GREAT LOVE XXXVI

**He will rest in his love** Zephaniah 3:17 (KJV)

Matthew Henry says “The Lord not only loves us but he loves to love us.” I think of David who had Absalom, his son, attempting to take over David’s kingdom. Absalom had driven David from Jerusalem, his home. David was forced to live a life similar to the life he had lived under Saul. Absalom was not a good son but David loved him. Even when we were sinners God loved us. David wept at the news of Absalom’s death. It must touch the heart of God when we falter and fail under the load of sin because God loves us. He finds pleasure in loving us. That is not to say that he isn’t grieved by our disobedience for he truly is. Because he loves us he disciplines us. His correction is an active part of his love for us. Does he love to discipline us? He loves to see his discipline lead us back into a loving relationship with him. It is sad for a loving relationship to end in tears of despair. David’s loving relationship with his son, Absalom, ended with tears of despair and regret because his son chose to follow the worldly desires.

“He will rest in his love” indicates that God finds contentment in loving us. We were created for his pleasure so he therefore rests in loving his creation. He created us in his own image so we are unique among his creation. God realized our needs and supplied our needs. You remember that he saw that it was not good for Adam to be alone he therefore created Eve for him and made them one. Surely he was contented in that loving act. Likewise, he rests in supplying those things that are lacking in our lives. Spurgeon says that because God has labored in his love he can now rest in his love. We are very much a product of his labor of love. When we think of the great work and the great sacrifice Jesus accomplished at Calvary we must also realize why he could truly “sit down” at the right hand of God.

One writer suggested that this phrase means that God quiets us with his love. I surely would not argue the fact that God does just that. How he calms and comforts our soul. It would be hard to receive such from God without the knowledge and assurance of his love for us. I thank God for the great love in which he rests and in which we can rest also!

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram