

## "LOVE."

Owe no man anything, but to *love* one another, for he that *loveth* another hath fulfilled the law. For this: "thou shalt not commit adultery;" "thou shalt not kill;" "thou shalt not steal;" "thou shalt not bear false witness;" "thou shalt not covet;" and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, viz: "thou shalt *love* thy neighbor as thyself." "Love worketh no ill to his neighbor, therefore *love* is the fulfilling of the law." [Rom. 13:8,10](#). Our love to God and for each other should be such as to cause our life's service to him, and for the members of the body of Christ to seem to us even shorter, comparatively, than was Jacob's service for Rachel, who served seven years. But his *love* for her was so great, that it seemed unto him but a few days. [Gen. 29:20](#). If we were nearer perfect in *love*, a life of service to God, in whatever way he might see fit to use us, would be to us a pleasant service, and well pleasing to Him. I think if we would consider how great was his *love* for us, it would beget *love* in us. We would then be anxious to *love* him with all the heart, soul, strength and mind, also to *love* one another as he loved us, for we can do more in this way to please him than in any other one way. We can thus fulfill the spirit of the law, which we could do in no other. Brother; sister, did you ever meditate and think of God? One of whose main attributes is *love*. Yea, for God is *love*. Have you considered how great his *love* was and is for us? Has your heart not been made to leap for joy, as you have read some of the words, penned by inspired writers concerning the *love* of God for his children?

John it was who wrote much concerning *love*; hear him as he exclaims: ([1 John 3:1](#).) "Behold what manner of *love* the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God." Did you ever think of that? Called to be sons and daughters of the loving God, adopted into the family of God, and have Jesus as our elder brother, and with him share all the glories of the heavenly kingdom. Yes, friends, he that has given us Jesus, will, with him freely give us all things. Surely the apostle could say: "*behold* what manner of *love*;" also God has manifested his *love* toward us, because he sent his only begotten son into the world, that we might live through him. "Herein is *love*; not that we loved God, but that he *loved* us." [1 John 4:9,10](#). "Yea he *loved* us before we *loved* him. When we were without strength, when there was no arm to save; yea, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. Thus God commendeth his *love* toward us, in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us." [Rom. 5:6,8](#). [R31 : page 6] Friends, here is manifested pure, unselfish *love*; when we were sinners, aliens from God, Christ died for us. Oh, can we not in part repay him by *loving* in return? Surely if we have his spirit we will *love* him, for love begets love. Can we not say with the Apostle Paul: "I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the *love* of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." [Rom. 8:38,39](#). Not only should we love God fervently, and be unseparable from that *love*, but we shall *love* those begotten by him; (through his word of truth) this is a new commandment given unto us by Christ, viz: "that as he *loved* us we should *love* one another." [John 13:35](#).

If we thus loved each other, it would be *love* indeed. If we had *love* one for another as Christ loved us, it would lead to the giving of our lives for each other if necessary, and that is what John says: "Hereby perceive we the *love* of God, because he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren." [1 John 3:16](#). True we are not thus tried, but if we were would our *love* enable us so to do? Has our *love* for each other, reached the state of perfection which seems to be brought to light in the word of truth? When we thus love, we will watch every word and action, lest we should offend our brother, for we would not hurt the feelings of any one whom we *love*. We should also by *love* serve one another. Service, when love prompts, is a pleasant service, and renders the most arduous task an easy one, and besides being a pleasant service to us, it is acceptable to God. If we thus *love* we can say with Paul: "If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the spirit, if any bowels and mercies, fulfill ye my joy, that ye be like minded, having the same *love*, being of one accord, of one mind." Do you see the unity, brethren that Paul would have among us? He also says: "Let nothing be done through strife or vain glory." We should not

be envious of one another, but in lowliness of mind, let each esteem others better than himself. Yes, if we cannot speak well of our brother, do not let us speak evil, for God will bring all things to light. "Look not every man on his own thing, but every man also on the things of others; let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." [Phil. 2:1,5](#). Do you not [R32 : page 6] see that in exercising *love* we become more like Jesus? and surely this should be our highest aim. Paul further says: "That we are taught of God to *love* one another. [1 Thess. 4:9](#). Peter says: "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the spirit unto unfeigned *love* of the brethren, see that ye *love* one another with a pure heart fervently." [1 Pet. 1:22](#).

John says: "Let us *love* one another, for *love* is of God. And every one that loveth is born of God and knoweth God. He that loveth not, knoweth not God, for God is love." [1 John 4:7](#). Is *love* then not important? Think on these things, meditate on them, grow in *love*. For (says the same Apostle) "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we *love* the brethren." How shall we know John? Why, if we *love* the brethren. No doubt many of you have asked yourselves the *above* question, viz: "Have I passed from death unto life"--am I now while on trial, coming off victorious through Christ, so that I shall awake in his likeness, and not come into judgment [trial] again? is the idea. Well if you are, then you find an answer. Do you *love* the brethren fervently out of a pure heart? If you do, you have passed from death unto life, or so says John, and he is good authority. He also says ([1 John 4:12](#)): "If we *love* one another, God dwelleth in us and his *love* is perfected in us. Hereby know we that we dwell in him and he in us, because he hath given us of his spirit." No doubt but this is the way in which his spirit bears witness with ours, that we are his children, and if children then heirs, etc. How very important then is *love* to each other. It shows to us in what position we stand with our heavenly Father, in fact, it is a test of sonship, for "If we *love* God, we must also *love* our brother; for if we *love* not our brother whom we have seen, how can we *love* God whom we have not seen?" *Impossible*. John says: If any man make such a claim, he is a liar. So, if we think we love God, and do not love our brother, we are only deceiving ourselves; for this commandment we have from him, viz., "that he who loveth God love his brother also." [1 John 4:20,21](#). Then let us who think we love God examine ourselves and see whether we love our brother; for in that we can make no mistake. And further, friends, "Let us *love*, not in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth, keeping ourselves in the *love* of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life." [Jude 21](#). If we have *love* to God and for each other, it becomes to us as well as to others an evidence that we have the spirit of God, for one of the first fruits of the spirit is love ([Gal. 5:22](#)); and not only is it a fruit, but *love* and faith form a breastplate, which signifies a piece of defensive armor, and it is necessary that we have on the whole armor of God, in order that we may be able to stand in the evil time; and it is also necessary that we be rooted and grounded in *love*, that we may be able to comprehend, with all saints, what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, and to know the *love* of Christ, which passeth knowledge, "that we may be filled with all the fulness of God." [Eph. 3:7-19](#). "And we know that all things work together for good to them that *love* God." [Rom. 8:28](#). Yes, all things. Whether for the present they seem evil or no, remember they will all work for our good, if--if what?--why, if we *love* God.

Let us be sure, then, that we *love* him, and do not worry over trouble, knowing the result to us. Also, blessed are we who endure temptation, for when we are tried we shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that *love* him." [James 1:12](#). Yes, it is for those who *love* him. The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him. "To all that call upon him in truth he will fulfill the desire of them that fear him; he also will hear their cry and will save them, The Lord preserveth all them that *love* him." [Psalm 145:18-20](#). Yes, friends, in this coming time of trouble (upon which we have already entered) he will deliver us from the snare of the fowler and from the noisome pestilence. "We shall not be afraid for the terror by night,... nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness, nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday;...there shall no evil befall us, neither shall any plague come nigh our dwelling, ...because we have set our *love* upon him, therefore he will deliver us." [Psalm 91](#). Oh, yes! It is profitable in many ways to *love* the Lord. He has provided a place of safety during the day of wrath for every trusting, loving child of his. When we are tried, we shall receive the crown of life, and it is during this time that we shall all be tried; for he shall sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver, and purify the sons of Levi. Now, especially is it needful that we become more

perfect in *love*, for, though we shall be tried, there is to be a place of safety from the strife of tongues, from all the trouble coming on the world, and as there is such a place, you may rest assured it is for those who love him. Hence, grow in *love*, and let us who put our trust in God rejoice. "Let us ever shout for joy, because thou defendest us. Let us also who *love* thy name be joyful in thee." [Psalm 5:11](#).

"Let us who *love* thy salvation say continually, the Lord be magnified." [Psalm 40:16](#).

"For great peace have they who *love* thy law, and nothing shall offend them." [Psalm 119:165](#).

A. D. J.

-----

[page 6]

HE WHO is to rule others should first learn to obey. Do you seek an opportunity for practice in ruling? *Rule yourself*. "Greater is he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city."

=====