GREAT LOVE X

…having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end. John 13:1 (KJV)

On this past Wednesday evening we discussed this verse to a small degree. The question was who the writer was referring to when he said “his own.” I said that I thought he may have been referring to the Jews, the people of his own nationality, and though they rejected him he still loved them. Today, let us look at this verse from a very personal pair of eyes.

First, may we ever know that he loved those who have sought his forgiveness. They have sold out to sin and invested all in Him and they trusted and believed that he has washed their sins away on Calvary’s Cross. He loved them unto the end. He loved them all the way to his final breath on that old rugged tree. To believers, when he said “it is finished” it means their salvation was complete. Oh My! That is great love!

Second, may we have great confidence in knowing that we are always loved. I saw on the news Wednesday evening that an eighty year old minister had left his house on Tuesday morning to go fishing with some friends and never arrived at the friend’s house. All his family was searching for him, friends were looking for him. No one had been able to find him. This is a fact in the matter. We may get lost from our family and friends. We may lose our way down here. We may forget who we are while on this earth but we will never be lost from the love of Jesus. This man may never be rescued here but God’s love will abide with him until the very end of his life and beyond. Love Never Fails!

Back in nineteen eighty and nineteen eighty-one, Kathie had a great uncle and also a great aunt who were in the nursing home with dementia or Alzheimer’s. Back then they called it hardening of the arteries. Nevertheless, they had lost all sense of reality. Those visits are still pretty vivid in my mind because that was the first experience that I had with people suffering from that disease. Since that time I have seen many who have had to deal with those terrible diseases. Thank God, many of those people have good families who continue to support and care for them in any way they can. Sad to say though, some have been put away and forgotten. Hear what I say. Jesus does not forget. He continues to love those people with a love only heaven can give. They may not know their own names but Jesus knows exactly who they are. They may not know what is going on in their brains but Jesus knows and more so, he understands. I can remember leaving that nursing home many years ago and praying “Lord don’t let that happen to me.” I realize now that I am not immune to any of these diseases and neither are you but with my last bit of sanity I can know that Christ will love me unto the end.

I am glad that “whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say ‘it is well, it is well with my soul.” Those words can come from my lips because I have “A Savior who loves me I know. He’s guiding and guarding where ever I go. He walks beside me along the bright way. His love grows sweeter each day.” Only God knows what my lot will be but if I die naturally at home or become lost at sea, I have Jesus who will love me to the end. When I reach the banks of chilly Jordon I will find the extended hand of Jesus who will take me safely over and land me on Heavens bright shore. That is Great Love.

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram