

The Love of God/Elohim

June 7, 1997

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Good morning brethren! It is a beautiful Sabbath day here in Kendall, New York. The local farmers are all out back turning and disking the last of their fields for the growing season. It's a beautiful thing to see a field in the spring all turned, planted, and starting to grow. Lots of lessons for us to learn in that but that is not what we are going to talk about today. But it is a fascinating pattern that all things need to be prepared for growth. It is a busy time of year for us because we make our living in building, in construction, and we are blessed with lots of work. Blessings more often than not require a lot of work once received. Some folks think blessings just drop on your lap. As a follow up to that I will state that people who are not perfect can be used of God. Imagine that if you might.

Our focus today will be on the subject of love which has been getting a lot of play these days. Many are picking it up as their "theme" of late. It is a theme used today and throughout the ages as a method to extract from others. It can draw one in close and then the trap closes or the hammer drops on the unsuspecting. The love of God is not the "fuzzies" so I want to caution everyone about that. The "I feel your pain scam" is just one of the methods of extraction under the guise of "love." Many brethren are being sucked into it only to become a victim again. I listened to a sermon some time ago in which the preacher talked for one hour and twenty minutes on the subject of love. During that time frame something very bizarre took place. He never once qualified his definition of the love of God as God does in the bible. I listened to comments made by brethren who listened to that sermon. All professed that it was just a wonderful sermon, so full of true loves instruction. That to me set off an alarm inside my head which rang loud and clear that people were not understanding the biblical definition of love. This preacher kept reiterating that God is love and so He is. We can read that in 1 John 4 verses 8 and 16. It is an accurate statement but on its own it is not qualified. How does God qualify it? That is the question we are going to answer today!

1 John 4:8; "He who does not love does not know God, for God is love."

We need to pick up on something here. Not only does it say, "for God is love" it also says "he who does not love does not know God." God here is prequalifying what He is saying. He makes it clear if you don't love you do not know God. Thus the two are inseparable. Now verse 16;

"And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him."

So we see here once again that God is love and that is absolutely true. But it is qualified by God for He qualifies everything He says. He defines what He is saying. That is very important to remember when we are doing a bible study, and even more so when we are listening to another tell us what God is

saying. Verse 16 says “and we have known” and in verse 8 “he who does not love does not know God”. Verse 16 adds that not only have we known but also believed the love that God has for us. So love is something God has and can give to us. And we can know it and believe it. Isn't that fascinating and revealing! What a launching point for what we are going to study today about the love of God, the agape of God.

Back to verse 16 again. “And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.” That is incredibly clear in that it states we must be abiding in God and God in us in order to be able to know the love of God. So to abide in love one must be abiding in God. They are inseparable. The love of God is not something inherent in man. So we are not talking about man's love here are we? Man must be **abiding in God** in order to have the love of God. So how do we abide in God?

John 15: 9-10; “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. (Now the qualifying way to do so) If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Fathers commandments and abide in His love.”

Now brethren do we see all the linkage here; abiding, knowing, believing, commandments, love? This is all linked intricately together. We are going to explore all that linkage today. We are going to listen to God define what Godly love is and for many it is something they have never had emphasized to them before let alone learned. This is something we need to come to grips with for it is necessary for having a personal relationship with God. There is a tremendous lack of it building all around us today. There is a deep ignorance and disdain for it. Lawlessness is abounding. The epistles and gospel of John contain a tremendous amount of straight forward instruction and information on the subject of the love of God. But was John the only one who understood that there was linkage between; keeping the commandments, love, and knowing and abiding in God?

Romans 13; 9-10; “For the commandments; You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not bear false witness, you shall not covet, and if any other commandment, are summed up in this saying, namely, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment (better translated; fulfilling) of the law.”

Here we see what commandments God is talking about. If you follow the Greek word translated commandments, you will see it used in the verses we read in John 15 as well. The concordances and dictionaries we have today which help us to follow these things along and understand the intent of the words translated into English are invaluable tools. Many who have come before us did not have these remarkable tools to use. They were dependent on another to tell them what the words meant and thus subject to being let astray or deceived by them. So we are without excuse if we are satisfied to rely on another to do it for us.

1 John 5:3; “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.”

Do we find them burdensome at times brethren? Think long and hard about that and also honestly about it. What about the Sabbath? Do you at times find keeping the Sabbath a burden? Have you ever

found yourself waiting anxiously for the sun to set at the end of the Sabbath day? The last few hours being caught up in or anticipating it to end for you have something you are eager to do. Have you ever counted down the minutes and seconds so to speak until you could be unburdened by it to be about your own pleasure? Do you check the paper to see what minute the sun is setting in your area? I believe everyone has fallen to such things in the past, and all being human, may again in the future. Keeping the Sabbath is one thing but keeping it holy is another. If the Sabbath is a burden to us, then we are not fulfilling the command to keep it holy. If we are not keeping the Sabbath holy then we are having a problem with the love of God.

2 John 6; "This is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it."

There is no misunderstanding what God is telling us here is there. This message is not appealing to many these days because there are conditions attached to it. Thus we have sermons like the one I referenced earlier. For so long we were lulled to sleep with perverted sermons of the unconditional love of God. God can have unconditional love, but never forget love is a gift from God and not a right. Love is work on our part. Love takes time and effort. Love is not fuzzy, feely, and touchy. Let's continue to follow the linkage.

1 John 4:20-21; "If someone says I love God and hates his brother, he is a liar, for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen. (That is a very rational statement) And this commandment we have from Him; that he who loves God loves his brother also." That is exactly what we read in Romans. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Do you remember a simple definition we have heard in the past. It helped me to focus on what love is as defined by God. I've actually heard it trashed lately. The love of God is outgoing concern for another. That is exactly what God says it is. God even defines it with His commandments. Yet there are fools, yes fools, who mock that understanding. They call such thinking a juvenile understanding of the subject. Comments like that are actually trashing people who think in those terms and in fact the word of God. We are being taught by the word of God that we can't love God unless we know Him. This is a very clear lesson to grasp. No tricky language or any such thing.

I had an incidence take place in my life not that long ago where a man accused me in front of a gathering of brethren, that I had no love. So I asked this man can you explain to me what you mean by love. He said he wasn't prepared to do that. Think about that. I said well I will open my Bible (with the intent of covering the simple scripture we have just gone over here today.) But he hollered and screamed at me; with the hatred for me seething out of him. You can always see it in the eyes brethren, not just in their voice. Angry eyes is actually a subject addressed in scripture. That incident provoked a time in my life that in which I spent a lot of time in scripture studying what God had to say on the subject of love. I thought I was correct in my understanding and after many long sessions in scripture I realized I had a biblical understanding of the love of God and how different it was from man's love. This gentleman was probably correct in his accusation to a point. I did not have the love he was referring to which was the fuzzy, feely, touchy version. That is obviously what he was confusing

with the love of God. That is a human concept of love. He is right in that for I am not that way. I was not raised that way. And I am glad I wasn't when I look around me today. So many who were that way have died to their first love brethren. Their understanding of love was alien to the depth and actions involved in the love of God. I was taught from my youth that love was work. That is exactly what God says about it. It takes lots of effort, not just emotions or feelings. It in fact is not inherent in us. It comes as a gift from God as we read in Galatians 5:22-23. "But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control, against such there is no law." Why is there no law against it? We are going to find that out today if we have not already picked that up.

Let's read in Galatians 5:16-26 to get the context here. "I say then: Walk in the spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the spirit, and the spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. (Have you ever dwelt on that? It is as if there are two natures in us after we have received His spirit and then a war raging in us. It is in our mind. It is a tug of war often, a constant battle which Paul clearly understood. He talks about it often from a personal perspective.) But if you are led by the spirit, you are not under the law (its penalty that is). Now the works of the flesh are evident which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (Look what is sandwiched in among the obvious listed here; hatred! Contentions; which Paul addressed in his letters to Timothy. Jealousies; which the church organizations are festering in towards each other and overflowing into outbursts of wrath. I know I have fallen to that in the past. I hope I never do again. One very simple principle that will help us all understand the love of God a little better is simply this; the more you know about yourself, the more you will know about other people. This is where mercy will then enter in. It says here selfish ambitions. We have seen a lot of that in the churches. Dissensions! That is rampant in some circles of the church. Please think about all these and focus on the fact they are all listed in the same venue as murders, adultery, fornication, idolatry etc. Envy is listed here as well. That is also rampant among the churches. If you put a couple of roosters in a room together watch what they do. They will start jogging around strutting and putting their heads up higher and higher trying to get their head above the other till they both fall backwards. He tells us here that this conduct will not allow us to enter the kingdom of God.) But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control. Against such there is no law. (Is this the world's fruity-tootie interpretation? Not likely.) And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the spirit, let us also walk in the spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another."

We do not receive Gods spirit unless we know Him. Every one of the fruits of the spirit are displayed, and keep in mind these can be seen, they are not invisible. Is Gods spirit a gift to us? Yes it is! It is made possible by the actions of our Brother.

1 John 4:7-13, "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; (it is not of us) and everyone who loves is begotten of God and knows God. He who does not love, does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested towards us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins (The atonement. Think about what He says here. None of us loved God as He understands love. That may be a real shocker to many if we listen to this instruction here.) Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (We have been given the ability to do this. It takes our willingness to yield to one another before that can even begin to start) No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His spirit."

So what does Gods spirit have to do with it? Without His spirit we would not have the love of God, we can't muster it up ourselves, because it is His spirit in us that helps us to understand His way of life as distinctly different from the worlds and from its definitions of it. It teaches us and commits us to the rules we are expected to live by. The conduct we are expected to exhibit. That is the fruit of the spirit. There is a specific way we are to live, which is to be abiding in Christ. He has already told us that to abide in Christ we must be keeping His commandments just as He had kept His Fathers commandments. That is why we see the word "know" here used throughout this instruction of the love of God. We have to acknowledge all this in our minds to be able to display it outwardly. Yes it is based in the knowledge of God. I am not condemning the fuzzy, feely, touchy, human concept of love. There is a tender side of human nature but that is not Godly love as God defines and explains it to us in scripture.

1 John 2:3-6; "Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. (The bible interprets itself brethren) He who says I know Him, and does not keep His commandments, is a liar and the truth is not in him. (So in order to be able to have the love of God we have to be abiding in Christ's commandments which once again are His Fathers commandments, the household rules. And if we are not abiding in these household of God rules we are not in Christ and He is not in us. Anyone who says otherwise is a liar and has no truth in Him.) But he who keeps His word, truly the love of God is being perfected in him. (It takes time for we are to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.) By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked."(This is constantly reiterated throughout the Bible)

Let's look at love in action from the scriptures and see how it is manifested and the conditions it is found in. But first let's turn to Matthew 24:12. Let's consider our time today, against the backdrop of the scriptures we have just covered so we can understand how important this is. It puts it into the perfect light.

"And because lawlessness (breaking the commandments) will abound, the love of many will grow cold."

And that very thing is happening all over the landscape of the church today. If we do not abide in His commandments, if we do not walk in them just as He did, if we are not trying, and struggling, and warring against our human nature, trying to overcome the lusts of the flesh, trying to do the will of God in walking in His way of life, and following His rules of conduct, then the Bible is very clear that we do not then have the love of God. The love of God will grow cold in many because they do not turn to God for justification or vindication on His terms. They develop their own, they turn to the world's knowledge, the Sunday morning definition of love. That's the; I feel your pain, fuzzy, feely, touchy human understanding of Love.

Verse 13; "But he who endures to the end will be saved."

Endures in what? In the love of God; the keeping of the commandments! We must not grow cold to any of them. We need to endure in this world which is contrary to them and they must not be burdensome to us. They are not an obstacle to the kingdom of God but rather a doorway, and as such the devil will do everything he is allowed to, to keep us from walking in them. Today many who once walked with us are professing, by their actions, that human love is more important to them than the love of God. The, "I feel your pain" is more important than discerning between right and wrong. A pattern develops in this wayward walk. God's way of life becomes secondary to emotions. Once that is embedded in the mind, the rational that human love is more important sets in and one grows cold to the true love of God. It overrules the knowledge of God to one who is being deceived by it. Look around. It is happening everywhere; in the church, in our communities, in society at large. Just think we can read where more emphasis is being placed on the wellbeing of a snail these days than that of families and communities by the knowledgeable of this world. It is bizarre. God's laws have been thrown out. This is a warning signal as to the time we live in.

Let's go back up here to verse 5 and read down through to verse 13.

"For many will come in my name, saying, I am the Christ, and will deceive many. (we understand this and we have been taught this for years as well as having taught it) And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. (We need to recognize there is a sequence of things happening here. These statements we are reading here are sequential and at the same time all inclusive) See that you are not troubled; for all must come to pass, but the end is not yet. (We are not to fret about these things. Yes we are sick to our stomach about them, we are vexed about them, but we are not "troubled" by them, not overcome in worry. We don't run out looking for a bomb shelter, we don't relocate to Baffin Island in the Northwest Territories because of rumors of war.) For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. (Such things as these have been going on for some time. They will intensify like never before. They will become every day news. However the real qualifier here is the rumors of war. We are talking about the prelude to world war here, not just some regional conflict between a couple of clans, or tribes, or even a couple of countries. Here we are talking about groups of nations confronting one another.) All these are the beginning of sorrows. (We have been in this time frame for quite a while. We can see all of these things building. Christ calls these the beginning of sorrows. How long they will last and how

intense they will get before they are termed tribulation is left up to God to decide. We have been given them as signposts as to where we are in the history of things prior to Christ's return and so that we will not be soon shaken when we witness them. I hear people saying we have not entered that period being described here. Dear brethren, we all have choices to make of which one is not sticking our heads in the sand.) Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My names sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. (Brethren we are seeing a rudimentary application of this in the churches here in the 90's. Hatred is abounding between some groups who once walked together. Families have been broken up and divided because of differences in doctrines by their rulers in the organizations which call themselves "The Church." In some groups they are forbidden from having any contact with another in some other group. They are at war with each other as to doctrine in many cases, just smashing each other in their zeal to appear more righteous or spiritually mature. It is absolutely sick to see such things.) Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. (That is rampant right now. They are rising up out of this muddle. Beware brethren, beware of me! Don't just sit and listen, prove all things. Forget the package wrapping, and investigate the contents of what is being said against the word of God. Be like the Bereans. Listen to what is said, that's the right nature, and then chew it around like a clean animal does with its food. You prove it not someone else. You use the understanding and spirit which God has given you. We can't depend on someone to do it for us. Do not take their word for it. You can trust them in the fact you have listened to them but then you prove it.) And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved."

Love endures all things (1 Corinthians 13:7)

Luke 11:42; "But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass by justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone."

Now a slight digression here brethren. I have heard a lot of brethren stating they no longer have to tithe. They say they can't find anywhere in the Bible where Christ says you have to tithe. They state it is an Old Testament thing. I personally feel bad for people who think that way. The reason being is that they will deny themselves the blessings which go along with such activities as tithing. By tithing we are not speaking about sending ten percent of our incomes out to someone else, some mucky-muck. That's not tithing! Tithing is keeping the ten percent and then being a wise steward of it, making sure it is used for the purposes God intended for it. We are not to just turn it over to someone who in most cases is out there preaching error, as we have come to know it for we have grown in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. It has become evident to us that there are many out there who are pounding on the brethren, feeding on the sheep instead of feeding them. We all need to come to grips with what true tithing is under the Second Covenant scriptures. But that is another subject. Christ here tells the Pharisees yes you should have been doing so, but should not have neglected the other things either. There are other scriptures in the Second Covenant which support tithing but not the method of distribution which many of us practiced in the past in an organization of men. My family and I keep two

tithes. We use what is called the first for the work we do in the gospel. We use the second for keeping the feasts of the Lord. That is all our needs for the feast days as delineated in Lev 23. That also includes special things to help make the weekly Sabbath a delight, something special in a physical sense. Many of you who are listening to this message have done the very same thing. Yes we can accumulate a lot of tithes at times but there will be very important uses for it coming up on our walk to salvation and the kingdom of God. There are times that I have personally sent out tithes to assist in another's efforts when we see and acknowledge them to be of God. With saying that I am in no way suggesting anyone listening to this send anything to us. Linda and I have been blessed in a manner in which we do not need someone's tithes to do what we do for the body. As the body of Christ we are to be gleaning from all four corners of His field. We are all the sojourners of today and we must learn the lessons of such. The book of Ruth has so much knowledge in it about that very function. There are some men in and out of some of the groups who are giving some sound sermons or instructions from the word of God. It may fall a little shy of what you understand through your personal studies but all the same it can be good nourishing food. Remember we all started on the milk of the word before we started chewing on solid food. So never look down your nose on good milk. Remember it is a big field and we are left with the gleanings and the standing corners. Don't forget the body will be gathered from the four corners of the earth. This is all relevant to what we are doing at this time. The middle of the field is now barren except for gleanings. Only the sides and corners have standing grain. This is a lesson we are learning at this time which will hold great significance and promise in the future. Gleaning in the middle of the harvested field by a sojourner is incredibly hard work for just a little sustenance. Please let us all come to grips with that. That is a major lesson we as sojourners are to learn! The field is virtually empty except for the corners. The middle of the field is striped clean! Hopefully someone will put together a study on that subject. I love sitting and listening to someone put together the scriptures in an edifying way; line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little, there a little. That is what helps us to grow in grace and knowledge for we inculcate that into our thinking, into our way of doing things, and in fact into our very being. When it is out of the Bible and not opinion, we recognize it for what it truly is. We do follow the principle of not muzzling the ox when it is treading out the grain but that is getting more difficult to apply as each year goes by. What is so humbling is to recognize that we are sheep brethren, with one Shepherd. So many have the mindset that they want to be a shepherd. I don't want to be a shepherd, I have a Shepherd, that role in the body is filled. We are living in the times of Ezekiel 34. It is He who feeds us and we should be helping one another to feed through Him, to grow in grace and knowledge. Our part is not a high and mighty thing is it? Just think I am sitting here at the living room table giving this study. That is what we do. We are not the high and the mighty. We are the poor of the flock. We have studied that in the past, and we are holding fast to what we have. We have hope, we have faith, and we have the love of God. We are truly the poor of the flock. When we have found ourselves as such, do we lament and want to return to where we came from? Do we enter into a case of the woe is me? Unfortunately some do and have. I hope most of us don't and come to the realization of the treasures we have been given. We need to resist any negativity as to our current

state of affairs in regard to what we see in the organizations of men. Draw to memory Daniel 12:7 in that the “power” of the holy people or yad; the open hand instead of the closed, will be shattered. I happen to believe that. I see that happening around me, and in fact it is getting worse. This shattering will continue until we understand we can’t seek or obtain God through an organization. We are called into a very personal, one on one relationship. But enough of this digression and back to Luke 11:42. “But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs but pass by justice and the love of God...”

Here we see justice being linked with the love of God. What is justice? It’s of God. If you are deemed a just man what is that designation predicated on? It certainly must be a deep and abiding understanding of the commandments of God and then following them in your daily walk. That is why justice and love are linked together. They are inseparable as defined by God. Please remember that justice is not fairness. God is not fair. Please repeat that, God is not fair! Fairness is a doctrine of men, it is a human concept if not one devised by Satan to deceive and lead us from the justice and love of God. Fairness is taking from one who has worked for something and giving it to someone who has not. An effort to somehow equalize the playing field. Justice is not that way. Justice is right, separated from wrong. Justice is how God perceives something. Let’s see this all in action and clearly see God in not “fair. Let’s turn to Matthew 25. Sorry, here comes another digression but a very important one to the times and to the subject at hand. Here we will see that the; “I feel your pain scam” and the “fuzzy feely touchy scam” are teachings which are not part of the love of God.

There is so much wisdom and understanding given to us in Matthew 25 it is hard to comprehend it all in one sitting. So much pure instruction for us today is contained in these verses. It begins with talking about foolish virgins, with the door being shut on 5 of them. Oh no! What happened to the; I feel your pain scam? Let’s start in verse 14 here.

Matthew 25:14; “For like a man travelling to a far country, he called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, TO EACH ACCORDING TO HIS OWN ABILITY; and immediately he went on a journey. (He made it clear here that he recognizes they had different levels of ability and gave to each according to it. No unreasonable expectations on his part.) Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. (He grew in grace and knowledge and he increased in what he had been given initially) And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. (Once again this servant did exactly what the other had done even though they had different levels. The point here is they doubled in what they had been given.) But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord’s money. After a long time the lord of the servants came and settled accounts with them. (Please keep in mind the context here. In the preceding verses of Matt 24 and 25 we see the focus on a faithful and a wicked servant, and five foolish and five wise virgins. There is no chapter break in what Christ was delivering to the disciples. Focus for a second on the virgins. They had all been given oil. Some let it run out. That is the equivalent here of burying the talent in the ground. Not attending to it, not increasing it, not keeping the lamp full, not growing in grace and knowledge.) So he who had

received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, Lord you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them. His lord said to him, well, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord. He also who had received two talents came and said, Lord, you delivered to me two talents; I have gained two more talents besides them. (These two servants were excited for they knew they had grown in what their master had given them. Others could obviously see these things as well.) His lord said to him, well, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord. Then he who had received the one talent came and said, **Lord I knew you to be a hard man,** (We didn't hear such rubbish from the other two did we. Here we have a servant sitting back and thinking how he could weasel out of his responsibilities of putting forth an effort as to his responsibilities), reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. (Now this is important. Did he place the emphasis on the instructions he had been given? No he did not for he interpreted them, he filtered them through his way of doing things rather than doing what he was clearly instructed to do.) And I was afraid and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, you have yours. (He didn't even want to acknowledge what he had been given. For all general purposes he abused it by hiding it. Can we quench the spirit brethren? You bet we can.) But his lord answered and said to him, you wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gathered where I have not gathered seed. Therefore you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. Therefore take the talent from him, and give to him who has ten talents. (Now wait a minute! That isn't, I feel your pain! You're not supposed to take from the guy who has almost nothing and give it to the guy who has everything. Isn't that backwards? Are you not to take it from the guy who works hard to get what he has and give it to the guy who is lazy and not willing to work. This is exactly opposite of the world's way of fairness. God is not fair! God is just!) For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. (Let the screaming and hollering start. That's all wrong, you are supposed to take it from the hard worker and give it to the lazy ones who complain they never had the opportunity to have what the hard worker has. He can't be allowed to have all that abundance, it needs to be taken from him and distributed to us. This is a profound lesson to us as to the instructions of the love of God brethren.) And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." This is all pretty clear here when we have the spirit of God to guide us in it. Then chapter 25 continues here into what many of the responsibilities of the bride are to be, the outward recognizable ones, which are to be a way of life to us. Compile these here with those in proverbs 31:10-31. We have studied all of that in depth in the past. My point of turning here earlier was to demonstrate that God is not fair but just, as such He is full of justice and justice is inseparable from the love of God because He has told us repeatedly that love is the keeping of His law, His commandments, His family household rules of conduct. Let's turn to John 5. Many refer to John as the apostle of love. So I ask again does that mean the others were not? If we were to look at John 21, which we have done in depth in the past,

with a focus on the different types of love which Peter struggled to get, we would see a lesson that all who are called of the Father will need to learn. Peter did eventually come to a full understanding of it as we are doing and have done. These deep things of God take time. Does an infant know and understand love? No it does not. It is the recipient of a mother's love, but its focus is completely on self, on eating and sleeping. That is the pattern set up in a human's early existence. Learning about true love takes effort, trials, and maturity and as we grow in grace and knowledge we begin to understand what the love of God is and how we are to function in it. It is the keeping of His commandments, abiding in them. That is what He tells us so it does not matter what anybody else says.

John 5:37-43; "And the Father Himself who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form. But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe. (Remember what we read in 1 John 4, that to love, was to know and believe. Knowing and believing! Here we see that they don't have the word abiding in them for they are not believing Him who He sent.) You search the scriptures; for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. (They rejected Christ even though all the scriptures pointed to Him. Eternal life is not in the scriptures but through Christ, and in Christ. The scriptures teach us about God and Their plan.) But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life. I do not receive honor from men. But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you."

Why? Because they were not abiding in the commandments. They had set them aside for their own traditions and rules of conduct. That is talking about all the commandments. We had better not think the Sabbath is a burden. We are to observe it and keep it holy. If we are not keeping it holy we had better soon change our ways. Continuing in verse 43; "I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive." These folks were complete respecters of persons. They look first to the person. How often did we hear, "Don't believe me, believe your Bible." How childish does that sound to the intellectuals, the long nosers?

Is love active and outgoing? Yes it is. We were instructed in scripture to "walk" in it.

2 Corinthians 2:4-8; "For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you, with many tears, not that you should be grieved, but that you should know the love which I have so abundantly for you. (The outgoing concern. The "you" here is a congregation, the brethren. He had instructed them to do something in his first letter to them, about putting a man out because of his vile activities, his lewd conduct that he was participating in openly. This individual may have been deluded enough to have not known the severity of his actions. I do believe that is giving him more benefit than he deserved, but all the same something had to be done. And they did it, but now Paul was asking them to do something else in regard to this individual.) But if anyone has caused grief, he has not grieved me, but all of you to some extent-not to be too severe. This punishment which was inflicted by the majority is sufficient for such a man, so that, on the contrary, you ought rather to forgive and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow. (It certainly sounds like this man was repenting) Therefore I urge that you reaffirm (or confirm) your love for him."

Confirm here is Kurio, referring to something authoritative, as in ratifying. They were to ratify their love to him, to make valid. It is also tied to the word kurios which means might. So you are doing this in a strong way, an authoritative way. It is used here with enacting spiritual love in 2 Corinthians 2:8. Does God reaffirm His love to us? Sure He does. Most of us can recognize this daily in our lives. We too ratify or confirm or reaffirm our covenant with Christ every Passover. We are saying thank you, and we love you, because you loved us so much You laid down your life for us. He did this before He even knew us. We were not around then were we? Love is not an inactive thing. It does not just rest in our hearts. The Corinthians forgave a sinner, and so did Christ and so did our Father. Forgiveness is all part of love but it is not card blanche, it has conditions. Look what Paul is doing in 2 Corinthians 8:8-9; "I speak not by commandment, but I am testing the sincerity of your love by the diligence of others. (Something to think about) For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich (Philippians 2:5-12)."

Let's examine what is being said here by Paul. "I speak not by commandment but I am testing the sincerity of your love." So you can test love! Many will gasp at that thought. Oh yes brethren we are to put love to the test. Imagine that. How can you question my love many would sob? How does Paul say he is doing it? "By the diligence of others." If someone is not as diligent as you think they should be what is your response. Has it been; tough, they made their own bed let them lay in it. Is that how we look upon things? Is that outgoing concern for another? No it isn't. So by the diligence or lack of it of others, our love is tested. Do we look down our nose at people? There are some lessons taught in scripture which some people do not want to incorporate into their own lives when dealing with others. I know for a fact that I have looked down my nose at others, so I know you too have done the same in the past, for the more you know about yourself the more you know about others. That is a lesson from the scriptures throughout the Bible. However as we grow in grace and knowledge such things should occur less and less in our lives. This is abiding in Christ's love, in the understanding of it, in keeping His commandments, His words not mine. Love is not inactive, it is at work constantly. It is not a respecter of persons or as we have seen, actions. Look at verse 24.

"Therefore show to them and before the churches, the proof of your love and of our boasting on your behalf."

What is the love he was talking about? Their outgoing concern for others regardless of the situation that the others were in. Whether it was caused by a lack of diligence on their part or not. The point was, they were all brethren and they were to be all striving to do what was commanded and expected of them. Remember what Christ said; "Inasmuch as you have done to one of the least of My brethren you have done to Me." (Matt 25:40) This is very, very important in tying this understanding of love all together. Actually let's turn to Matt 25 and start in verse 33.

Matt 25:33-43 "And He will set the sheep on His right hand and the goats on His left. Then the king will say to those on His right hand, Come you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and

you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me. Then the righteous will answer Him saying, Lord when did we see you hungry and feed, or thirsty and give drink? When did we see You a stranger and take in, or naked and clothe? Or when did we see You sick or in prison, and come to You?" (These are spiritual conditions here brethren. These are done towards the least. These are the ones whom people look down their nose at, don't want anything to do with, these are those of us who are scattered to the four corners of the field, the outcasts.) And the King will answer and say to them, Assuredly I say to you, inasmuch as you have done to one of the least of these My brethren, have done to Me. (It is to be a way of life for us, we don't qualify our love for others based on their diligence, the degree we think they should have attained to. That is not keeping the commandments of God. That would be following the way of the Pharisees, the hypocrites.) Then He will say to those on the left hand, Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his messengers. For I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in; naked and you did not clothe Me; sick and in prison and you did not visit Me."

Why were they not doing so? They were too busy feeding on them, too busy looking down their nose at what they regarded as the toads of the church, too busy looking up at the beautiful people, the "in" people, the people who are somebody. Do we comprehend what God is saying here? We need to understand these things from a spiritual perspective. This is all tied together with the love of God which is the keeping of His commandments.

Verses 44-45; "Then they also will answer Him, saying, Lord when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You? (Here in their arrogance on display, they are questioning His declaration to them. They are saying they always did so. Their self-delusion runs very deep for they have functioned as messengers of Satan and followed his pattern of having dominion over others. They set their own rules of conduct towards others and not those contained in the commandments and love of God.) Then He will answer them, saying, Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do to one of the least of these, you did not do to Me."

2 Corinthians 8:24 again. "Therefore show to them, and before the churches, the proof of your love and of our boasting on your behalf."

That is exactly what Christ is going to do at His coming for those who diligently have the love of God towards all the brethren, not towards a specific group, but to all the brethren regardless of the state they are found in. Towards the body of Christ which encompasses those parts which are unseemly.

John 13:34-35; "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

2 Corinthians 13:11, "Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. (That is a lesson to those who are ministering to one another. We are to help each other, the sheep, to become complete.) Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you."

Peace here is now tied together with love as being an attribute of God. It is something that comes from God. Is there peace when you come together? Or are there contentions, rivalries, dissensions, or heresies? If there are they had better end quickly. We will discuss how to do that later.

Let's look at Galatians 5:6; "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love."

Verses 13-15; "For you, brethren, have been called to liberty, only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word (command), even in this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another."

We see a lot of that taking place in the church today and it will continue to intensify. That is all the backbiting, backstabbing, contemptuous behavior towards one another. It is absolutely disgusting. I am not talking about differences in doctrine but in politicking. That is what led Satan to be able to turn some of the angels to his way of thinking and thus then doing things he wanted done. Once a person enters that realm of a mindset it is very difficult to break out of it, for the flesh loves dominion over another. All the biting and devouring going on is undoubtedly disgusting to our Father and Brother. I know brethren, whether they be called ministers or lay members alike, when you do not function like they do, if you don't do what they say or what they interpret is to be done, you are a piece of raw meat to them, even though most all of their perspective is completely unbiblical. We become tainted in their eyes as something to be discarded. They then think their high ground allows for them to abuse us.

Ephesians 3:17; "that Christ may dwell in your hearts, through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height; to know the love of Christ which passes (on) knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

There is a lot in this statement brethren. Passes here is hyperbolic in the Greek. It means to throw beyond the usual mark, to surpass, exceeding, excel, throw over or beyond the usual. Now read that again with this in mind. "To know the love of Christ which passes or which goes beyond the usual knowledge that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." That is what it is saying, that is what its meaning is when using a full translation. So here we see love and knowledge linked together as well as faith. Here it is all likened to being rooted, and grounded in love. It takes effort, it takes work. It isn't a fuzzy feeling is it!

Ephesians 4:2; "with all lowliness and gentleness (meekness), with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. (We can't separate them) One body and one spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you (us) all."

So we are to be bearing with one another in love. This is work! Everything being said here is hard work. It doesn't just happen. It takes diligence on our behalf to do our part in accomplishing the end goal. Let's review this in action as we have so often in the past. Love is not effortless. To those who consider

themselves shepherds or such things, whatever you want to call yourselves here is what you have to be doing.

Verses 11-16; “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, (for what?) for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, (not the ministry, but for the work of service, attendance. That is the meaning of this Greek word throughout the second covenant scriptures) for the edifying of the body of Christ, (We are not to dumb brethren down, we are to build them up, edify them, we help them to grow in grace and knowledge, so that they grow to a point where they too can do the same to others in the body. That sends shudders down the backs of the muckity mucks, the hirelings. That puts goose bumps on the wolf’s back for they are all used to speaking with guile when dealing with the body. They have a hierarchy and thus a need to dumb down to keep them on top. They are the benefactors of the dumb sheep. We little feudal serfs are supposed to cower down and reply yes my lord, or yes my enlightened one. That unfortunately is much of what the church has come to. And that is why it is being shattered and broken into pieces, for it disgusts our Father and Brother. It makes Them sick. Remember what Christ says to the Laodiceans; I am about to spit you out or as the Greek can be translated puke you out, vomit you out. That is very sobering.), till we all come to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; (Yes that is our destination brethren, every single one of us, and that can’t happen if someone is standing between you and Christ preventing it from happening. The church has adopted a system of governance that is so carnal, so Babylonian oriented in its structure that it keeps us from getting to God.), that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness by which they lie in wait to deceive, (these guys in their hierarchies are so deluded they have no understanding of what true authority in the church is. It has nothing to do with the ruler ship and dominion, which are the governing principals of Satan. We have covered that in great detail in the past.) but, speaking the truth in love, (if we do not know God, the truth is not in us as we read earlier from scripture) may grow up in all things into Him who is the head; Christ, (that sure is not effortless is it? That is not painless is it? That’s a lot of work, this growing in grace and knowledge. That is what is fundamental to the love of God, outgoing concern for another. It is a gift from God.) from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working, by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

Ephesians 5:2; “And walk in love. As Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God, for a sweet smelling aroma.”

Once again effort for we are to walk in love. It certainly isn’t painless is it, for He tells us He became a burnt offering. All burnt offerings are killed after it had hands laid on it. Of course that is another subject which needs to be elaborated on to the body. I have been working on that one personally for some time and have clearly come to the conclusion that I had never realized the depth of its use and meaning to God. Sooner or later we will get to that one. There are 5 major categories of laying on of hands throughout the first and second covenants which are all linked together. It is a fascinating study.

Ephesians 6:23; "Peace to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Peace and faith once again linked together with love, "love with faith.") Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen."

We are told here it is from God the Father and Jesus Christ. Let's look at Philippians 1:9; "And this I pray that your love may abound still more and more (in what?) in knowledge and all discernment." Once again love is absolutely linked with knowledge and discernment. We can't get away from that. It does not matter what anyone else says for it comes directly from the word of God. What is love once again? Keeping the commandments of God. That is the love of God by His definition not some feel good deluded preacher. Our love is to abound more and more in more knowledge and discernment. This word here translated abound is perisseu and it means; to super abound, in quantity or quality, be in excess, to be abundantly furnished, to abound in a thing. It is used transitively in the sense to make to abound. That is very active; it is something putting forth effort. We are to be building upon it, is what it is saying right here. So how do we do that? Through knowledge and discernment. We build on the love of God. That is absolute heresy to some of the preachers of the love doctrine of men. Their teachings have nothing to do with the body of Christ growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord, other than they are there as an impediment to our growth in Christ. They are clueless as to what Biblical love is. If you tell them that love is the keeping of the commandments, you will get an earful, they know where you are going with it and they don't like it for they don't and won't preach the truth of God on the commandments. It is not the smooth things they dumb the sheep down with, and in fact what most people want to hear. We live in a lazy society and it is getting lazier. Mention work and effort and folks are running for the exits.

Let's look into Colossians 2:2-3; "that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery (hidden truth) of God, both of the Father and of Christ, (remember without knowing them we can't love. That's what the Bible says) in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

Now back to verse 10 in Philippians 1. "that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ."

People who have the love of God are not easily offended for they understand they are walking in the way of God, the way He says to do it. They are not doing their own will but yielding to His. They have grown and matured in their knowledge of Him to the point that they realize that it is God who bears the offense if anyone should. They are merely being obedient to His will. So why then should they be offended? To do so as such we would not be displaying the love of God in us, the knowledge, the understanding of His way of life. All we are doing is what He says, it is not originating in our own mind, it is a gift, the love of God. We can't know God without His spirit being in us. That's what the Bible teaches us.

Philippians 2:1-4; "Therefore if there is any consolation (encouragement) in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being likeminded having the same love (agape), being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition

or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others to be better than himself. (That is an absolute key to true service. It is unknown to the great ones of this world and of the churches who practice false humility. If we think we are better than others and keep in mind I am not talking about better off, but better in righteousness, we will never be able to truly serve them. We understand these things through life itself, let alone through the functions of the spirit and the body of Christ.) Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”

That is how He sums it all up as we have been seeing time and time again in the scriptures. We need to have love for one another, outgoing concern. When you hear someone trashing the thought that love is outgoing concern for others, saying that it is juvenile thinking, which I have recently heard, that such a saying is not even likened to the milk of the word, then it's time to turn the tape off or if in their presence get up and leave, or even escort them out because all you are going to hear is heresy and opinion from that point on because they are not grounded and rooted in that which passes knowledge, which is the love of God, the love of Christ. Of course that is my personal opinion and that opinion is based on experience and a pattern taught throughout the Bible.

The love of God is outgoing concern for another, it is the keeping of Gods commandments, His laws, His rules of conduct, not mans. Love is very active, it is visible outwardly in what we do, it is not some inward fuzzy, feely, warm, emotion or sentimentality. It is not predicated on who is looking or who is nice to us. It is not a respecter of persons; it is the same to all. It is symbolized and characterized by the relationship between our Father and Brother being one, and the active extension of that oneness to us. We too are to display the same thing outwardly as well as inwardly especially to the brethren. That does not mean by someone calling themselves our brother, but by one who displays some of the fruits of the spirit and more particularly one who is walking or attempting to walk in the commandments of God.

Colossians 1:4; “since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints”

That is what outgoing concern is. We don't just isolate a group of the saints, and say I love you. That isn't love. Love is work and that does not mean just those who are near to you physically. Some of us don't see anyone else on the Sabbath yet some do. We are not to be isolationist lovers of brethren. We are to have love for all the saints. Remember Matt 25, as to even the least of these My brethren. Christ determines who His brethren are, not us. We need to understand that He is the shepherd, not some organization of men. We are the weak of the flock. The point being here is that we show love to all of the saints not just some of them. There are a lot of elitists around today. They don't seem to understand that God loved us while we were yet sinners. Do our actions measure up to that? Because someone stumbles do we dump them? No we don't and especially not if they actively repent of what they have done. Oh no, a precondition once again! Can't have that! So here once again we see that faith and love are mentioned in the same context. The scriptures are patterning this because they are building to a truly awesome truth of God. The Bible tells us that faith without works is dead. It also tells us love without works is also dead. It is only dead human love without the works of God. Godly love never fails, it takes a lot of effort on our part to exercise this gift of God. Our flesh (carnal nature) is at

war with it. It is easier carnally to hate than to love. Hate comes easily for Satan is constantly broadcasting it.

Let's look at 1 Thessalonians 1:3; "remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father." That is very important, faith, hope, and love, mentioned once again in the same context. Look at Hebrews 6:10; "For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love (love is laborious and it is work) which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. (That is what we should be doing to one another, attending to them, serving them. That is what minister means. Of course that understanding is thrown out the window in many organizations of men. Minister is now a title, one who is a benefactor, one who is served rather than serving. One who has authority over others and rules the sheep. Fortunately not everyone falls into that delusion. There are some who have a title of minister which is not to be for it is a job description, a function. Even with this "title" there are some who diligently care for the brethren. Unfortunately it would take a lot of looking in all four corners of the field to find those who are doing so without feeding on the sheep and ruling them. Quite honestly there are a lot of tares taking over the field. They can make us very sick as we have studied in the past. Ingesting what they have to offer can lead to death when we study the 4 different types of tares that grow amongst the barley and the wheat. We need to be very careful.

1 Thessalonians 5:8; "But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation." Now we see faith and hope linked together as a breastplate and accompanied by a helmet of hope. Once again the big three! Faith, love, and hope! I repeat again that there is a reason why they are mentioned together so often, and we are going to get into why. It will help to explain an error which people have taught and are teaching about 1 Corinthians 13, the love chapter, which so many wolves turn to in their deceptive activities and teachings. Why are they linked together here and elsewhere and also in 1 Corinthians 13:13? Because without abiding in the love of God we will never be able to tap the faith of Christ to live a life of hope. That is why love is the greater of the three. **Without the love of God we can never have the other two.**

Luke 18:8; "I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes will He really find faith on the earth?" This is talking about the Faith of Christ. He is asking that question in the same context of time as Matthew 24. Faith and love are so intricately linked together. Matthew 24:12-13. This faith and love we have been reading about and as well back here in 1 Thessalonians 5:8 are inseparable. I can't repeat that enough. We have to have love before we can tap the faith of Christ. And that is what He is saying in Luke 18:8, will He find it when He returns. Because lawlessness will be so rampant it becomes possible that there will be no faith of Christ, for it is a gift of the spirit. Look at the context here in Luke 18 starting in verse 1. "Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart (so regardless of what is happening, be it rumors of war, pestilences and earthquakes, the hatreds that will abound, we are not to lose faith, we are not to lose heart. How do we do that? By loving God, by abiding in the love of Christ, by abiding in His commandments! We

don't turn to somebody else for justification; the, "I feel your pain types." And that is what He is going to tell us right here.

"Saying, and there was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man, (in other words he was above the law. He was the law in his own mind. He determined what was right and what was wrong. That is what it is saying here. So look what else is going on). Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, avenge me of my adversary. And he would not for a while; but afterwards he said within himself, though I do not fear God nor regard man, yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. (So there goes the rules, there goes the law, there goes justice, there goes right and wrong! I'm going to give her what she wants because she is a pest, she is driving me nuts.) Then the Lord said, hear what the unjust judge said. And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? (He hears our prayers; He knows that we want the kingdom to come. But it isn't happening today just because we ask for it. But we still need to continually go to Him asking for it to happen soon. We need to pray and not lose heart. **That is a qualifying statement.** Now after He hears this in verse 7 He continues and says) I tell you that He will avenge them speedily (it is not going to happen in that moment but when it does happen it will be in the twinkling of an eye. That is really "speedily" isn't it!) Nevertheless when the Son of Man comes will He really find faith on the earth?"

He is talking about the end time here. Let's swing over to Matthew 25. So many today are turning to the world for vindication. They beg them for forgiveness. And they get it. The world sooner or later pays attention to them. Look at what happened to the World Wide Church of God. They started going to the world for vindication and it rejected them for a long time to their frustration. But after they kept pestering them they said alright, you can be one of us. Don't bug us anymore. Pretty sick isn't it. Let's go to Matthew 24:10.

"And many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. (Telling them its okay we have been wrong all these years. Do we hold fast to what we have been taught? The world has had all the answers all along so let's turn to them for vindication, let's turn to them for justification) and because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold."

That is exactly what is happening when Christ says; will I find faith on the earth when I return. He will find some but not much. What a disgusting pay back for His suffering and death on our behalf, for all His longsuffering with us. The answer to why He asked that question is simple here. Because lawlessness abounds. The breaking of the commandment, the opposite of the love of God. Without the love of God, the keeping and abiding in His commandments, we cannot have the faith of Christ. And thus we cannot walk in hope, live a life of hope, let alone expect salvation. It is impossible and that brethren is why love is the greatest of the three.

Verse 13, "But he who endures to the end shall be saved." That certainly isn't fuzzy, feely, touchy, is it. It isn't I feel your pain. It is a difficult labor; it is a lot of work. It is endurance, trials, great effort; its sweat, its turmoil. We truly need to understand these things. 2 Thessalonians 2. There is so much more

which can be said about the points we have discussed all ready. What is being stressed in this study outside of the love of God and what it truly is according to the word of God, is that we need to dig into this wonderful tool left to us. The Bible is unmistakably a gift and a tool for each one of us. With it we can study all the subjects, the doctrines, that the Father has given us to lead us to the kingdom, to inclusion in His family. Then we have our concordances. Wonderful tools which assist us in our detailing the truth in the scriptures. They make it easy to follow all the words through the scriptures so there is no mistaking what they mean and how they are used. That is what we have been doing with agape today. We have been following it through to see a truth of our Creator as to what the agape of God really is. **We are not studying to find out where it says to love one another, but what it says about how we do that.** That is the nuts and bolts of the doctrine. We have seen that we grow in love through knowledge and all discernment. How often do we hear that truth ridiculed today. Knowledge has become a dirty word in many circles which call themselves the church of God.

2 Thessalonians 2:10-12 (We have seen the scriptures mention often that love is tied together with truth. So here we will now get an even clearer understanding of this. We need this especially looking at the perils of our times. We understand we are about to read of a falling away, but a falling away from what? "...and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie that they all might be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

Once again we see the element of misconduct called unrighteousness. We understand that simply means breaking God's laws. There is no getting around this straightforward teaching here. We saw in 1 Thessalonians 5:8 that faith and love are intricately linked together. Here we see something else entering this big picture of the love of God. The love of the truth! We need to possess a love for the truth. Why? Because thy word is truth! So many today are following the dictates and traditions of an organization and not the truth of God. When we follow an organization in such a manner we lose the love of the truth. We end up putting a man between ourselves and it. We become a respecter of persons and start defending the man or the organization rather than the truth. Please think about that. We have all seen it, and dare I say we have all done it at some point in our lives. We look to the messenger and not the message. It is then that we are in danger to fall for the lie. Let me illustrate this. A short time ago I listened to a man giving a message on love. I happen to have respect for this particular fella and he has a gift for teaching when he goes through the bible sentence by sentence. He does a great job on word studies and such. But when he picked this subject of love he flip flopped all around. I am not in any way condemning him because of that for that isn't my job. But we all need to look to the bible for our understanding of such things. He was speaking to a small group and stated to them that; "anyone who left them did not have the love of God." This was spoken in the context of the application of the truth, the word of God. In other words those under his enlightened presence were the only ones who had the truth. Now look what 2 Thessalonians 3:1-6 says about this very same thing. And evaluate if it supports what he was teaching.

“Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course and be glorified, just as it is with you, and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith. But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one. And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, both that you do and will do the things we command you. Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ. (This is a qualifying statement here again.) But we command you, brethren, in the name of Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.”

That’s a little different from what this fella said isn’t it. Actually it is a lot different from what he was saying. Look at verse 13-15; “But as for you brethren, do not grow weary in doing good. (We are always to have outgoing concern for others regardless of the circumstances, regardless of our condition, our personal plight. We do not get the; woe is me’s; the; I’m feeling sorry for myself syndrome.) And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed. (The fella I had been listening to said anyone who left his group had not the love of God. The Bible is instructing us that if we don’t agree with what is being said, isn’t what you know to be true from the scriptures, you are not to keep company with them in a religious mode, a Sabbath keeping mode if I may call it. That is directly opposite from what he was teaching. But look at verse 15 and the conditions to it.) Yet do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.” (We need to remember through all of this that we may not like what somebody else is doing, you may consider it improper. We can part company but it is not up to us to determine if they are a brother. Only our Father does that. We didn’t beget anybody spiritually. So we need to be very careful on that point. There are so many who are discarding and throwing out their brothers, slamming the door in their faces. We are not supposed to do that but rather to admonish him as a brother means you still have contact or communication. We do not determine who is our brother, only God does that. If we leave a group or someone leaves our midst because they have a disagreement on how they feel something should be conducted then we are commanded not to hate in such a circumstance. So many today turn vicious to a person who would dare leave them. I have witnessed people vilifying others in such cases. The phones ring off the hook with the rotten backbiting comments toward them. It’s so sick! It’s so juvenile! It’s so worldly! And once again Christ is going to spew it out of His mouth. Godly love is not always easy. Love does endure brethren. God is not a human emotion. Scripture tells us God is love. So the love of God is not emotion based. It is a working effort, an outgoing concern, and an abiding in His commandments and they are not burdensome, they are not fuzzy, feely, and touchy. The love of God is not momentary, but eternal. It has been working forever. Godly love can stir up human emotion but it does not originate in it.

Let’s look at 1 Timothy 1:14, “And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.”

Thus if we do not know Christ, are not part of Him, do not have Him dwelling in us, and thus do not keep His commandments, then we are a liar and the truth is not in us. We have been reviewing how all

this is linked together in scripture to form an irrefutable pattern of doctrine. Faith and love are inseparable.

1 Timothy 6:11-12; "But you O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses."

We pursue love! Imagine that. 1 Corinthians 14:1 says the same thing.

Let's turn to 2 Timothy 1:7; "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

Verse 13; "Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus."

Once again faith and love reiterated but look what is tied into it; the pattern of sound words. We are to grow in grace and knowledge, in discernment and there are some who are actually teaching that. Unfortunately there are many who don't, who have the ear of many brethren. They teach a form of worldly psychobabble and put it forth as the word of God. The Bible teaches through clearly understood patterns; here a little, there a little, precept upon precept, and line upon line. The pattern we are following today has a very important aspect to it which is not understood unless one has the spirit of God. We are seeing that keeping Gods laws is more than just being obedient, it is a work of faith, an act of love.

Philemon 5; "...hearing of your love and faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints. (Once again, love and faith linked together toward Jesus because we are abiding in His love, which is abiding and walking in His commandments towards all the saints, even the least of these My brethren. Do you want to see some vivid examples of the least of these My brethren? Then just spend some time in Christ's messages to the churches of Revelation 2 & 3.), that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgement of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus."

Hebrews 10: 24-25. Let's look at something that has confused a lot of people. Actually let's start up in verse 19. "Therefore brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest (Holy of Holy) by the blood of Jesus, (Boldness is better translated confidence. Not boldness as I recently heard one orator describing as charging in before God and telling Him what we want. Just try doing that to your human father. Some might deliver a resounding smack! The principle is that we can go in, in confidence, for our Father loves us, but to go in demanding is just looking for trouble or at the very least a big letdown. No stomping in before the Father. What gives us the confidence to enter before God? The blood of Jesus; by His sacrifice, not ours! We go to the Father through Christ for we abide in Him, He did it for us, thus we are not bold but confident in Him to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus) by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High priest over the house of God. (We enter in through Christ. Yes the Father begets us but then He gives us to Christ. Why? Because we are His betrothed! It is Christ under the Father who is working with us and preparing us to be an acceptable offering.) Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil (guilty, the guilt which drags one down) conscience (this is a term used in

the offerings, the preparing of it. Remember that the blood is sprinkled over the altar in the Holy of Holies. We need to put all this together to understand what is being taught here in such things as the blood of Christ) and our bodies washed with pure water. (That is what scripture tells us that Christ does to His bride. We have gone over those scriptures and that pattern often.) Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, (to have hope what do we need? Faith and to have faith what do we need? The love of Christ. the love of God. We can't have it without it. Let's keep that in mind here as we continue in these scriptures.), for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, (consider here can be translated; provoke, incite, to do good) not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some, but exhorting, and so much the more as you see the day approaching."

And what day is that? The day of the Lord which we can see in James 5:8. The point I am stressing here as to these last scriptures is that they are terribly abused by those encrusted in layers of hierarchy. They write about them in articles, and speak about them in sermons, as a threat to the brethren. They are used to intimidate brethren into assembling with them. "You had better not keep the Sabbath by yourself" which means outside of our dominion over you. If a group accepts error what are we commanded to do? We read that answer in 2 Thessalonians 3:6. We are not to assemble with them. Are they still our brothers? Verses 13-15, yes they are. We need to get that straight for there is a lot of opportunity for such relationships taking place today and which will take place in the future. That is the state of the church today. We need to understand how this all ties so intricately together with what we are reviewing today. Why are they still our brothers? Because our Father has made it that way, so only He can change that. Are they estranged from us? You bet they are in many circumstances. Brethren there is so much more we could cover when it comes to the love of God and how it is displayed and delivered and its relationship in the family of God. But let's turn to the chapter in the second covenant scriptures which has taken on the title of the love chapter, which is totally abused by the worlds Christianity, and now by many who had been called out by God the Father. It has become a fuzzy, feely, touchy, thing to them. They have lost its true meaning. They have come to believe the lie! 1 Corinthians 13. Now before we can understand why the words of this chapter were inspired to be written here we need to review the context of the chapter before it. Chapter 12 is talking about spiritual gifts of God which many today have become deluded into thinking they are transferred by men to men, which is completely arrogant as well as ridiculous. That is a basis of church hierarchy brethren. Chapter 12 talks about many specific gifts given by God to a very diverse body, composed of many parts, and differing functions, which require a diversity of gifts, not "offices" but gifts to be healthy. Of all these gifts the most important is love because it is given to all, just as faith and hope are. But love is the outstanding one as chapter 13 tells us. Please remember that everyone called of the Father and accepted by Christ gets these three. All don't have the gift of apostleship do they. And that is what it says in these scriptures and in Ephesians 4:11. Prophecy, ability to teach, to work mirages, healings, helps, administration, or variety of tongues are individual gifts as needed in the body to help it to grow into the stature and fullness of Christ so that it can edify itself in love, not quarrelsome

bickering and fighting and certainly not someone having dominion over our faith. But all get the gift of love to start with but not all will grow in it, not all will abide in it, not all will keep it. Now with all this clearly in mind let's read chapter 13.

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. (Now think about what is being said here. Keep focused on the fact we are talking about gifts not offices. Satan can talk in tongues and so can a demon but they don't have love, the love of God. Why? Because they do not keep God's commandments. But they can talk up a storm in tongues. We are about to see a very profound lesson being taught here brethren.) And though I have prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. (Why would he be nothing? Without the love of God, the keeping of His commandments, we don't know Him. Knowing God the Father and Jesus Christ is far more important than anything else. They are our family. They are our Creators. They are to be dear to us in all our being. Paul is teaching us that without the keeping of Gods commandments we can never come to an understanding of what God is, who God is, or for that matter what Their plan for us is. That is so important it pales all else. We all need to grasp that; we can all have the love of God, but we are not all apostles, we are not all teachers, we are not all administrator, we all don't speak in tongues, we all don't do miracles do we, but we all have the opportunity to have the love of God. This is important to our understanding as to what is about to be taught in the rest of this chapter.) And though I bestow all my goods to feed, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. (Now wait a minute here. The world says giving away your goods is love, you love the world when you give the poor of your substance let alone all of it. Giving your body to be burned would be interpreted by the world as an act of rescuing another in a burning building or such, rescuing children from an inferno. The world says that is true love, God says no it isn't. Those are functions of human love, works of human love. Yes, they can be construed as works of outgoing concern for another but of and by themselves they are not. That however is not what it is talking about. Paul is talking about becoming a burnt offering and all the significances that surround such an act.) Love suffers long, is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely (indecently) does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (Now if we assigned the worlds definition of not being kind, being arrogant, behaving rudely, and seeking our own; what do you think we would come up with? Forget everything we have read and apply the worlds measure of these things what would we find?

Let's go to Matthew 23:13; "But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!" (Oh no, Christ is calling people names. That is not too kind is it! That is really rude isn't it! Verse 14; "Woe to you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!" (There He goes again) Verse 15; Woe to you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!" (Three strikes you're out Christ) Verse 16; "Woe to you, blind guides." (Wow this is a lot of name calling isn't it.) Verse 17; "Fools and blind." Verse 19; "Fools and blind!" (Will it never end) Verse 23; "Woe to you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!" Verse 24; "Blind Guides." Verse 25; "Woe to you scribes and

Pharisees, hypocrites!" Verse 26; "Blind Pharisee." Verse 27; "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!" Verse 29; "Woe to you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!" If we assigned worldly definitions to 1 Corinthians 13; 4-5 Jesus Christ would be the epitome of arrogance, unkindness, envy, rudeness, and certainly seeking His own will. But we know that is not the case for we are not guided by the worlds definitions and understanding of the love of God. Obviously this chapter is teaching us something very different from the worlds understanding. So what exactly are we being taught by Paul Here? He is talking about the abuse of the gifts Christ has given to His people.

1 Corinthians 13; 10-11; "But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be thrown away. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things."

If we are not mature in the love of God we will not only abuse these gifts we will also look upon others as abusing them when it comes to us. We will trash them brethren. We will be rude to them, we will not be kind to them, and we will be envious.

Verse 12; "For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, (Paul is talking about in part here as well as in verse 10 under the same context as chapter 12 as in the body, the various parts of it. He knows the parts he is functioning in, he does not know all the parts for they are scattered all over the world. However he focuses on his sphere, the parts he is aware of.), but then I will know just as I also am known."

Only through the true love of God can we see things clearly. We do not give up on ourselves or others unless they have openly committed the unpardonable sin for scripture commands us to not even pray for them. That does not sit well with the fuzzy, feely, touchy, folks. We are kind to others but not as the world defines kindness. Let's go back and review verse 4.

"Love suffers long." Yes it does. Look how long Christ has and is suffering with us. On our part we are to be suffering with the entire body as we know it. We do not in any way establish the individual gifts we have been given to exert authority and dominion over others in the body.

"Love is kind." The word here for kind is *chresteuomai*. There could be a much better word used here in translation instead of kind. This word means; to show oneself useful. That is the meaning of the word. To act benevolently or in a benevolent manner. This isn't referring to the feely touchy kindness of human or man's love. But the benevolence of Godly love, the outgoing concern displayed by it in actions, in works. To be useful is an underpinning of this Greek word. So let God define what He is teaching here.

"Love does not envy." We do not envy a brother who has received a gift which we have not which are numbered or delineated in chapter 12. This is very important to the wellbeing of the body.

"Love does not parade itself." It does not go around promoting self-importance, but rather allows God to bestow honor on the individual. We can see that, for we can see God working through an individual with a gift used to edify the body in love, not dominion, not ruler ship, etc. The fruits will be obvious in time if not immediately.

“Love is not puffed up (arrogant).” We are not puffed up with something which has been revealed to us and not to another yet. We do not treat them differently because of that. We do not become respecters of persons in such instances. We do not classify those who agree with us as the beautiful people; the princes, and those who do not; as the toads. This isn’t a fairy tale. There are many different gifts in the body. Some may have one, and some more. Remember they are given based on ability. Christ enhances that ability so as to serve His body. When it comes to the gift we possess individually we do not use it as an opportunity to look down our nose at another. We don’t parade around arrogantly like we are something special.

“Love does not behave rudely.” This Greek word here should not be translated rudely. That is a terrible translation in this context. The King James says “unseemly.” I think that is a much better translation of it. It is spelled aschomosune in the Greek. This word means; an indecency, the prudential, the shame. It is not talking about rude, it goes way beyond that. The Vines says of it; to run the risk of bringing the virgin daughter into danger, or disgrace. Rude is a human, fuzzy, feely, touchy, interpretation. Unseemly is a much better translation. Who is Paul instructing here? The body of Christ, His betrothed, the virgin daughter! We are not to put others in the body into disgrace or into danger. Many today are doing so brethren.

“Love does not seek its own.” The concern must be outgoing displayed by works and deeds, not locked up in your heart. Those who have the gifts of apostleship, etc., must not seek their own! They are not to feed on the sheep; they are to actually feed the sheep at all costs to themselves. Is that concept ever abused in the churches today!

“Love is not provoked.” The word here is paroxuno and it means to sharpen alongside, to exasperate, to stir, in the Strong’s. But in the Vines it states provoked is not a common translation but rather stirred. So how are we stirred by others brethren? Do you allow yourself to be stirred by others? Can someone get our goat as the saying goes? Can they get us to simmering and then cooking? If so then how can we keep true to the love of God as was displayed in Christ during His tenure here on earth?

“Love thinks no evil.” This Greek word is logizomai; to take an inventory, to estimate. Love does not calculate up the damage done to it. The margin in my bible says; keeps no account of evil. Thinks no evil is a poor translation of the intent of the Greek here. Love keeps no account of evil.

“Love does not rejoice in iniquity.” The Greek is adakia; legal injustice, moral wrongfulness of character, life, or an act. It denotes unrighteousness, a condition of not being right according to the standard of Gods holiness. This is contrasted by the words which follow it; “but rejoices in the truth.”

“Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things” (and I have written in there after this; of God and not of the lies of men. You are familiar with them; believe me, just give me your heart, or in other words empty your wallet.)

The apostle Paul clearly understood that he was not under the law but actually abided in it. We are not under the love of God, but abide in it. That is a very big difference and a very important understanding. Verses 8-9; “Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether tongues, they will cease; whether knowledge, it will vanish away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part.”

We don't have the whole package do we. Christ is the whole package. That function and position is already taken. So why do men strive to come across as the whole package? Because they are deluded by Satan the devil and the pulls of the flesh! They think they are something when they are not. That is one of Satan's big errors. He could not be satisfied with the estate given him. He craved more because he saw himself as beautiful in his own mind. We are only part of a much bigger thing. If we can't be satisfied with that we are in for some trouble. How we deal with one another will reveal to the Father if in fact we are truly His. Christ also taught us it is how we can recognize one another. It all starts with abiding in His commandments.

Verse 12 again. "For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known." So is this a riddle from Paul? No it is not. It is interesting how Linda (my wife) looks at this, and which has helped me to understand what we are being taught here. When you look in a mirror you only see what is reflected in it. There are parts of your body you can't see. In fact you can't even see your face unless it is in some reflective substance or medium. If we have outgoing concern for others, love for others, love of God, walking in His commandments, we will see that come back to us clearly. It will be reflected back to us. There are parts of our body we can't see but others can. We are known to others by some of those parts even though we ourselves can't see them. They can recognize us by them. (Remember Matt 25, when did we see you hungry, thirsty, etc.) We can't see our face but everyone else sees it. If not for a mirror we would not even know what our face looks like. Remember Paul is talking about his parts to illustrate an important truth about the body of Christ.

All the gifts recorded here in these chapters are not given to all in mass are they? They are distributed throughout the body. What is given to all is the fruit of the spirit of which three are recorded here in verse 13. "And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

We can all focus on these three in our lives. Not just parts of the body but the entire body for without these three we would become sick. All the parts of the body can receive of these three gifts. So knowing this we must not be unseemly, not arrogant, for we do not all possess the same gifts which are used to edify the body and we are not supposed to. Without the love of God, without the understanding and abiding of the love of Christ and His commandments, without walking in His way we will never be able to tap the faith we need to live a life of hope.

So let's come to the sum total of what we have read in the scriptures today, to the tailing off of the story, where we see the love of God put to the test.

James 1:23-27; "For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; (on his own he can't see it and he needs a mirror to do so) for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. (Because he is no longer seeing his face) But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, (does not walk away from it and becomes forgetful of what it looks like) and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, (so many hirelings and wolves and general muckity mucks today have confiscated these two words found here "the work" and have used them as a club on the heads and hearts of the brethren that they have

come to believe that is why they were called. What a sin! That is what is being puked out by Christ at this time. What work is Paul talking about? The perfect law of liberty), this one will be blessed in what he does. If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless. (All these gifts we can have but they are useless unless we have the love of God abiding in us and we in it. To have that we need to be abiding in the love of Christ, keeping His commandments and they are not burdensome to us. Now let's see the sum total of the love of God being displayed in works and put to the test. Remember earlier we saw we can put the love of God to the test. And we are to test it!) Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, (Boy are there a lot of orphans, Fatherless, today, and widows, who have rejected their true husband. We are supposed to help them brethren. Not to look down our nose at them, not to turn our backs on them.), and to keep oneself unspotted from the world."

That is true love brethren. Love towards man and love towards God. That is the embodiment of the 10 commandments. That is the true love of God. That is what we should be striving for, it is the love in which we are to be putting our efforts, not trampling one another down, not hating one another. If we have disagreements then we don't keep company. By disagreements I am not talking about outright heresy which will harm the body. How do we determine this? If it's not an issue unto salvation we can accept our brother's difference of understanding or opinion. We can then state our case to him when the opportunity arises. That is why we do not cut off communication with him. We do not need an audience to do so unless that format is used to project an unholy heresy.

Remember the word "company" in 2 Thessalonians 3:14 and the lesson surrounding it. That Greek word is; sunanamignumi, and it means; to mix up together or with. It basically means to mix up with what they are doing. We don't hate them, they are still our brothers. When we let the Bible interpret what it says; and not some muckity muck, hireling, or wolf, or for that matter anyone else's perception of it in religious terms of today, but rather to what it meant at that time, then we get a much clearer understanding of it. We really need to do so when it comes to a subject like love. As sojourners we are to glean from all for corners of Gods field. I listened to a tape not long ago from a man who was teaching through an organization whose doctrines are in outer space. But this man stated without law there is no rational basis for love. He is absolutely biblically correct. He said love without law would be a matter of highly valuable feelings. I do believe the scriptures have made that clear today.

We should not be looking down our nose at others. We should be willing to point out error when the opportunity arises but in meekness and humility. However, destructive heresy is something else. We have been at this for a while today. I am looking forward to getting into the study of the laying on of hands. It may not be out for some time but I hope I can find time to pursue it. I also have to get out the study on Pentecost. We have studied its meaning and the significant events surrounding it but there is still much more being revealed to us as we grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. I am looking forward to that one with the adage of; meat in due season, in mind. That is how we try to help one another. Sometimes the struggles in life can seem overwhelming and can distract us for

periods of time. We are all still looking to perfection for none of us are there and without Christ completing that in us we will not be so. I hope you have a good remainder to the Sabbath.
Our peace we give to you