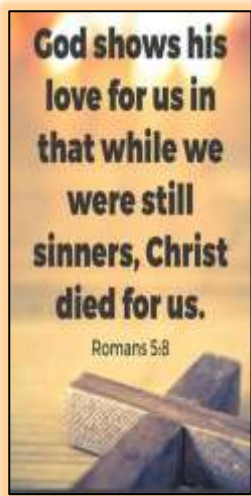




Dear Friend in Jesus! In response to a query by a Muslim about the purpose of Jesus' coming I shared with him how the Bible declares that God loves sinners and sent His Son into the world to save those who would otherwise perish in their sins. Jesus spent much of his earthly ministry among those regarded worthless in the eyes of the religious leaders. God's love is so personal and intimate that it caused him to send Jesus to die for us so to save us: "God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). I shared with him how God's grace, mercy and assurance of eternal life is available to 'whoever' believes (John 3:16; 1:17; 14:6; Titus 3:7).

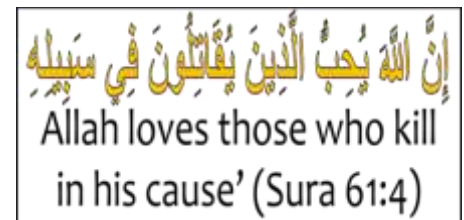


A Muslim's point of view

Although he refused to accept Jesus' death portraying the love of God, he did agree and even quoted from the Qur'an to me several passages that Allah of the Qur'an is loving and does love those who obey him. His insistence was that out of God's love he sent 124 thousand prophets into this world to lead mankind into the straight path. Eventually he did agree that according to the Qur'an Allah is not the one who loves sinners personally. Nevertheless, spurred on by a sense of theological inadequacy, he was trying to quote to me Qur'anic passages so to show me that God is loving in that he is closer than our own jugular vein. He was trying to show me Allah's divine intimacy and affection for his creation, the human being.

What does the Qur'an really say about Allah's love?

I did not want to teach him his Islamic faith but had to tell him what the Qur'an says. Dear friend, here is something to consider: Indeed, the Qur'an speaks of Allah regarding love about 40 times but more than half of those refer to how Allah 'does not love'. For example, he does not love those who do wrong, who are faithless, who reject Islam, who are transgressors, those not generous, who are wasteful, who are treacherous, criminals and the exultant. Some other passages that mention whom Allah loves are those who do good, who are just, pure, who are righteous, who kill in Allah's cause and who obey the Prophet.



Another point is that Allah's love is conditional. While the Bible is quite clear that before we loved God, He has loved us first (1John 4:19). In Islam it is the Muslim who must follow what is commanded then in turn Allah will love him (Sura 3:31). In other words, Allah's love is an expression of approval, solely to those who do good as defined by Allah. For example: 'LO! Allah loveth the beneficent' and 'Allah loveth not the disbelievers' (Sura 2:195; 3:32). Elsewhere, 'Allah loveth those who kill in His cause' (Sura 61:4).

And what about Allah being so near to us

Now about Allah being so near to us than our jugular vein (Sura 50:16) so to say that Allah loves us intimately. When we check this passage in its context, we find that it is a warning to those who do not accept the message of the Qur'an that they cannot hide their thoughts and actions from Allah. This passage

is far from telling us that Allah's closeness means his love for humans, rather it declares that Allah is watching closely the lives of people so to punish them. He is watching with an eagle eye for any slip-up. Interestingly the next two verses (Sura 50:17-18) clarify this closeness of Allah as not of his personal closeness but of the recording angels. Allah has sent one sitting on the right shoulder to record every good deed and the other on the left shoulder recording bad deeds.

According to the Qur'an only Islam is the religion acceptable in Allah's eyes and that the Muslims are the best of all peoples as a community on earth (Sura 3:19,110; 9:33). In contrast, Non-Muslims are the foulest of all creatures (Sura 98:6).

God's real love

Dear Friends, gone are the days when the Muslim hierarchy were able to bar truth seekers. Now due to social media, the internet and the satellite TV waves, thousands of Muslims are finding out the inadequacy of Islam only to follow whatever captures their interest. Please pray with us and support us in the efforts we are involved in that many Muslims will know God's real love and embrace Jesus as their Savior and assurance for their eternal life.

Prayer and Praise points

- ❖ From our broadcast, YouTube channels, and websites, we get an average of more than 100 e-mails a day. Please pray with us that we will continue to be able to respond graciously and that those few who desire further guidance, will be put in contact with Christians. We pray for willing Christians to boldly help them.
- ❖ Pray for Steven as he is writing a new program to help new believers. It will be titled 'Iman-u- Amal, agla qadam (Faith and Action – Next Step). Later, the scripts will be prepared for broadcast and recording will begin in March 2020. The 30 programs will each be approximately 30 minutes.
- ❖ Please pray for us as Steven's time is spread thin responding to queries, writing, speaking, teaching and equipping believers through personal contact and seminars. Seminars bring more finances and thus more outreach opportunities. Please pray with us that the Lord will bring us partners gifted in administration for P/T office work, online technology, and digital video recording and editing.
- ❖ Please pray with us for the protection of those whom we have trained and equipped who are now in the field. May the Lord protect them and use them mightily to share the gospel with Muslims.
- ❖ During 2020, we will continue to teach seminars and speak at churches as invited and continue the ministry trusting the seeds planted will empower the body so that 'each one will reach one' until all Muslims have heard the gospel. We count on our supporters like you to open doors in new places.
- ❖ We would like our resources translated in several other languages. Although two of Steven's books, *Into the Light* and *More than Conquerors*, are available in around 30 languages, we would also like to see all the evangelistic leaflets be available in several languages spoken by Muslims. At present they are available in Urdu, Spanish and English and a dialect spoken in China along with a few in Indonesian. One of our readers has now graciously taken on the Arabic translation and we are excited about its completion!
- ❖ We indeed thank you for your support in prayer and giving in 2019. We pray that you will continue to support this ministry during 2020 so that many from among the 1.7 Billion Muslims will know Jesus as the only Savior and embrace Him, and a significant number of believers will take outreach to Muslims seriously. The harvest is ripe, but the laborers are few.

Jesus to Muslims: Financial Aspects

Jesus to Muslims relies solely on God through the generosity of our donors to: reach Muslims with the Gospel, expand our outreach, and hold seminars to equip Christians, give resources, as well as research and publish material for truth seekers.

Funds in total received:

December 2019: \$15,714

January 2020: \$ 9,531

Monthly Need is \$15,000. We praise God for His provision through His people. If you are mailing your gift, please use the envelope provided. For online giving, please go to: www.JesusToMuslims.org and click on "Support". Donations are tax deductible.