GREAT LOVE LI

BROTHERLY LOVE

 God’s love is extended in some very beautiful examples of brotherly love. Philip’s love for Nathanael is a good example of loving someone and wanting to lead them to Jesus. We see the same thing with Peter being led to the Lord by Andrew his natural brother. Jonathan had a tremendous love for David and it was spoken of multiple times in First Samuel chapters eighteen and twenty. It is a special thing when God gives us those unique relationships. We are blessed even if we have a few of these relationships in our lifetime.

 There was a special bond between Elijah and Elisha. It was like a father and son relationship. Paul and Timothy had a similar bond and Paul would call Timothy his son. It is a blessing to experience such closeness in the Lord. I have some that have given me paternal guidance in the Lord’s work and I have some who I have tried, in some feeble way, to help as sons in the Gospel.

 Yet, these instances are not all that is meant by brotherly love. It is more visible in instances such as the Good Samaritan. Loving people as God loves them in an undeserved way; helping those who you may never see again; caring for someone genuinely just because your heart goes out to them. I read this story of a frontier hunter who was trapping in the west not thinking that anyone was within a hundred miles of him. He was canoeing along a river nearing an area that he was trapping when he heard steps breaking through the ice. Figuring it was a moose he slowly rounded a point in the river and was surprised to find a man with nothing on his arms or feet wading in the icy water. Struggling to do so, he finally got the man in his canoe and carried him back to camp. The man was a mere skeleton and held an animal bone to his chest that he had chewed to nothing. After bedding him down, getting him warm and nursing him for a few days he finally made enough sense of what he was saying to realize there was a group of people that he belonged to. Leading him and sometimes carrying him he at last found the village where he resided. Many of the men were out looking for him. They had a signal that if he were found they would fire their gun or sound a bell. You could hear the bell from the village and the distant guns sound as they heard the bell or someone else’s gun. What a celebration was held! For the hunter the joy of the whole situation was the joy of knowing the man had found his home. Later he found that the man’s insanity was only temporary. What love was given! What love was received! We never know what providence may bring. We could be the one in the canoe or we might be the one wading in the icy water. Love is needed.

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram