



3/14/2021

Paul Blair - An Unoffensive Love?

John 21:15-17

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16 He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

17 He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

MAX LUCADO

February 11, 2021

Washington National Cathedral
1101 Wisconsin Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20016

Dear Cathedral Community,

It was a high honor to serve as your guest preacher on February 7, 2021. It has come to my understanding that my presence in the Cathedral is a cause of consternation for many of your members.

I was invited to Washington National Cathedral to preach on the topic of the Holy Spirit. My desire was to highlight the power of the Spirit to bring comfort in these chaotic times. However, instead of that sermon, many only heard my words from many years ago.

In 2004 I preached a sermon on the topic of same-sex marriage. I now see that, in that sermon, I was disrespectful. I was hurtful. I wounded people in ways that were devastating. I should have done better. It grieves me that my words have hurt or been used to hurt the LGBTQ community. I apologize to you and I ask forgiveness of Christ.

Faithful people may disagree about what the Bible says about homosexuality, but we agree that God's holy Word must never be used as a weapon to wound others. To be clear, I believe in the traditional biblical understanding of marriage, but I also believe in a God of unbounded grace and love. LGBTQ individuals and LGBTQ families must be respected and treated with love. They are beloved children of God because, they are made in the image and likeness of God.

Over centuries, the church has harmed LGBTQ people and their families, just as the church has harmed people on issues of race, gender, divorce, addiction, and so many other things. We must do better to serve and love one another.

I share the Cathedral's commitment to building bridges and learning how to listen -- to really listen -- to those with whom we disagree. That work is difficult, it is hard, it is messy, and it can be uncomfortable. But we need it now more than ever.

Respectfully,



Max Lucado

An *Unoffensive* Love?

“Faithful people may disagree about what the Bible says about homosexuality, but we agree that God's holy Word must never be used as a weapon to wound others. To be clear, I believe in the traditional biblical understanding of marriage, but I also believe in a God of unbounded grace and love. **LGBTQ individuals and LGBTQ families must be respected and treated with love.** They are beloved children of God because, they are made in the image and likeness of God.”

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Paul Blau - An American in Brazil



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| | | <u>3753</u> | <u>3767</u> | <u>709</u> | <u>3004</u> | <u>3588</u> | <u>4613</u> | <u>4074</u> | <u>3588</u> | <u>2424</u> | <u>4613</u> | < <u>2491</u> > |
| | | Hóte | oún | eerísteesan | légei | toó | Símooni | Pétroo | ho | Ieesoús | Símoon | Iooánnou |
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| | | lovest thou | me | more than | these? | He saith | unto him, | Yea, | Lord; | thou | knowest | that I love |
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| | | thee. | He saith | unto him, | Feed | | lambs. | my | | | | |
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John 21:15-18 CJB

15 After breakfast, Yeshua said to Shim'on Kefa, "**Shim'on Bar-Yochanan, do you love me more than these?**" He replied, "**Yes, Lord, you know I'm your friend.**" He said to him, "Feed my lambs." 16 A second time he said to him, "**Shim'on Bar-Yochanan, do you love me?**" He replied, "**Yes, Lord, you know I'm your friend.**" He said to him, "Shepherd my sheep." 17 The third time he said to him, "**Shim'on Bar-Yochanan, are you my friend?**" Shim'on was hurt that he questioned him a third time: "Are you my friend?" So he replied, "**Lord, you know everything! You know I'm your friend!**" Yeshua said to him, "Feed my sheep!"



LOVE

- **Phileo** – attraction, fondness.
(This is a responsive, natural, conditional love.)
- **Agape** – unconditional, active, serving love.
- **Storge** – a familial love.
- **Eros** – physical intimacy.

Matt 19:18-19

...Jesus said, Thou shalt do
no murder, Thou shalt not
commit adultery, Thou shalt
not steal, Thou shalt not bear
false witness, Honour thy
father and thy mother: and,
***Thou shalt love thy
neighbour as thyself.***

Leviticus

Lev 19:18

Thou shalt love thy neighbour as
thyself: I am the Lord.



Which passages of scripture should guide our public policy? Should we go with Leviticus, which suggests slavery is OK and that eating shellfish is an abomination? Or we could go with Deuteronomy, which suggests stoning your child if he strays from the faith?

— *Barack Obama* —

AZ QUOTES

CP CHURCH & MINISTRIES | WEDNESDAY, MAY 09, 2018 |

Christians Must 'Unhitch' Old Testament From Their Faith, Says Andy Stanley

By [Michael Gryboski](#), Christian Post Reporter



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Paul Blair - An Unoffensive Love?
Andy Stanley preaching before North Point Community Church of Alpharetta, Georgia on Sunday, April 29, 2018. | (Screenshot: YouTube/Andy Stanley)

Leviticus

Lev 19:18

Thou shalt love thy neighbour as
thyself: I am the Lord.

***Charity – Not a handout, but providing for the
needs of the poor***

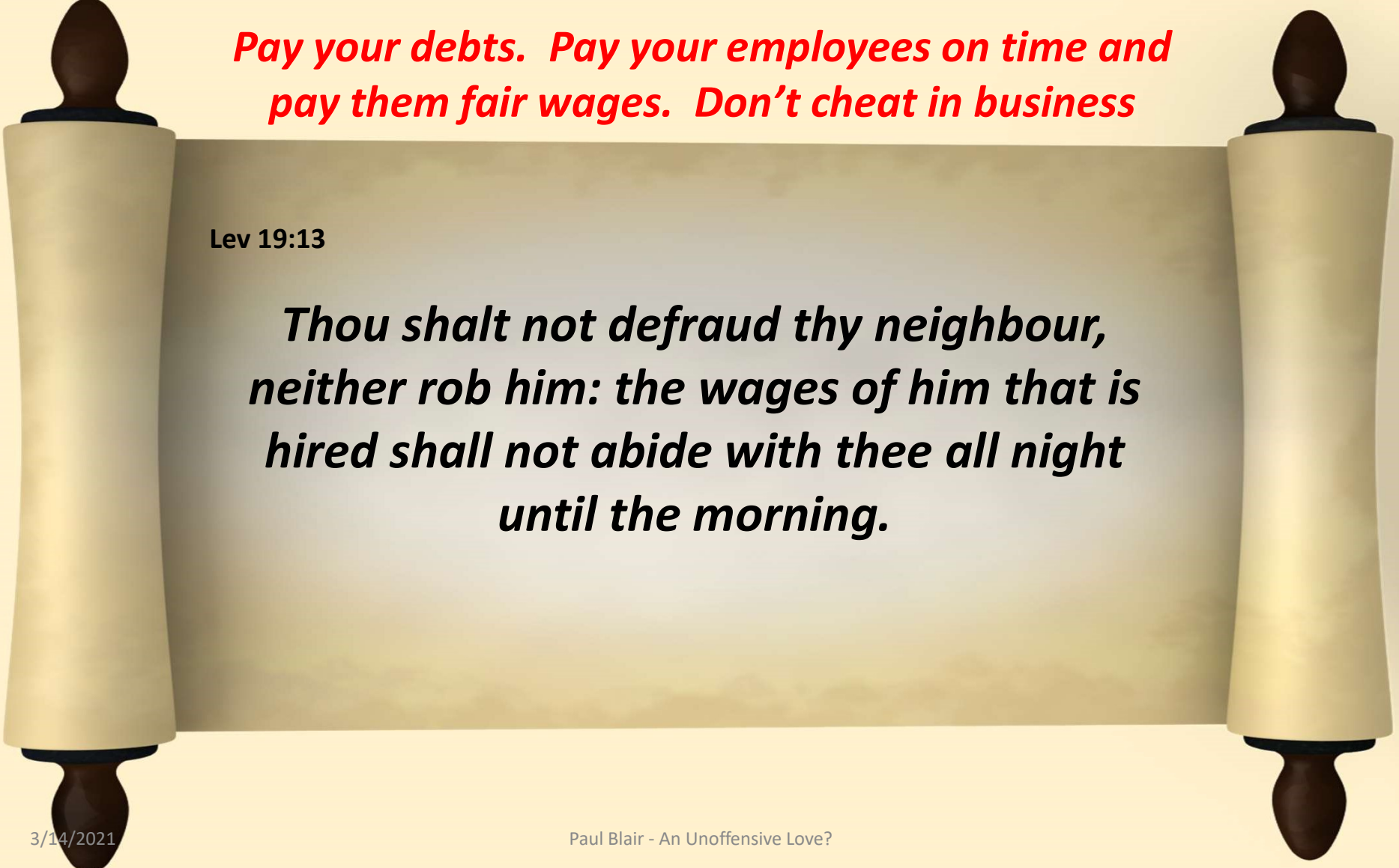
Lev 19:9-18

***And when ye reap the harvest of your land,
thou shalt not wholly reap the corners of
thy field, neither shalt thou gather the
gleanings of thy harvest. And thou shalt
not glean thy vineyard, neither shalt thou
gather every grape of thy vineyard; thou
shalt leave them for the poor and stranger: I
am the Lord your God.***

***Honesty – Don't lie, don't even mislead, and
don't take anything that is not yours***

Lev 19:11-12

***Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely,
neither lie one to another. And ye shall not
swear by my name falsely, neither shalt
thou profane the name of thy God: I am the
Lord.***



***Pay your debts. Pay your employees on time and
pay them fair wages. Don't cheat in business***

Lev 19:13

***Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbour,
neither rob him: the wages of him that is
hired shall not abide with thee all night
until the morning.***

***Don't exploit the disadvantaged, the poor or
the weak***

Lev 19:14

***Thou shalt not curse the deaf, nor put a
stumblingblock before the blind, but shalt
fear thy God: I am the Lord.***

Judge righteously and objectively in EVERY thing

Lev 19:15

***Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment:
thou shalt not respect the person of the
poor, nor honour the person of the mighty:
but in righteousness shalt thou judge thy
neighbour.***

***Don't Gossip or maliciously lie to destroy the character of another,
you shall not stand idly by while the life of your neighbor is in
danger***

Lev 19:16

***Thou shalt not go up and down as a
talebearer among thy people: neither shalt
thou stand against the blood of thy
neighbour: I am the Lord.***

Lev 19:16

don't stand idly by when your neighbor's life is at stake

Complete Jewish Edition



***Don't harbor a grudge or resentment – if you
neighbor has wronged you, go to him***

Lev 19:17

***Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine
heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy
neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him.***

***If your neighbor is doing wrong, go to him –
otherwise you are complicit with his wrongdoing***

Defend your home, but not REVENGE

Lev 19:18

***18 Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any
grudge against the children of thy people,
but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself:
I am the Lord.***

LOVING OTHERS...

- *Be Charitable.*
- *Be Honest.*
- *Be Consistent – Live like a Christian.*
- *Pay your debts.*
- *Don't Cheat in Business.*
- *Don't exploit the disadvantaged, the poor and the weak.*
- *Judge righteously and objectively in EVERY thing.*
- *Don't Gossip or maliciously lie to destroy the character of another*
- *Protect the welfare of your neighbor*
- *Don't harbor a grudge or resentment*
- *Defend your home, but not REVENGE*

Only two Genders

- **Matt 19:4-5** *And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?*

Crossdressing is a Sin

- **Deut 22:5** *The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God.*

Any Sexual Relationship outside of the Union of Husband and Wife is Sin

- **Heb 13:4** *Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.*

Homosexuality is not only a sin, but a violation of Natural Law

- **Rom 1:26-27** *For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.*



Lev 19:16-18

...but also don't stand idly
by when your neighbor's
life is at stake... rather, love
your neighbor as yourself; I
am *Adonai*.

CJB

Paul Blair - An Unoffensive Love?

Rom 12:1-2

2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

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Rom 1:24-26

24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:





Lev 19:16-18

...but also don't stand idly
by when your neighbor's
life is at stake... rather, love
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am *Adonai*.

CJB

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Rom 1:32

who, knowing the righteous judgment of God,
that those who practice such things are deserving
of death, **not only do the same but also approve
of those who practice them.**

**TRUTH SOUNDS
LIKE HATE TO
THOSE WHO
HATE THE
TRUTH**

Heb 12:6

**For whom the Lord loveth he
chasteneth, and scourgeth every son
whom he receiveth.**



John 13:35

***By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples,
if ye have love one to another.***



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Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning. Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.

The Greeks had two different words for “new”:

- *neos*, “new in time”; latest model
- *kainos*, “new in quality”; our English “fresh” is a rough equivalent.





Summary

- There are four types of love. Three are natural, one is an act of obedience through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Does love mean we accept all behavior? Does love mean everything is OK? Of course not. As parents, we love our children and because we love them we say 'No' for their own well-being. And according to the definition of "loving our neighbor" found in Leviticus, it is our responsibility to intervene to save the life, health or well being of our neighbor.
- Agape is not warm fuzzy feelings. Agape has nothing to do with feelings. This is an act of obedience. This is love in action. This is the love you have for a neighbor or church member. Not everybody gets along great. We have introverts and extroverts, not everyone may enjoy spending a lot of time with others. That's OK. This love is foundational.

God's Love

God's Justice



Does God Love Man?

- **Rom 5:8** *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

Does God hate sin?

- **Ps 45:7** *Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.*

Isn't man a sinner?

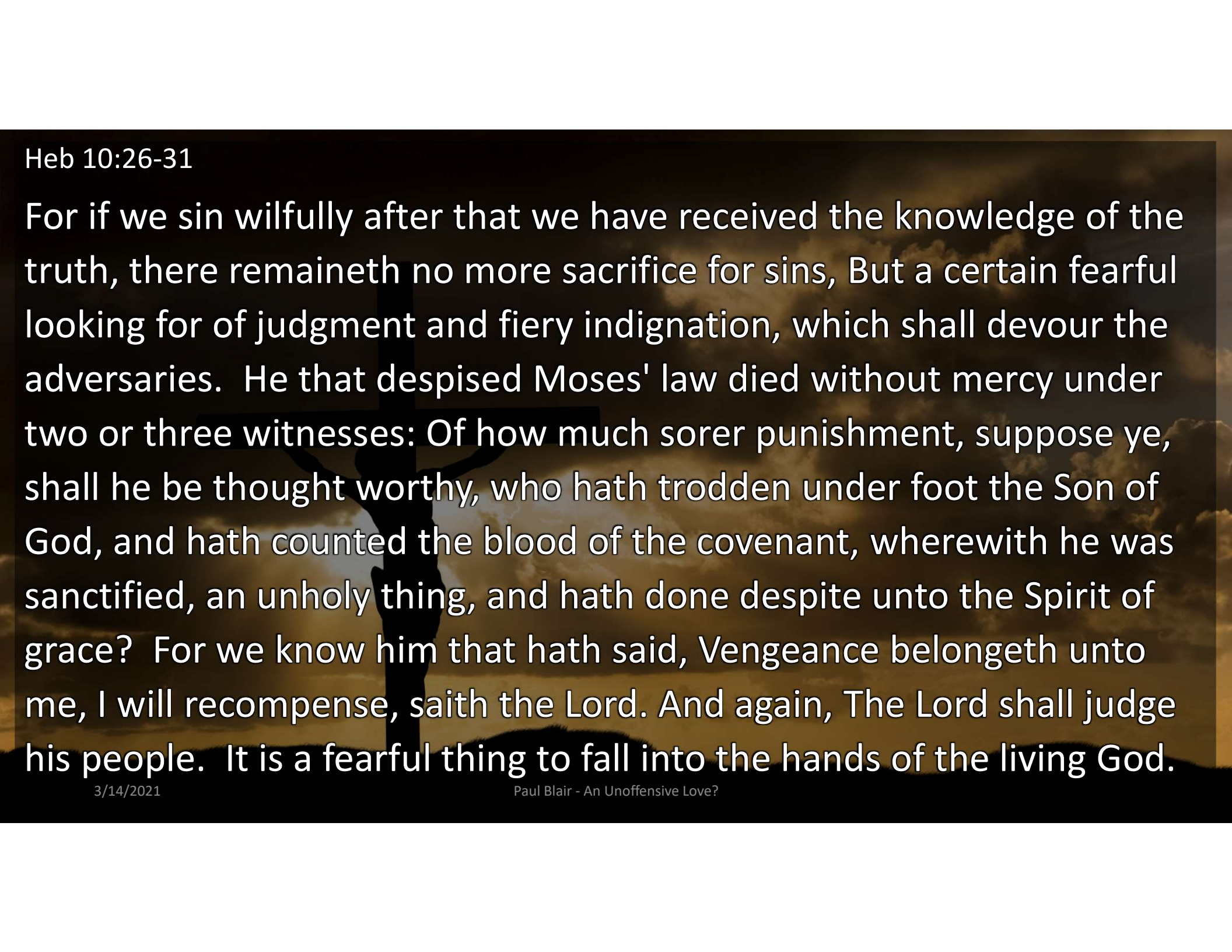
- **Rom 3:23** *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*



HOW DID GOD RECONCILE THIS PARADOX?

Facts:

1. God did not make robots. Love must be freely given. The Fact of freedom is a good thing. Sometimes our acts of freedom are not.
2. Man chose to sin. That choice breaks God's heart as Sin separates us from God. If we die in that condition, we will spend eternity separated from God. God won't force us to spend eternity with Him if we don't want to.
3. God's unconditional love moved Him to purchase our redemption.
4. It is God's will that we be saved. That is God's desire. His payment is sufficient for all. But again, God won't force Himself upon us. Whosoever will may come.
5. Now, God puts up with a lot. His loving longsuffering is why.
6. But eventually, His patience will come to an end.
7. You will either stand before God, your Savior, clothed in the righteousness of Christ having gratefully received God's love gift of eternal life and hear – well done good and faithful servant.
8. Or you will stand before God your judge clothed in your own sin. You will hear the words, "Depart from me ye cursed, I never knew you!"



Heb 10:26-31

For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

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