

LOVE

Morgan County Correctional Complex, July 21, 2007

Introduction for Scott Metcalf

Good Morning.

Today Mr. Metcalf is going to speak to us about love.

In the King James translation there are 310 occurrences of the English word "love," another 98 in the past tense, and numerous more variations ... loveth, loving, lovingkindness. The Bible has much to say about the subject of "love," as it should.

Love is the central theme of Scripture and the identifying mark of God's family.

"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is begotten of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."
[1 John 4:7-8 ASV]

Indeed, God is love. And His love is made manifest to us in His instruction.

"By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For **this is the love of God**, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." [1 John 5:2-3]

And again in Romans:

"Owe no man anything, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law." [Romans 13:8-10]

God's law *is* love. Yet sometimes we don't accept the kind direction of Providence. We attempt to take matters into our own hands, or we simply are misled about God's revelation. At these times, we must learn from another form of God's love.

"My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction: For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth."
[Proverbs 3:11-12]

Hebrews tells us:

“for those whom the Lord loves He disciplines: and He scourges every son whom He acknowledges. The sufferings that you are enduring are for your discipline. God is dealing with you as sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?”
[Hebrews 12:6-7, Weymouth]

We are instructed to love our brothers, love our neighbors, and to love our enemies. Often times we do not do the first two, much less the third. But this is what is required of us if we are to overcome this present evil world.

The mark is set and the reward is Great. Christ tells us,

“To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life,” [Revelation 2:7]

“He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.” [v. 2:11]

“He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment;” [3:5]

“Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God,” [3:12]

“And he that overcometh, and **keepeth my works unto the end**, to him will I give power over the nations:” [v. 2:26]

“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.” [3:21]

“He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.”
[21:17]

The love of our Father is great. The reward is exceptional, and the price is high. Do we really consider what Christ accomplished when He “overcame?” Do we understand the depth of love a Father must have to sacrifice his only Son? Are we ready to express that kind of love toward **all men**? Friends, brothers, neighbors, *and* enemies ...

“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:” [1 Peter 2:21-23]

As we listen to Scottie today, let’s remember what is required of us. The depth of love we are called into. Please open your Bibles to the book of Matthew, chapter 5, starting at verse 38. When you’ve found your place, please stand for the reading of God’s Word. [Read Matthew 5:38-48]