GREAT LOVE XI

The Lord loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. Psalms 87:2 (KJV)

I would like to consider today the great love that God has for his church. In our text today, Zion represents the church while Jacob represents Israel. The gates indicate the entrance into corporate worship where the dwellings signify home worship. The gates of Zion would point more to the people of grace while the dwellings of Jacob are the people of the law. “The LORD loveth the gates of Zion **more** than all the dwellings of Jacob.”

First think of the love God has for His Church, the Church of the First Born. His foundation is in the holy mountain. The churches one foundation is Jesus Christ my Lord. I love what Spurgeon said on the matter. “He loves Jacob the best and he loves Zion more than the best.” The church was purchased and founded on the precious blood of God’s own Son, Jesus Christ. No wonder he loves her more! She is the glorious prize for His sufferings.

Second consider that he loves the **gates** of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. Notice that the psalm was dedicated for the sons of Korah. The sons of Korah were the door keepers to the temple. They could use the song either inside the temple or outside the temple. God’s love provides us with a Sunday song every day of the week. It is great to sing when we are alone but how much the greater when in the great congregation of the redeemed we sing redemptions song. The gates were the going out and the coming in of the saints. Surely there is blessing for God when all his children are coming into one place to lift up their voices in praise and admiration to Him. Yes he enjoys our worship from home but he loves the assembling of ourselves together more.

Last of all this verse speaks to why God wants us to unite with the church. The church is his love. He loves the way that individual families become one large family in church. He loves the work we can do as individuals but he loves more the great work we can do together as a church. He hears the prayers of every believer but more so the united prayers of the church. He loves the praise from whoever has lips to render it but he loves more the praise that comes from those who have united in mass choir to worship and praise him. Do not misunderstand what I am saying. God loves your praise and prayers whenever and where ever you desire to seek him or approach him but when you snub the church and decide to just do your own thing and you think you can do better without the church then you are snubbing the bride of Christ and you are not pleasing God. We have people who can no longer come to church. They are much like God in their position. They would say it is good to worship the Lord here at home but we would truly love to worship him within the gates of Zion!

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram