

MARCH 13 , 2022 – LOVE ONE ANOTHER ACCORDING TO PAUL & PETER

“May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.” 1 Peter 3:12

LAST WEEK BEGAN WITH A BRIEF REVIEW OF THE STUDY IN THE GOSPEL AND EPISTLE OF I JOHN ON JESUS’ COMMAND TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS HE HAD LOVED THEM. AFTER REFLECTING ON THE UNIQUENESS OF JOHN’S GOSPEL, INCLUDING THE 60-YEAR PASSING OF TIME AND THE AGE OF THE WRITER, WE LOOKED FURTHER AT THE ENTIRE MEANING OF JESUS’ COMMAND TO “LOVE ONE ANOTHER”.

PRIOR TO DISCUSSING THE FINAL THREE PASSAGES REGARDING “LOVE ONE ANOTHER”, RON BROUGHT SOME REFLECTIONS ON THE LAST TWO WEEKS, PARTICULARLY AS THEY RELATE TO ONENESS WITH THE FATHER. HE BEGAN WITH THE DISCUSSION BETWEEN THOMAS AND JESUS (JOHN 14:1-6) WHERE JESUS, IN RESPONSE TO THOMAS. DECLARED HIMSELF TO BE “THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE”, STRONGLY AFFIRMING HIS ROLE AS THE “WAY” TO THE FATHER. THE SON IN THE FATHER, THE SPIRIT IN THE FATHER, THE FATHER IN THE BELIEVER DEMONSTRATING THE ONENESS AND UNITY FOR WHICH JESUS PRAYED IN JOHN 17 21-23.

THIS WEEK – A LOOK AT THREE ADDITIONAL SUCH PASSAGES

THIS WEEK WE LOOKED AT THE ADDITIONAL THREE MENTIONS OF “LOVE ONE ANOTHER”, THIS TIME WRITTEN BY PAUL AND PETER. OUR STUDY DEMONSTRATES HOW THIS COMMAND FITS WITHIN THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BELIEVER, WHATEVER THEY MAY BE.

ROMANS 13:8 – “Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.”

HERE WE FIND THE APOSTLE PAUL IN CORINTH IN ABOUT 57 AD AND WRITING TO HIS FRIENDS IN ROME. THE FIRST 11 CHAPTERS OF THE BOOK ARE LARGELY DOCTRINAL AND WRITTEN TO EDUCATE THE BELIEVERS IN THE FAITH. THE FOLLOWING CHAPTERS ARE ABOUT RIGHTEOUSNESS OR “HOW THAN SHALL WE LIVE?” SOME IMPORTANT TRUTHS FROM THE BOOK ARE AS FOLLOW:

BASIC TRUTHS

- 1. DEPRAVITY OF MAN**
- 2. GRACE OF GOD**
- 3. JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH**
- 4. SANCTIFICATION THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT**
- 5. SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER**

RON TAUGHT US THE IMPORTANCE OF PRACTICING THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT AND TO OWE NOONE BUT TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER. WE DO SO NOT OUT OF ANY DEBT TO GOD, BUT BECAUSE WE LOVE HIM AND DESIRE TO PLEASE HIM THROUGH OUR OBEDIENCE, EVEN TO THE KEEPING OF HIS COMMAND TO “LOVE ONE ANOTHER” (JOHN 13:34)

I THESSALONIANS 3:12 -- “and may the Lord make you increase and abound IN love for one another and for all, as we do for you,”

HERE WE FIND THE APOSTLE PAUL IN CORINTH, ABOUT THE YEAR 51 AD, WRITING TO THE CHURCH AT THESSALONICA. ASSUMING PAUL WAS CONVERTED APPROXIMATELY 34 AD, AND LATER SPENT 13-14 YEARS IN THE WILDERNESS, HE HAD ONLY BEEN IN MIINISTRY A SHORT TIME WHEN WRITING THIS LETTER. HE HAD MINISTERED IN THE CHURCH AT THESSALONICA AND UNDERSTOOD THE BELIEVERS THERE WERE EXPERIENCING CONSIDERABLE TURMOIL AROUND THEM, EVEN AS WE ARE TODAY. HE WROTE TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO GROW IN THEIR FAITH.

BASIC TRUTHS

1. THE TRUE CHRISTIAN IS ALWAYS IN A STATE OF GROWTH
2. ULTIMATELY JESUS WILL RETURN FOR HIS OWN

RON TAUGHT US FROM I THESSALONIANS THAT LOVE BECOMES A CATALYST FOR SAFETY AS WE LEARN TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER. IN EXPRESSING HIS DEEP DESIRE SEE THEM, PAUL REMINDS THEM OF THE OVERFLOWING, LIMITLESS NATURE OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD WITHIN US. IN CHAPTER 4, VERSE 9, WE LEARN THAT THIS LOVE IS “TAUGHT BY GOD” AND IT IS INTENDED TO CONTINUE TO GROW THROUGHOUT OUR LIFETIME (II THESSALONIANS 1:3)

I PETER 1:22 -- “Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have

WE NOW SEE PETER, WHO WAS PRESENT WHEN JESUS ISSUED HIS COMMAND, COMMENT ON THE ISSUE OF LOVING ONE ANOTHER. WRITING TO THE CHRISTIANS TO WHOM HE PREVIOUSLY MINISTERED IN ASIA MINOR, NOW THE ASIAN PART OF TURKEY. BOTH JEWS AND GENTILES WERE A PART OF THOSE BELIEVERS AND PETER WAS ANTICIPATING PERSECUTION OF THEM AND DESIROUS THAT THEY HAVE NO FEAR BUT STAND READY TO DEFEND THEIR FAITH. IS THAT NOT A MESSAGE FOR US, TODAY, AS WELL?

BASIC TRUTHS

1. BACK TO THE UPPER ROOM
“If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.” John 15:20
2. PERSECUTION WILL COME
3. PERSEVERENCE IS COINTERACTED BY RIGHTEOUS LVING

RON REMINDED US THAT PETER REFERED TO OUR SANTIFICATION AS THE BASIS FOR OUR LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER. THE DEGREE TO WHICH WE STAY CLOSE TO GOD, IN RIGHTEOUS OBEDIENCE, WILL DETERMINE OUR ABILITY TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER. HE TOOK US BACK TO JOHN 14 AND JESUS’ TEACHING REGARDING THE WAY. REFERRING TO THE GREEK WORD *δρομος* (road), AS DEMONSTRATING THE TRUTH OF JESUS TEACHING AS THE WAY/ROAD TO THR FATHER

BUD REFERRED TO THE “HOUSE OF WORSHIP” COLUMN, IN THE MARCH 11, 2022, EDITION OF THE WALL STREET JOURNAL AS A DESCRIPTION OF THE DILEMMA OF THE CHURCH TODAY, MAY GOD GRANT THAT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW A PATH OF SOLID WORSHIP AND THE PRESENTATION OF A NEW AND EXCITING CULTURE AS COMPARED WITH THE CULTURE OF THE WORLD TODAY. “THE HOPE OF THE WORLD REMAINS THE CHURCH. GOD USES CHURCHES TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT HIMSELF AND TO SHARE THE LOVE OF JESUS WITH THE WORLD”. MAY GOD GRANT THAT TO BE TRUE OF BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH.

HOW THEN SHALL WE LIVE

- 1. EXPECT DIFFICULTIES FROM WITHIN THE CULTURE**
- 2. LIVE A RIGHTEOUS LIFE 24/7**
- 3. BE ALERT FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER**
- 4. EXPECT HARD TIMES**

NEXT WEEK -- “BEAR WITH ONE ANOTHER” SERIES “DON’T JUDGE ONE ANOTHER”

ROMANS 14:13

GALATIANS 6:2

COLOSSIANS 3:15

REFERENCE:

https://www.wsj.com/search?query=A%20Thriving%20Church%20Can%20Save%20a%20Faltering%20One&mod=searchresults_viewallresults