GREAT LOVE XXI

And David came to Saul, and stood before him: and he loved him greatly; and he became his armourbearer. 1 Sam 16:21 (KJV)

Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, **5** Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; **6** Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; **7** Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. 1 Cor 13:4-7 (KJV)

 When reading the first passage of our text, I have always had a problem understanding which of the two persons involved in the text was the one who was loving and who was being loved. According to most commentaries Saul was supposed to be the lover and David the object of his love. If that be so then the text indicates that Saul loved David greatly. I think that is the way that many people love other people today. They love them as long as they are being benefited by them. Saul loved David’s music when it was bringing him peace of mind. He loved David’s courage when it was winning him victories. When David began to gain more notoriety than Saul then Saul’s love was more for himself than for David. Love is putting someone else above you.

 I believe that David loved Saul greatly. David had already been anointed to be king of Israel before coming to be Saul’s armourbearer. He could have done many things contrary to Saul’s will and taken the kingdom. Rather he served Saul faithfully. David loved Israel and as such he honored Saul as God’s anointed king of Israel until the day that Saul died. Charity (love) suffers long. Saul tried to kill David on several occasions. David had opportunity to take Saul’s life but would not. Love is kind. Saul envied the praise, honor, and love of the people that David received. Love does not envy. Saul became mad with jealousy and hatred for David. Love does not behave itself unseemly. I think you can see the difference in David and Saul’s love for each other. David’s love would be the love we should display in our lives.

 Yet David was not perfect but Christ is. His love for us meets all the criteria listed by Paul in the Corinthian Letter. He has suffered long with us, is not easily provoked. He has born the load of many things for us, believed all things, hoped all things, and endured the worst of things for us. What a Savior we have! Truly he has gone the distance to prove his love for us. It is said that Saul loved David. It is shown that David loved Saul. It is a proven truth that Jesus loves you!!!

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram