

THE UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
**I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God
IN CHRIST JESUS.***

(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

#04-10112

God is Love

September 2, 2010

Whenever I spend a lot of time writing on one topic, as I have done over the last month or so, I like to pause and go back to one very basic and essential truth that rises above all other truths: **God is love.**

Of all the apostles, there is one who could be called the apostle of love, for he referred to himself as the disciple whom Jesus loved on five different occasions in his gospel (John 13:23; 19:26; 20:2, 21:7; 21:20). Of course, this apostle is the beloved John who reclined on the bosom of the Lord Jesus.

(7) Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. (8) The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. (9) By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. (1 John 4:7-9 NASB)

We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (1 John 4:16 NASB)

John is very clear that love starts with God, not with man, and His love was (and still is) manifested in His Son that He sent into the world to give us life. However, not only does love start with God and is revealed through His Son, but God Himself is love. In other words, the very essence of God is love.

It is true that we must love one another, even our enemies, but how can we do this if we do not know that God is love? The fact of the matter is, when we manifest godly love to others, it is not even our love; it is the very essence of God being manifested in us, through us, and by us. In reference to hope and proven character brought about through perseverance, what did Paul say?

The love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. (Romans 5:5 NASB)

In other words, through His Spirit, God has given us His love so that we might know not only the essence of love and who He is, but that we might know how much He truly loves each and every one of us, unequivocally and impartially. Do you know this love for you? Do you know the Father's love for you? Do you know how much the Father loves you?

In days of much uncertainty and confusion and shaking and lawlessness, we need to be continually reminded that the very essence of God is love, and all that He does is based on His love for us individually, corporately (all mankind), and creationally (all creation).

Never forget; God's love for you and for me and for all mankind is unshakeable. It is the love of a Father for His children. We need to know that our Father loves us with a love that will not let us go and will never leave us nor forsake us. His love is so binding, not only on us but also on all of mankind and all of creation, that nothing, absolutely nothing can or ever will break it or shake it. Nothing!

Ultimately, the very essence of love will bring all mankind into the presence of the Father until He is all in all new, which is the very purpose of the eons and the reason He made the eons through His Son. If this is the first time you have heard it said in this fashion, all I can do is encourage you to read some of my other material. You could start with my book *That God May Be All in All New*, January 2009. We have been entrusted with a truly glorious gospel for all mankind, and yet, so much of what is preached today is the tradition of men, which Jesus condemned.

“Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men.” 9) He was also saying to them, “You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition.” (Mark 7:8-9 NASB)

There was (still is) a problem with the Jewish elite, as well as with the Christian elite of our day. They had (have) set aside the law and the commandments in favor of their own traditions that became law unto itself. The result was (is) that they missed (miss) the very heart of the law and the commandments.

(37) And He said to him, “YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’ (38) “This is the great and foremost commandment. (39) The second is like it, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ (40) “On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.” (Matthew 22:37-40 NASB)

In other words, the foundation of the Law and all that the Prophets spoke and saw is love. Obviously, these verses speak of the love that must come from us, but where does this love come from in the first place? What enables us to love? God is love enables us!

We love, because He first loved us. (1 John 4:19 NASB)

It all begins and ends with God. Even the eons (ages) will be summed up in His love.

Can you imagine that the Prophets depend on love? The Weymouth New Testament states: **The whole of the Law and the Prophets is summed up in these two Commandments.** This means that all that the Prophets saw and spoke forth from the Lord is summed up in love. It is interesting that the Prophets were often an unloved lot. At times, they had to speak forth and reveal very difficult things to the Lord’s people and were often rejected, castigated, punished, and even killed for doing so, a fact not forgotten by Scripture (Luke 11:47; Acts 7:52; 1 Thessalonians 2:15; Revelation 16:6; 18:24). Yet, behind all that they were called to speak, to write, and to do was love—the love of God for His people and all mankind.

Likewise, the Law is summed up by love as well. Many look at law in general as restrictive and something that takes away their personal liberties. In our day, God’s law is looked upon with disdain by an antichrist world. The Ten Commandments have become anathema to even the courts of our land, as if anything to do with God is to be rejected because separation of church and state, and religious freedom, must be protected. What foolishness!

Why was fallen man barred from the Tree of Life? **God is love.** Why did God replace Adam’s fig-leaf apron with an animal skin? **God is love.** Why did God flood the earth? **God is love.** Why did God write His Law on tablets of stone? **God is love.** Why did God speak through the Prophets? **God is love.** Why does God judge mankind, which at times seems so harsh? **God is love.** Why does God discipline His children, leaving them sorrowful? **God is love.** Why is there **no such thing** as an eternal place called *hell*, a place of torture by literal flames and worms? **God is love.** Why did God send His Son to die for the sin of the world? **God is love.** Why will God write His laws on hearts? **God is love.** Why will God unbar the Tree of Life and make it available to all mankind? **God is love.** Why will God save all mankind? **God is love.** Why will God reconcile all things to Himself, whether things on earth or things in heaven? **God is love.** Why is God shaking so many things today? **God is love!**

This list could go on indefinitely, but I think you get the point.

No matter what you are going through today or will go through in the days ahead, you can be assured that behind it all is **God is love.** I realize that at times our soul does not feel like God loves us, but do not be persuaded away from **God is love.** Abide in the Father’s love. I believe if Jesus stood in our midst today, just as He did with His disciples, He would say: **“Just as the Father loves Me, I also love you; abide in My love; abide in My Father’s love”** (John 15:9 modified).