense

God loved

For God so loved the world

It's something already done

- Point here is that God has loved
- Before there was ever anything we did - God chose to love us
- He has already loved us completely!
- **Note:** Past tense - doesn't mean "used to love" because **God's love doesn't change**

Loved

- We think of 1 Cor 13, and Paul's description of love contained there
- God's love is without flaw!
- It is complete and unconditional
- He who sits above time saw it all and loved us!
- Before we ever did anything, through Jesus God provided everything! **Rom 5:8 (ESV)** *(8) but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Look at the extent of the love

- **So loved** i.e. his love was so great it compelled him to act
- He could not love us more, he will not love us less

Look at the people he loved

- Consider the people he loved "the world"
- There is no one he does not love
- Heartbroken for the attacks in ChristChurch NZ on the two mosques
- These are people God loved

God gave

- *That he gave his only Son*
- Today is communion Sunday and we're here to celebrate the gift of Jesus
- Speak quite a bit about it, but I want to share it again

He placed our sin on Jesus

- Jesus came and lived a sinless life
- **2 Cor 5:21 (ESV)** (21) *For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*
- The death of Jesus was enough!

Gift that keeps on giving

- Though the sacrifice of Christ is past tense - God gave it is still powerful and effective today
- The writer of Hebrews has much to say on the efficacy of Christ's sacrifice. In 9:24-28 and again in 10:9-14.
- We won't read them all, but let me highlight some key phrases from that text.
- See v26b **Heb 9:26 (ESV)** (26) *for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.*
- See 9:28 *so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.*
- See again 10:12 *But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,*
- And finally (14) *For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.*

Present

Present tense: *Whosoever believeth*

That whosoever believeth

- Salvation is for anyone who believes
- **John 6:37 (ESV)** (37) *All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.*
- **Rom 10:9-10 (ESV)** (9) *because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is*

Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (10) For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

- **Rom 10:13 (ESV)** (13) *For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."*
- **Heb 7:25 (ESV)** *(25) *Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.*

Faith comes by hearing

- **Rom 10:13-15 (ESV)** (13) *For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (14) How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? (15) And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"*

Future

Finally see the future tense *Should not perish, but have eternal life*

Destiny

- Once bound for hell / judgment now heaven
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Direction

- We are being transformed
- New creation
- Holding by faith

Desire

- Once ruled by my flesh - now His Spirit
- I gotta keep feeding His Spirit

Destination

- Everlasting life

- **John 10:10 (ESV)** (10) *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*

Closing

- Receive this
- Spread the word
- **Note:** Easter coming up

Communion

1 Cor 11:23-26 (ESV) (23) *For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, (24) and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." (25) In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." (26) For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*