GREAT LOVE XXIV

I LOVE THE LORD

I love the Lord, because he hath heard my voice *and* my supplications. **2** Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon *him* as long as I live. Psalms 116:1-2 (KJV)

 I am not so sure that the degree of my love for God is anything to brag about. I know there are many who have proved their love for God much better than I but I can say that I do love Him. In our text today there are two words that are outstanding to me, “because” and “therefore.” David uses “because” to show why he loved God and the word “therefore” indicates what God’s love produces.

 I recall around fifty years ago, my pastor at the time, Brother Verron Johnston the pastor of Union Hill Baptist Church, asked me if I loved the Lord. I believe that is when the Holy Spirit began convicting me of my sins. That was the first time I had to dig down deep and consider my relationship with Jesus. When Brother Johnston asked me that question I did not know how to answer him. I am glad today that I can say I love the Lord. Now the question is why? Why do I love Him?

 One reason that I love Him is because He first loved me. Way before Brother Johnston asked of me that probing question, God loved me. Before the foundation of the earth God knew me and loved me. When Christ was hanging on the cross he loved me. Before I was born I was loved of God. Prior to my mother and father ever knowing each other Jesus loved Randy Burtram. The degree of love that Christ has for me was first also. No matter how much I love Him, His love will always be greater. He loved me enough to give his life for me. His offering was a perfect life on a criminal’s tree. In no way would my love ever match up to his. God has loved me longer; He has loved me better and He consciously loves me every moment of every day. I cannot say that of myself. Another reason I love Him is because He has saved me. He has established a relationship with me. My sins are forgiven. He has released me from the bondage of sin.

 “Therefore” I want to serve Him. When I was told I had cancer, I had to do some evaluating of my life and I realized I just really wanted to serve the Lord all the days of my life, ever how long that might be. When I die I want to be used up in service for Him. It is my desire to see other people find this glorious salvation. David said “I love the Lord, because he hath heard my voice….Therefore I will call on him as long as I live.” I agree. Since He has loved me and answered prayers I will continue to call on Him to seek help and guidance for myself and others and I will call on Him just to talk. May God bless you.

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram