SUPERFEST 2023 SEMINAR 1

BY REV DR JANET ONAOLAPO TOPIC: JESUS; THE RECKLESS LOVE OF GOD

To be reckless means to be indifferent to danger or consequences.

God is LOVE - I John 4:16. His love is a reckless one. Whenever He displays His love, He gives it with reckless abandon.

God's love is so unconditional that He accepts us just as we are.

It was the love He had and still has for mankind that made Him pay the price of sending His only son JESUS, who is His express image to die for us and redeem us back to Him - John 3:16, Romans 4:24-25.

God delivered Jesus for our offences and raised Him for our justification so that when we see His love and experience it, we will be filled with it - Ephesians 3:17-19.

Jesus, being the embodiment of God's reckless love, was also ready to pay the price of obedience by showing that He loved God, the Father.

Isaiah 53:1-10 shows us how Jesus demonstrated His love. It is very important that we understand this love and show it to the world.

- He was announced as Saviour at birth Luke 2:11.
- He was born in a manger. A trough is a long narrow container, open on top and used for feeding or putting water for animals. A manger is the worst place anyone would want to have a baby.
- He lived as an ordinary man. A beloved son in whom God is well pleased became ordinary just to please His Father Matthew 3:17.
- He was crucified. The events before and during the crucifixion of Jesus were brutal.

He was not just killed, but was crucified on the cross so His death would be shameful. The Jews usually killed people by stoning them. However, in Jesus' case, they shamed and tortured Him before He was crucified.

Jesus was flogged and given 39 stripes, spat on, mocked, stripped of His clothes, worn a scarlet robe, hit with a reed on His head, worn a crown of thorns, pierced with a sword at His side, nailed on both hands and feet and served vinegar mingled with gall - Matthew 27:33-34. Gall is a painkiller. He was given gall to drink to make numb the pain he was going through. They did that because they knew how much pain he was in. Jesus rejected it because He had to bear the pain and pay the 'Price' in full. All He went through was like undergoing a surgery without anaesthesia being administered.

His Father forsook Him and He felt the pain of the separation so much that He cried out in helplessness - Matthew 27:46.

He came for sinners - Matthew 9:13, Mark 2:17.

Romans 8:15 shows us that ABBA indicates intimacy. Jesus wanted us to have an intimate understanding of God as the Father,

After the crucifixion, between His death and resurrection, Jesus said it is finished on the cross and the veil was rent - John 19:30.

Jesus completed the assignment He was given and declared afterwards: "It is finished" - Luke 23:43.

When Jesus said to the thief on the cross: "Today, you will be with me in Paradise", it means that, at that point in time, He went to heaven where God is.

I Peter 3:19,22, Colossians 2 15, Ephesians 4: 8-10 gives different views about what happened within the three days of His burial and resurrection.

He finished it on the cross!

THE COMMISSION

John 20:19-22 - The Father sent Jesus the Son to show forth His reckless love. Jesus is asking us to do the same today. He wants us to present His love to the world by spreading the message of HIS RECKLESS LOVE and not that of condemnation.