

The QBC Daily Nugget March 5, 2010

“The Rules of the Lord are true and righteous. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold” (Psalm 19:9b-10a)

JOHN 13:1 – Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: HE STILL LOVES US. There are times we read the scriptures and think we've got it down. We read a passage and assume a pretty good grasp of understanding is ours. Then, one day, a familiar passage just might be “exposed” by the Spirit in ways that make our spiritual eyes pop open and we may say, “I never saw it like that before!” Today's reference might be one of those moments. For instance, read it and when we come to the end of the verse where John writes, “He loved them to the end”, what comes to mind by way of defining “to the end.” My initial interpretation was, “Jesus loved them to the end of His life on earth. The cross and the display of love must be the meaning of “to the end.” That would be true but not complete. The proper interpretation is that “He loved His own to the fullest possible extent.” Allow the 18th century preacher/theologian, John Gill, wonderfully expound this truth – “Having done all this, “He loved them to the end” and which He showed by dying for them; and continues to show by interceding for them in heaven, by supplying them with all grace, and by preserving them from a final and total falling away; and He will at last introduce them into His kingdom and glory, when they shall be forever with Him; and so that love to them continues not only to the end of His own life, nor barely to the end of theirs, but to the end of the world, and forever.” How beautiful is that? And especially when we know how little we love Him in return and how often, as sheep, we find ourselves wandering away from Good Shepherd?

I came across a brief paragraph by an unknown author which really drives home the truth of the depth of Jesus' love for us. The paragraph was titled, “I am a Wayward Foolish Child” and flows from the title like this, “But God loves me! I have disobeyed and grieved Him ten thousand times. But He loves me! All this time, while I was caring for nobody but myself and fancying He must almost hate me, He was loving and pitying me. I knelt down to pray, and all my wasted, childish wicked life came and stared me in the face. I looked at it and said with tears of joy, ‘But He loves me!’ Never in my life did I feel so rested, so quieted, so sorrowful and yet so satisfied.”

There is a pretty good portion of scripture which goes hand in hand with the above paragraph. It's found in the conclusion of the eighth chapter of the Apostle Paul's letter to the Romans, “No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (**ROMANS 8:37-39**). Spend a little time meditating and then making a list of all the things that will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. The meditation time should be long and take some time. The list of what separates us from our Lord's love takes no time to think about or construct – nothing, absolutely nothing, not even ourselves, can cause His love to cease or leave us. Samuel Rutherford once said, “Acquaint yourself with Christ's love, and ye shall not miss to find new gold mines and treasures in Christ.”

Jesus, as our unchanging God – “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (**HEBREWS 13:8**), can be trusted to continue an unchangeable love for us despite the ebbs and flows of our walk with Him. And when those ebbs come, and they will come, cling to the truth, that, yes, He still does love us.

PRAYER: “Lord, help me to see more and more of Your unchanging love in my life.”

QUOTE: SAMUEL RUTHERFORD, “His love hath neither brim nor bottom.”