

JOHN 13:31-35
January 15, 1989
ROME GEORGIA
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WE SAID LAST WEEK THAT IF WE ARE TO LIVE LIKE JESUS WE MUST FIRST LOVE LIKE JESUS AND THAT THIS NECESSITATES ABSOLUTE, UNSWERVING OBEDIENCE TO GOD. THE NATURAL OUTFLOW OF THIS WILL BE THAT WE ARE MORE INTERESTED IN SERVING OTHERS THAN WE ARE IN ADVANCING OUR OWN CAUSE.

READ **John 13:31-35**

- I. THE PEACE THAT COMES FROM ACCEPTING GOD'S WILL FOR OUR LIVES v. 31
- II. THE POSITION THAT COMES WHEN WE ACCEPT GOD'S SON V. 33
- III. THE PROVISION OF GOD'S LOVE THROUGH THE BODY OF CHRIST. 34

I. THE PEACE THAT COMES FROM ACCEPTING GOD'S WILL FOR OUR LIVES v. 31

Joh 13:31 Therefore, when he was gone out, Jesus said, **Now is the Son of man glorified, and God is glorified in him.**

32 **If God be glorified in him, God shall also glorify him in himself, and shall straightway glorify him.**

There was **relief in the voice of Christ** even as the events began to quickly fall into place. Satan had used *Judas as a source of tension*, a constant reminder to Jesus of the horror that was to come. But now, the tension was easing. The worst possible scenario was unfolding - and Jesus was ready! **His hour had come!** **13:1** *"Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, . . ."*

Earlier, **Luke 12:50** **But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!"**

(. . . and how distressed I am until it is completed") **NIV**

But now, distress has yielded to relief.

It was the release that comes to those who come face to face with their greatest fears. The dread, the trepidation, the distress melts away as we embrace our nemesis and engage in the fray.

(Watching a show on the Military channel yesterday as Annette prepared supper. Old men, telling their stories about WWII. This man was 19 at the time. He told the story of how he and his friend in a foxhole checked on those in the foxholes on either side of them one morning – only to find that they were alone behind enemy lines. (post Battle of the Bulge.) Eventually found 24 others with them – behind enemy lines. As they investigated their situation, they discovered other Americans who had been captured by the Germans – tied to trees and used for target practice. They decided that they would never surrender – but continue to fight down to the last man. They did – and repelled repeated assaults day and night for the next week – no food, little ammunition – but a determination to see it through to the end. He said once they decided to fight the good fight unto death – all fear of death was lifted and they were free to do that which was required of them)

An old time saint, Brother Goodwin said as he faced death - **"Ah! Is this dying? How have I dreaded as an enemy this smiling friend."** *tann #1053.*

I Corinthians 15:55 **O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?**

THE GLORY OF THE SON IS THAT HE WAS OBEDIENT TO THE FATHER AND THE GLORY OF THE FATHER WAS HIS OBEDIENT SON!

To glorify the Father in this life will result in our glory in the life to come as well as our ultimate glory in this life when we walk in obedience to our Father's will for our lives.

For Jesus, this unique glory was culminated in His death! The Father was in turn glorified because in the death of Christ, it is revealed to all that our Father is a God of LOVE and a God of RIGHTEOUSNESS.

He is a God of LOVE because He loved man enough to come and dwell amongst us - He is a God of RIGHTEOUSNESS in that His standard of absolute holiness is not forgotten by the Father in order for man to fellowship with Him, but rather it is FULFILLED by His death on the cross to pay the penalty for OUR SIN.

"And God is glorified in the work of the Savior. It proclaimed Him to be a *holy God* who could not pass over sin, but also a *loving God* who did not desire the death of the sinner; it proclaimed how He could be a *just God*, yet be *able to justify sinners*. Every attribute of deity was superlatively magnified at Calvary." BBC

Paul summarizes this for us in

Romans 3:21ff. But now **the righteousness of God without the law is manifested**, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the **righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe:** for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; **BEING JUSTIFIED FREELY BY HIS GRACE THROUGH THE REDEMPTION THAT IS IN CHRIST JESUS:** Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, TO DECLARE HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; **26** TO DECLARE, I SAY, AT THIS TIME HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS: THAT HE MIGHT BE JUST, AND THE JUSTIFIER OF HIM WHICH BELIEVETH IN JESUS.

NKJV - Joh 13:32 If God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and glorify Him immediately.

"God the Father fulfilled this prediction of the Lord Jesus by **raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His own right hand in heaven.** God would **not wait until the kingdom was ushered in.** He would glorify His Son **immediately** " BBC

THIS IS THE GLORY THAT CHRIST SPOKE OF - THE GLORY OF THE REDEMPTION OF MANKIND THROUGH UNWAVERING OBEDIENCE TO THE FATHER - AND ULTIMATELY THE GLORY THAT WAS HIS AT THE RESURRECTION!

I. THE PEACE THAT COMES FROM ACCEPTING GOD'S WILL FOR OUR LIVES v. 31

II. THE POSITION THAT COMES WHEN WE ACCEPT GOD'S SON V. 33

John 13:33 Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you.

NOW WITH JUDAS OUT OF THE WAY, JESUS ADDRESSES THE REMAINING DISCIPLES WITH A TERM OF ENDEARMENT - "**LITTLE CHILDREN, YET A LITTLE WHILE I AM WITH YOU**"

EARLIER IN THE WEEK: "Jesus said unto them,

John 12:35 . . . **Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light**, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.

TO THE PHARISEES:

John 7:34 **Ye shall seek me, and shall not find me: and where I am, thither ye cannot come.**

THE DISCIPLES

John 12:8 For the poor always ye have **with you; but me ye have not always.**

THIS WAS TRUE IN BOTH HIS DEATH AND HIS ASCENSION.

IN VIEW OF HIS IMPENDING ABSENCE - IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE DISCIPLES WOULD BE PHYSICALLY SEPARATED FROM THEIR LORD . . .

***He exhibits I. THE PEACE THAT COMES FROM ACCEPTING GOD'S WILL FOR OUR LIVES v. 31
He informs us of II. THE POSITION THAT COMES WHEN WE ACCEPT GOD'S SON V. 33***

And now he instructs us as to

III. THE PROVISION OF GOD'S LOVE THROUGH THE BODY OF CHRIST. 34

JOHN 13:34 A NEW COMMANDMENT I GIVE UNTO YOU, THAT YE LOVE ONE ANOTHER; AS I HAVE LOVED YOU, THAT YE ALSO LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

"I AM GOING AWAY - YOU CANNOT COME - SO, LOVE ONE ANOTHER"

I Corinthians 13:13 And now abideth faith, hope, LOVE, these three; but the **greatest of these is LOVE.**

THE SURVIVAL OF THE DISCIPLES IN HIS ABSENCE DEPENDED UPON THEIR OBEDIENCE TO HIS COMMANDMENT.

THIS IS A "NEW" COMMAND in that it is a special love which is based upon the sacrificial love of Christ - the love that He has just demonstrated in humility and the love that would keep Him obedient even in the face the events that were about to unfold.

"AS I HAVE LOVED YOU, SO YOU MUST LOVE ONE ANOTHER" *niv.*

It is the Christian's LOVE and support one for another that enables us to survive in a hostile world. Jesus Christ was the embodiment of the LOVE OF GOD.

Perhaps MENTION SOME OF THE CURRENT ATROCITIES AGAINST CHRISTIANS.
Photographers, bakers, pizzerias – OVERSEAS – Christians Slain, Anti Semitism, etc.
State Says Bakers Should Pay \$135,000 for Refusing to Bake Cake for Same-Sex Wedding
Hillary – Churches and Religion will have to change in order to comply with the law.

John 1:18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

NOW, IN THIS AGE, - THE CHURCH AGE, - WE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST. WE ARE THE EMBODIMENT OF LOVE THAT HAS BEEN SENT TO DWELL AMONG MEN. WE ARE THE

DEMONSTRATION OF THE LOVE OF GOD TO MEN.EACH DISCIPLE IS TO EMBODY THE LOVE OF CHRIST. THIS LOVE IS A SIGN TO ALL MEN, SAVED AND UNSAVED.

I John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

"The eminent psychologist **Dr. Erich Fromm** has said that love is "**AN ACTION, NOT A PASSION.**" db 2-24-85.

SAYING "I love you" is **easy**. **LIVING "I LOVE YOU" TAKES EFFORT AND AN ATTITUDE OF A TRUE SERVANT.**

"In his book, MERE CHRISTIANITY, **C.S. Lewis wrote,**

"Do not waste your time bothering whether you "LOVE" your neighbor; act as though you did. As soon as we do this, we find one of the great secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love him. If you injure someone you dislike, you will find yourself disliking him more. If you do him a good turn, you will find yourself disliking him less." **db 2-24-85.**

HE HAS **GIVEN US HIS SPIRIT AND THE FRUIT OF THAT SPIRIT** SO THAT WE MIGHT INDEED SHOW THIS LOVE TO OTHERS.

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, **23** Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

- **JOY CAN BE THOUGHT OF AS LOVE EXALTED;**
 - **PEACE AS LOVE IN REPOSE;**
 - **LONGSUFFERING AS LOVE ENDURING;**
 - **GENTLENESS AS LOVE BEING TENDER;**
 - **GOODNESS AS LOVE SHOWING KINDNESS;**
 - **FAITHFULNESS AS LOVE OVERCOMING;**
 - **MEEKNESS AS LOVE IN SUBMISSION;**
 - **AND SELF-CONTROL AS LOVE UNDER DISCIPLINE.**

THE GAUGE OF OUR LOVE.

I John 2:9 He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.

I John 3:10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

I John 3:13 Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you. We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

I John 4:20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

"The story is told that **Benjamin Franklin** made an unusual discovery one day. He found that if plaster (**lime**) is scattered over a field, crops grow faster. Immediately he shared this knowledge with his neighbors.

But, they **didn't believe him**. So, when planting time came, Franklin went out to sow his grain. Close to a path where his neighbors walked daily, he traced some **big letters** in the prepared soil and put plaster into them. Then he sowed the entire field, including that area. After a week or two, the seed began to spring up. His friends were surprised as they passed by to see in greener and taller sprouts the words, **THIS HAS BEEN PLASTERED**. Franklin had made his point, and from then on he didn't have to argue with his neighbors about the value of plaster for his crops. As the season progressed, those specially treated letters became higher than all the rest of the grain." **db 4-24-79**.

When we love one another as Christ has commanded us, our message will come through loud and clear. .People have a tendency to believe what they see. Show them the love of God!

We talked of wheat and tares last week and how they were sown together.

One way that you can tell them apart is by their height! **The tallest ones are the wheat!** Why? They have been "**plastered**" **fertilized, vitalized by God**, and their testimony is recognized by men.

I John 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us. If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

THE LOVE OF CHRIST DOES NOT END WITHIN THE CLOSED COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS, IT ONLY BEGINS THERE . . .

Luke 6:32 For if ye love them which love you, what thanks have Ye? for sinners also love those that love them.

Luke 6:35 BUT LOVE YE YOUR ENEMIES, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.

REMEMBER:

Romans 5:6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. **BUT GOD COMMENDETH HIS LOVE TOWARD US, IN THAT, WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US.**

THIS IS THE LOVE OF CHRIST THAT HE COMMANDED US TO HAVE ONE FOR ANOTHER!