GREAT LOVE XVI

My beloved *is* mine, and I *am* his: Song 2:16 (KJV)

What great love is expressed between Christ and his bride, the Church? It seems the church is speaking in our text and is proud to let all others know that Christ has given himself to her and has taken her as his own. The JFB Bible Commentary expresses it like this; He is mine which means He is for me and I am his which means I am for Him. What a blessing to know that he is for me. All that he is: his majesty, his divinity, his power, his love, his grace etc. it is all for me. Likewise, all that he has done is for me. He has left all of heaven and come to earth for me; he laid down immortality and became mortal for me; he bore my sins and went to Calvary for me; he rose from the grave and ascended to heaven for me; he is interceding for me. All that he is planning to do is for me. His second coming is for me; his resurrection is for me; the place he is preparing is for me; His Heaven and eternity is for me!!!

That he would take me as his own is beyond comprehension. He has chosen me for himself. With all my imperfections he wants me. That is great love. The Church, earlier in Song of Solomon, describes herself as a keeper of the vineyard for her family but did not have time to keep her own. She sees herself as black because of the sun or very dark which was not seen as attractive in her day. She would have been considered lower class and of the working class. Nevertheless, Christ had chosen her for himself. He has done the same for us. He has chosen us when we were less than desirable and still desires us thou we have tons of imperfections. How he loves us!!!

He still desires us though we have undesirable surroundings. There is so much sin that surrounds us today and to think that Jesus still loves and wants for his own. Much of our world and country has such a similarity to Sodom it is scary. People in our work places and people in our schools are practicing these abominations and still Jesus loves us enough to call us his own. Approximately 6 million women become pregnant each year and of those 1.6 million will abort their babies. Those stats are for the U. S. alone. We live in the midst of this yet Jesus claims us as his own. Oh my my!!! How great is His love for us that he gives us himself and desires us as his bride!!!

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram