HOLD ON TO YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD

**6** They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches; **7** None *of them* can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him: **8** (For the redemption of their soul *is* precious, and it ceaseth for ever:) **9** That he should still live for ever, *and* not see corruption. Psalms 49:6-9 (KJV)

 This past week I helped in a revival at Lakeview Baptist Church. My sermons came from the parable of the prodigal son in Luke chapter fifteen. The two brothers were very different; one was a free spirit while the other was very conservative. Something about the brothers that attracted my attention was the fact that there seemed to be no relationship between them.

 I am very blessed to have a brother that loves the Lord. What if he didn’t? I do not have the means by which to save him. My wife and I have a house, a couple of vehicles and a few acres of land but if we owned the whole world and all the valuables in it, we could not purchase one soul. My brother would remain a lost man if he were depending on my wealth or righteousness to save him. I could not pay the ransom to deliver him from Satan’s hold.

 Not only am I unable to save my blood brother but I am equally unable to save one soul among my fellow mankind. By my riches, I am unable to save my brothers. I may love them greatly and may be willing to go to the ends of the earth to help them but no amount of wealth or effort can save their souls. The redemption of their souls, as well as mine and yours, lies in the hands of God Almighty. Therefore, if I am to help in saving souls I must maintain a good relationship with the only one who is able to save souls, Jehovah God and his son Jesus Christ who are one and the same.

 In order to maintain this relationship, I must constantly “turn my eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face; and the things of earth shall turn strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace.” I am called on to make my material possessions secondary when it comes to my relationship with my Lord. If I really love my brother, I should really love my Jesus. “My Jesus I love thee. I know thou art mine. To thee all the follies of sin I resign. My gracious redeemer, my Savior art thou, if ever I love thee, my Jesus tis now.”

 Let us hold on to our relationship with the Lord and thus hold on to our brothers.

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram