



Sunday, April 21, 2019

MAKE A QUIET COMMITMENT:

- QUIET your mind and soul before the LORD — *“Be still, and know that I am God”* (Psalm 46:10)
- COMMIT to obedience: *Commit* to doing whatever God will say to you in this message — *“to obey is better than sacrifice”* (1 Samuel 15:22)

- I. The **WEALTH** of the Believer (1:1-3:21)
 - A. The Christian and His **RICHES** (1:3-23)
 - B. The Christian and His **RECONCILIATION** (2:1-22)
 - C. The Christian and His **REVELATION** (3:1-21)
 1. What was **REVEALED** (1-13)
 2. What was to be **REALIZED** (14-21)

In the first half of this chapter Paul spells out what had been **REVEALED** to him regarding the *“mystery”*—the reconciliation of Jew and Gentile within the Church. In the continuation of his prayer he seeks to help these saints **REALIZE** the transcendent truth of God’s love. This is done through the spiritual strengthening of the believer as they grow in their understanding of *“the love of God”* and are changed by it as they are *“filled with all the fulness of God.”*

a. Paul’s **PRAYER** (14-19)

i. His **PRACTICE** in Praying—**SURRENDER** (14-16a)

In his prayer we see the posture of his heart bended toward the Father, seeking His will and His glory—*“not my will but Thine be done.”*

ii. His **PURPOSE** in Praying—**STRENGTH** (16-19)

- a) The Christian’s **RENEWING**—Surrender (16b)
- b) The Christian is **RULED**—Submission (17a)

The simple question: *“Does Christ feel completely at home in my heart / life?”*

c) The Christian's ROOTS—Stability (17b)

1 John 4:9-10 In this was manifested the love of **God** toward us, because that **God** sent **His** only begotten **Son** into the world, that we might live through **Him**. Herein is love, not that we loved **God**, but that **He** loved us, and sent **His Son to be** the propitiation (*the atoning sacrifice*) for our sins.

1 John 4:11-12 Beloved, if **God** so loved us, we ought also to love one another. **12** No man hath seen **God** at any time. If we love one another, **God** dwelleth in us, and **His** love is perfected in us.

When Christ rules our life, love fills our hearts. It is the love that is the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22).

d) The Christian's REALITY—Sacrifice (18-19a)

A Christian that is properly rooted in love will naturally lead to a new reality of living of life of loving service—a life of supreme and sacrificial love.

1. TRANSCENDENT Love (18)

Eph 3:18 May be able to comprehend [*grasp*] with all saints what *is* the breadth, and length, and depth, and height [*the vastness and completeness of God's love*];

Paul's prayer for these saints is that they would "*comprehend*" or mentally grasp the transcendent truth of God's love.

(a) Love's BREADTH—it reaches everyone

1 Timothy 2:3-4 For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of **God** our **Saviour**; **4** **Who** will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

Cf. Ephesians 2:13-15

(b) Love's LENGTH—it is eternal

Jeremiah 31:3 The **LORD** hath appeared of old unto me, *saying*, "Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee."

Ephesians 2:7 That in the ages to come **He** might shew the exceeding [*surpassing*] riches of **His** grace in *His* kindness [*gentleness*] toward us through **Christ Jesus**.

(c) Love's DEPTH—reaches the depths of sin

Ephesians 2:5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us [*made us alive*] together with **Christ**, (by grace ye are saved;)

(d) Love's HEIGHT—it raises us up to heaven

Ephesians 2:6 And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in **Christ Jesus**:

2. TRANSFORMING Love (19a)

A comprehension of this transforming truth that is evidenced in Christ likeness.
To know this kind of love is to be known by this kind of love.

Cf. 1 Corinthians 13:1-2

Cf. Ephesians 2:4-7

(a) Our VERTICAL ADORATION

Matthew 22:37 Jesus said unto him, “ ‘Thou shalt love the **Lord** thy **God** with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.’ ”

(b) Our HORIZONTAL ACTIONS

Matthew 22:38-39 “This is the first and great commandment. **39** “And the second is like unto it, ‘Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.’ ”

John 13:34-35 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. **35** By this shall all *men* know that ye are **My** disciples, if ye have love one to another.”



Our WORTHY WALK is ROOTED in the truth of God's love bringing unwavering STABILITY. His REALITY becomes a life of SACRIFICE as he is transformed by the truth of God's transcendent love. TO KNOW GOD'S LOVE IS TO BE KNOWN BY GOD'S LOVE. In turn he LOVES GOD SUPREME and LOVES OTHERS SACRIFICIALLY.

What is my next step? Please consider doing the questions on the back of this page.

What Is My Next Step?

Hearing — Giving *attention* to God's Word with the intent to obey it — James 1:21-25

Doing — Making *application* of God's Word to be more like Christ — Eph. 4:22-24

Date: _____ Text: _____ Speaker: _____

1. What did God show **me** that **I** must confess and forsake because it does not reflect Christ and hurts **my** relationship with Him and others? (***Put OFF SIN***)
2. What did God show **me** about Himself in this text? (***Renew your mind***)
 - a. What is He like?
 - b. What does He like?
 - c. What does He dislike?
3. What does God say to me in this text? (***Renew your mind***)
 - a. What command to obey?
 - b. What promise to claim?
 - c. What principle to apply (*If I do _____, then God will do _____*)?
 - d. What example to follow?
4. What verse(s) should **I** memorize and meditate upon through-out this week to help make **my** change lasting? (***Renew your mind***)
5. In light of what **I** have heard from God, ... (***Put ON CHRIST***)
 - a. What character quality of Jesus must I demonstrate *with God's help* this week?
 - b. In what situations will I most likely be tempted not to respond in a Christ-like way?
 - c. How can **I** get ready for those situations? (*If I don't have a plan for change, it probably won't happen.*)



OUR MISSION: Supremely love GOD,
Sacrificially love others
—ALL to the GLORY of GOD!