

SERIES: I JOHN: HOW TO KNOW YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE, WEEK 15

TITLE: THE ACTION OF LOVE

TEXT: I JOHN 3:16-18

INTRODUCTION: (1) THE WORD LOVE IS ONE OF THE MOST MISUNDERSTOOD WORDS IN OUR WORLD TODAY.

* IN FACT, IF YOU ASK PEOPLE WHAT IT MEANS TO LOVE, YOU WILL GET MANY ANSWERS.

** AND MOST ANSWERS WILL BE SHALLOW BECAUSE EVEN RELATIONSHIPS IN OUR WORLD HAVE BECOME SHALLOW.

*** THEREFORE THE VERB LOVE HAS ALL KINDS OF DEFINITIONS AND SYNONYMS IN OUR WORLD TODAY.

**** DEFINITIONS AND SYNONYMS LIKE, AFFECTION, WARM FEELINGS, STRONG EMOTIONS, PASSION, THE PHYSICAL ASPECT OF MARRIAGE, ROMANCE AND TENDER AFFECTION FOR ANOTHER PERSON.

(2) NOW IN CONTRAST, AS WE GO TO THE BIBLE FOR A DEFINITION OF LOVE AND SPECIFICALLY OUR TEXT

TODAY, LOVE IS AN ACTION, IT IS AN ACT OF SELFLESSNESS, IT IS AN ACT OF SACRIFICE.

* LOVE IS A VERB NOT AN ADJECTIVE. LOVE IS NOT KNOWN BY FEELINGS, BUT BY WHAT IT DOES.

** AND THE GREEK WORD FOR LOVE USED ONCE IN EACH OF THE 3 VERSES OF OUR TEXT TODAY IS THE WORD AGAPE OR A FORM OF IT. AND THE WORD AGAPE OCCURS IN ITS VARIOUS FORMS MORE THAN 250 TIMES IN THE N.T.

*** AND AGAPE IS ONE OF THE RAREST WORDS IN ANCIENT GREEK LITERATURE, BUT ONE OF THE MOST COMMON IN THE N.T.

**** AND UNLIKE OUR ENGLISH WORD, IT NEVER REFERS TO ANY KIND OF PHYSICAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN A HUSBAND AND WIFE, FOR WHICH THE GREEK WORD EROS WAS USED AND WHICH DOES NOT APPEAR IN THE N.T.

(3) NOR DOES IT REFER TO FEELINGS OR MERE SENTIMENTS ABOUT SOMEONE OR SOMETHING. IT DOES NOT MEAN CLOSE FRIENDSHIPS OR BROTHERLY LOVE, FOR WHICH THE GREEK WORD PHILEO (FEE-LEH-O).

* NOR DOES AGAPE MEAN CHARITY, A TERM THE KING JAMES TRANSLATORS CARRIED OVER FROM THE LATIN IN

I CORINTHIANS 13 AND WHICH IN ENGLISH HAS LONG BEEN ASSOCIATED ONLY WITH GIVING TO THE NEEDY.

** NO, THE WORD AGAPE MEANS SACRIFICE AND THE PERFECT EXAMPLE, THE SUPREME EXAMPLE AND MEASURE OF AGAPE LOVE IS GOD'S LOVE.

*** THEREFORE A SYNONYM FOR GOD'S LOVE IS SACRIFICE AND THE GREATEST DISPLAY OF HIS LOVE IS THE CROSS.

**** HENCE LOVE IS NOT A FEELING, AN EMOTION, AN ATTRACTION OR WARM FUZZIES.

(4) BIBLICALLY AND IN OUR TEXT TODAY IT IS A DETERMINED ACT OF THE WILL WHICH RESULTS IN DETERMINED ACTS OF SELF GIVING.

* LOVE IS THE SACRIFICE AND ACTION OF PUTTING THE WELFARE OF OTHERS ABOVE OUR OWN.

** IT IS AN ACTION OF CHOICE THAT WE ARE COMMANDED TO EXERCISE EVEN IN BEHALF OF OUR ENEMIES AS WE ARE TOLD TO LOVE OUR ENEMIES IN MATTHEW 5:44. SO IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH FEELINGS OR GOOD VIBES, BUT AN ACTION OF THE WILL.

*** SO BIBLICAL LOVE IS SELFLESS, IT IS SELF-SACRIFICIAL, IT IS A CHOICE, IT IS A VERB, IT IS AN ACTION.

**** AND IN OUR TEXT TODAY, THE LOVE OF CHRIST IN LAYING DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS PEOPLE IS THE EXAMPLE OF LOVE.

(5) AND FOR US THAT TRULY KNOW CHRIST OUR LOVE IS MANIFEST BY THE ACTION OF SACRIFICE, NOT WORDS OR PHRASES, BUT DEEDS OR ACTIONS, QUOTE I JOHN 3:18.

* SO WE SEE LOVE BY ACTIONS.

** THEREFORE I'VE TITLED MY SERMON TODAY, "THE ACTION OF LOVE."

** AND UNDER THAT TITLE WE'LL LOOK AT 3 POINTS. NO. 1 THE EXAMPLE OF LOVE, V. 16A SPEAKING OF JESUS CHRIST; NO. 2 THE EXPLANATION OF LOVE, VV. 16B&17; AND NO. 3 THE EXPRESSION OF LOVE, V. 18.

*** SO WE'LL LOOK AT THE EXAMPLE, THE EXPLANATION AND THE EXPRESSION UNDER THE THEME OF THE ACTION OF LOVE.

**** AND WITH THOSE POINTS AS OUR MAP TO FOLLOW, LOOK AT V. 16 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR FIRST POINT TODAY, THE EXAMPLE.

I. THE EXAMPLE, (READ V. 16A)

A. NOW CHRISTIANS KNOW WHAT TRUE LOVE IS ALL ABOUT BECAUSE JESUS LAID DOWN HIS LIFE FOR US.

* AND THE PRONOUNS “WE” AND “US” ARE TALKING ABOUT JOHN AND BELIEVERS HE IS WRITING TO IN CHURCHES IN ASIA MINOR.

** SO TRUE BELIEVERS KNOW, HAVE COME TO KNOW BY EXPERIENCING IT, FOR THE WORD “KNOW” HERE SPEAKS OF KNOWLEDGE GAINED BY EXPERIENCE.

*** TRUE BELIEVERS KNOW THE LOVE OF GOD BECAUSE GOD HAS SAVED THEM, THEY HAVE BECOME THE RECIPIENTS OF GOD’S SALVATION BY GRACE.

**** THEREFORE WE (BELIEVERS) KNOW WHAT LOVE IS BECAUSE, BECAUSE JESUS LAID DOWN HIS LIFE FOR US, HE DIED FOR HIS PEOPLE, HIS SHEEP, HIS CHURCH, HIS ELECT.

1. AND BELOVED, JESUS HERE IS THE GREAT EXAMPLE OF WHAT IT MEANS TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

* FOR THE ESSENCE OF LOVE IS SELF-SACRIFICE WHICH HAS BEEN PERFECTLY MANIFESTED IN JESUS CHRIST. JESUS IS THE MODEL AND EXAMPLE OF WHAT IT MEANS

TO LOVE, WHEREAS CAIN IS THE EXAMPLE OF HATE GOING BACK TO V. 12 IN THIS CONTEXT.

** AND HERE WE HAVE ANOTHER CONTRAST IN I JOHN 3. CAIN WHOM IS THE EXAMPLE OF HATE AND SELFISHNESS AND JESUS WHOM IS THE MODEL OF LOVE WHICH IS SACRIFICE.

*** BELIEVER, WE KNOW LOVE FOR HE (JESUS) LAID DOWN HIS LIFE FOR US!!

**** AND NOTICE THE ACTION OF LOVE IN WHAT CHRIST DID.

2. HE LAID ASIDE HIS PRIVILEGES, HE LAID ASIDE THE JOY OF HEAVEN, HE ENDURED THE CROSS AND BORE THE JUDGMENT OF HIS HOLY FATHER FOR THE SINS OF PEOPLE HE WOULD SAVE. JESUS DIVESTED HIMSELF OF THE GLORY HE HAD WITH THE FATHER BEFORE THE WORLD WAS.

* AND IN ESSENCE JOHN IS SAYING, IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT LOVE IS, THEN LET ME TAKE YOU TO THE CROSS AND THERE YOU WILL SEE LOVE IN ALL ITS BRILLIANCE AND GLORY.

** AT THE CROSS WE SEE ABOUNDING LOVE, WE SEE LOVE THAT IS LAVISHED UPON SINNERS, REBELS, THE BEST FOR THE WORST.

*** THE CROSS WAS THE GREATEST DISPLAY OF LOVE EVER SHOWN TO MANKIND. AND I WANT TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION THAT MANY (NOT ALL) BUT MANY OF THE VERSES IN THE N.T. THAT SPEAK OF GOD'S LOVE ALSO MAKE REFERENCE TO CHRIST'S DEATH AND SACRIFICE LEADING US TO THE CROSS.

**** LET ME ILLUSTRATE: QUOTE JOHN 3:16, GALATIANS 2:20, ROMANS 5:8, I JOHN 4:10, EPHESIANS 5:2, EPHESIANS 5:25, JOHN 10:11.

3. NOW WHAT DO WE SEE CLEARLY FROM ALL THESE VERSES?

* THE ACTION OF LOVE. LOVE IS A VERB. LOVE IS SACRIFICE, AND IN EACH OF THESE VERSES WE ARE LED ULTIMATELY TO THE CROSS WHICH IS MADE THE PRIMARY MEASURE OF GOD'S LOVE AS WELL AS THE MEANS BY WHICH WE BECOME AWARE OF IT.

** SO, WE THAT ARE THE LORD'S KNOW WHAT TRUE LOVE IS BECAUSE JESUS DISPLAYED IT IN LAYING DOWN HIS LIFE FOR US. SO HE IS THE EXAMPLE IN V. 16A.

*** BUT BEGINNING IN V. 16B WE MOVE TO THE EXPLANATION OF WHAT TRULY LOVING ONE ANOTHER IS FOR US. AND THAT EXPLANATION FLOWS FROM THE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST. LOOK BACK AT V. 16 PLEASE.

II. THE EXPLANATION, (READ V. 16)

A. NOW WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER? HOW DOES LOVING ONE ANOTHER TAKE FORM, HOW IS IT MANIFEST? HOW DOES IT BECOME REAL? HOW DOES IT TAKE ON FLESH?

* WELL, IT GOES BACK TO ACTION, IT GOES BACK TO SACRIFICE, IT GOES BACK TO PUTTING TRUE BRETHREN BEFORE OURSELVES, IT GOES BACK TO SELFLESSNESS.

** FOR THE ILLUSTRATION JOHN USES IS, "WE OUGHT TO LAY DOWN OUR LIVES FOR THE BRETHREN."

*** AND THAT IS REAL AND GREAT LOVE, FOR JESUS SAID IN JOHN 15:13 (QUOTE IT). ALSO QUOTE ROMANS 5:6-9.

**** NOW THIS IS A REOCCURRING THEME. REAL BIBLICAL LOVE IS SACRIFICIAL, IT IS LIKE CHRIST'S, IT IS AN ACTION. AND THE SACRIFICE THAT IS TALKED ABOUT HERE IS A WILLINGNESS TO LAY DOWN OUR LIVES FOR THE BRETHREN AS CHRIST LAID DOWN HIS LIFE FOR US.

1. AND IF THAT KIND OF SACRIFICE IS NECESSARY, WE SHOULD BE WILLING TO MAKE IT. BUT THE REALITY OF THE MATTER IS, MOST OF US WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO DIE FOR ONE OF OUR BROTHERS OR SISTERS, BUT THE QUESTION IS ARE YOU WILLING AND WILL IT BE MADE BY LIVING FOR THEM, SACRIFICING FOR THEM?

* LOVE THEN IS THE DENIAL OF SELF FOR ANOTHER'S GAIN. IT IS DOING WHAT JESUS HIMSELF WOULD DO. I MEAN IF WE ARE NOT WILLING TO LIVE SACRIFICIALLY FOR THE BRETHREN, WE CERTAINLY WILL NOT DIE FOR THE BRETHREN.

** AND AS HUSBANDS WE ARE TO BE WILLING TO GIVE OUR LIVES FOR OUR WIVES ACCORDING TO EPHESIANS 5:25.

*** BUT NORMALLY WE DO NOT HAVE TO DO THAT, BUT WE MUST BE WILLING AND ULTIMATELY LIVE IN A SACRIFICIAL WAY.

**** AND THAT WE OUGHT TO LAY DOWN OUR LIVES FOR THE BRETHREN MEANS WE NEED TO BE SACRIFICIAL FOR THEM, WILLING TO LAY DOWN OUR LIVES, THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE, BUT EVEN MORE PRACTICALLY, BY ACTION, LOVE THEM BY MEETING NEEDS.

2. AND THAT LAYING DOWN OUR LIVES FOR THE BRETHREN REFERS TO SOMETHING FAR MORE EXTENSIVE THAN SACRIFICIAL DEATH FOR A FELLOW BELIEVER IS COMMUNICATED FROM THE STATEMENT THAT FOLLOWS ABOUT HAVING GOODS THAT SOMEONE NEEDS. FOR LOOK AT V. 17 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 17. NOW HERE IN V. 17 JOHN TEACHES US THAT CHRISTIAN LOVE IS EVIDENT IN THE ACTION OF CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER.

* AND HOW CAN WE KNOW WHETHER WE WOULD BE WILLING TO SACRIFICE OUR LIVES FOR A BROTHER OR SISTER IN CHRIST?

** WE CAN KNOW BY BEING COMPASSIONATE TOWARD THEM IN THEIR PRESENT NEED. AND IF WE ARE UNWILLING TO SACRIFICE MATERIAL ADVANTAGES FOR THE SAKE OF THE BRETHREN, WE KNOW THE LOVE OF GOD IS NOT IN US AND OBVIOUSLY WE WOULD NOT BE WILLING TO DIE FOR THEM.

*** FOR YOU SEE IF WE ARE NOT WILLING TO LIVE AND HELP SOMEONE, IT'S CLEAR WE WOULD NOT DIE FOR THEM.

**** BELOVED, WE ALWAYS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DIE TO SELF!

1. AND HERE IS THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF LOVING ONE ANOTHER. A PERSON MAY CLAIM TO BE FILLED WITH GOD'S LOVE AND TO BE SO MOTIVATED THAT HE WOULD GLADLY GIVE HIS LIFE FOR OTHERS, BUT IF WE WILL NOT MEET A NEED AND WE HAVE THE WHEREWITHAL TO MEET IT, WE DO NOT LOVE THE BRETHREN. WE ARE INVOLVED IN SENTIMENTALITY, EMOTION, NOT ACTION.

* JOHN WRITES, IF WE HAVE THIS WORLD'S GOOD, MEANING IF WE HAVE MATERIAL POSSESSIONS, IF WE HAVE THE MEANS OF LIFE, THE MEANS OF LIVELIHOOD, AND GOD BRINGS A BROTHER OR SISTER ACROSS OUR PATH, THAT WE HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF A TRUE NEED, NOT A WANT, BUT WE KNOW THEY HAVE A NEED LIKE FOR FOOD, CLOTHING OR A PLACE TO STAY, AND WE DON'T MEET IT, WE HAVE CLOSED OUR HEART TO THEM, AND THE QUESTION CAN BE ASKED, HOW DOES THE LOVE OF GOD ABIDE IN HIM?

** AND THE ANSWER IS, IT DOESN'T.

*** LOVE IS SACRIFICE, IT IS MEETING A TRUE NEED, IT IS GIVING, IT IS AN ACTION. AND IF WE TAKE NO ACTION WHEN WE CAN, WE MUST ASK OURSELVES, DOES THE LOVE OF GOD ABIDE IN US? HAVE WE BEEN CONVERTED? DO WE TRULY LOVE CHRIST?

**** FOR YOU SEE THE ANTITHESIS OF LOVE IS SELFISHNESS. IT IS ME FIRST.

2. BUT IF WE CAN MEET A GENUINE NEED AND DON'T, WE ARE CLOSING OUR HEART AND THAT LIT. MEANS SHUTTING UP, TO SHUT UP AND THE PICTURE IT COMMUNICATES IS SLAMMING THE DOOR ON THEM AND BOLTING THE LOCK. WE ARE SLAMMING THE DOOR IN THEIR FACE.

* AND IF YOU SLAM THE DOOR IN THEIR FACE, YOU SHOW THAT YOU DON'T HAVE THE LOVE OF GOD IN YOU, FOR LOVE IS AN ACTION AND MEETS NEEDS. LOVE WORKS, FAITH WORKS.

** AND THIS IS ILLUSTRATED CLEARLY BY WHAT JAMES SAYS IN JAMES 2:15-17, WHERE IT SAYS:

V. 15 – “IF A BROTHER OR SISTER IS WITHOUT CLOTHING AND IN NEED OF DAILY FOOD,

V. 16 – AND ONE OF YOU SAYS TO THEM, “GO IN PEACE, BE WARMED AND BE FILLED,” AND YET YOU DO NOT GIVE

THEM WHAT IS NECESSARY FOR THEIR BODY, WHAT USE IS THAT?

V. 17 – EVEN SO FAITH, IF IT HAS NO WORKS, IS DEAD, BEING BY ITSELF.”

*** NOW FAITH WITHOUT ACTION IS DEAD AS LOVE WITHOUT ACTION IS DEAD OR NON-EXISTENT. PRAYING FOR THEM IS NOT ENOUGH, IF I HAVE THE MEANS, I MUST GIVE IT.

**** AND UNDERSTAND THIS: IF I AM GOING TO HELP MY BROTHER OR SISTER, I MUST HAVE THE MEANS NECESSARY, WHICH MOST OF US DO, I’M TALKING ABOUT A TRUE NEED AND, I MUST KNOW THE NEED EXISTS, AND THEN WE MEET IT, WE GIVE WHAT IS NECESSARY AS JAMES SAID.

*** AND I’M NOT BEING UNKIND HERE, IT MUST BE A NEED, NOT A WANT OR ENABLING A PERSON TO DRINK, TAKE DRUGS OR SMOKE.

**** THIS IS A BROTHER OR SISTER THAT HAS TRUE NEED OF THE BASIC NECESSITIES OF LIFE, FOOD, CLOTHING AND SHELTER. AND OUR HEARTS SHOULD BE SOFT AND SENSITIVE TO THOSE KINDS OF PEOPLE, FOR WE COULD BE THEM TOMORROW, AND THEY ARE FAMILY AND WE WANT TO MEET OUR FAMILY’S NEEDS IF WE KNOW ABOUT IT.

3. AND IF WE ARE GOING TO ERR, IT WOULD BE BEST TO ERR ON THE SIDE OF GIVING, NOT STINGINESS OR SELFISHNESS, OR HARD HEARTEDNESS, BUT CERTAINLY WE NEED DISCERNMENT.

* WITH THAT SAID, WHAT IS THE EXPLANATION OF LOVE? IT IS REVEALED IN A WILLINGNESS TO DIE AND LIVE FOR THE BRETHREN, IT IS SACRIFICE, IT IS SELFLESSNESS AND IT CERTAINLY IS NOT TALK ALONE, FOR LOOK AT V. 18 WHERE WE'LL SEE HOW LOVE REALLY EXPRESSES ITSELF, THE EXPRESSION OF LOVE AND THAT EXPRESSION IS NOT TALK. LOOK AT V. 18 PLEASE.

III. THE EXPRESSION, (READ V. 18)

A. NOW I'VE COMMUNICATED BEFORE, JOHN IS RELENTLESS AND REPETITIOUS IN SAYING THE SAME THING OVER AND OVER IN DIFFERENT, FRESH WAYS. AND HE WILL DO THAT HERE IN A SUMMARY STATEMENT OF THE PARAGRAPH OF LOVING ONE ANOTHER AS A FRUIT OF SALVATION, TO KNOW THAT WE HAVE BEEN SAVED, NOT IN WORKING TO BE SAVED.

* AND IN V. 18, JOHN BEGINS WITH THAT TENDER EXPRESSION HE USES IN I JOHN, "LITTLE CHILDREN". HE

SPEAKS IN A LOVING YET DIRECT WAY AS A LOVING FATHER TO HIS LITTLE CHILDREN, WE HAVE THE TONE OF A SPIRITUAL FATHER HERE.

** AND IN THAT TONE JOHN SAYS, TALK IS CHEAP. LOVE IS SHOWN BY ACTION, TALK, USING OUR TONGUES AND SAYING WE LOVE IS PROVEN TO BE A LIE AND NOT THE TRUTH IF OUR DEEDS DON'T BACK IT UP.

*** BUT LOVE AND THE TRUTH WE LOVE IS SHOWN BY DEEDS, THINGS DONE, ACTIONS.

*** AND AS A. T. ROBERTSON SAYS IN HIS WORD STUDIES OF THE N.T. AND I QUOTE HERE: "WHAT JOHN MEANS IS, NOT MERELY BY WORD OR TONGUE. HE (JOHN) DOES NOT CONDEMN KIND WORDS WHICH ARE COMFORTING AND CHEERING, BUT WARM WORDS SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY WARM DEEDS TO MAKE REAL 'IN DEED AND IN TRUTH.'"

1. SO THE WORDS "I LOVE YOU" ARE NOT WRONG, BUT MUST BE TRANSLATED INTO ACTIONS OF SACRIFICE. WORDS OF LOVE THAT ARE NEVER TRANSLATED INTO ACTION ARE WORTHLESS.

* AND IF OUR LOVE IS TO BE GENUINE IN TRUTH, IT WILL INEVITABLY BE POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE WITH ACTIONS.

** AND BEFORE I COME TO MY WRAP UP TODAY, LET ME SUMMARIZE THE CONTRASTS BETWEEN HATRED AND LOVE FROM I JOHN 3:11-18.

***HATRED CHARACTERIZES THE WORLD, WHOSE PROTOTYPE OR EXAMPLE IS CAIN. HATRED ORIGINATES IN THE DEVIL, ISSUES IN MURDER AND HATRED AND IS AN EVIDENCE OF SPIRITUAL DEATH AND BEING A CHILD OF THE DEVIL.

**** BUT LOVE CHARACTERIZES THE CHURCH, WHOSE PROTOTYPE OR EXAMPLE IS CHRIST. IT ISSUES IN SELF-SACRIFICE AND IS AN EVIDENCE OF BEING A CHILD OF GOD.

AND WITH THAT BEFORE US, IN WRAP UP, (1) THIS IS A VERY PRACTICAL SECTION OF SCRIPTURE. FOR OUR LORD DOES NOT ASK US TO MANUFACTURE LOVE, RATHER, HE TELLS US THAT WE WILL ONLY LOVE AS WE SHOULD, WHEN WE KNOW HOW WE HAVE BEEN LOVED FROM ALL ETERNITY AS HIS CHOSEN ONES.

* AND WHEN THE WONDER OF LOVE THAT GAVE UP HEAVEN'S GLORY FOR REBELLIOUS, HELL-DESERVING SINNERS BREAKS INTO OUR HEARTS AND MINDS, THEN TRUE LOVE FOR GOD AND HIS PEOPLE WILL GROW IN US, FOR WHY DO WE LOVE HIM? I JOHN 4:19 (QUOTE IT).

** AND BELIEVER, ULTIMATELY THE CROSS THAT SHOWS THE LOVE OF GOD IS THE ANSWER TO EVERYTHING, FOR WHEN WE COME BACK TO THE CROSS OF CHRIST, WE REALIZE HOW MUCH GOD HAS LOVED US. WE FIND LOVE AT THE CROSS WHICH WE THEN EXTEND TO OTHERS.

*** AND JOEL BEEKE SAYS IN HIS COMMENTARY ON THE EPISTLES OF JOHN AND I QUOTE: “THAT KIND OF LOVE IS SO IMPORTANT BECAUSE THE DEVIL IS UNCEASING TO KILL LOVE IN OUR LIVES. USUALLY HE DOES IT SLOWLY. WE ARE HURT BY SOMEONE IN THE CHURCH AND WE BEGIN WITHDRAWING FROM THEM. OVER A PERIOD OF TIME, WE GATHER RESENTMENTS TO JUSTIFY OUR ISOLATION. WE ERECT BARRICADES AROUND OURSELVES TO KEEP OTHERS OUT. WE BECOME INSENSITIVE TO PEOPLE AND THEIR NEEDS.”

**** AND THEN BEEKE SAYS: “IF LOVE IS DYING IN YOUR HEART, GO TO THE CROSS OF JESUS CHRIST. PRAY THAT DROPS OF HIS LOVE WOULD RAIN UPON YOUR HEART. ONLY AT THE CROSS WILL WE EXPERIENCE THE LOVE THAT GOD LONGS TO SEE IN THE LIVES OF HIS PEOPLE. AT CALVARY, WE SEE SINLESS LOVE PERSONIFIED IN GOD’S SERVANT LAYING DOWN HIS LIFE TO BRING THE BLESSING OF GOD TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD.”

(2) “CHRISTIAN LOVE DOES NOT WAIT FOR OTHERS TO DO SOMETHING FOR US AND TO US, BUT REACHES OUT TO

OTHERS IN NEED. CHRISTIAN LOVE OFFERS ITS ALL FOR THE GOOD OF THOSE WE LOVE.” (END QUOTE)

* AND BELOVED, THIS NEEDS TO BE APPLIED IN ALL OF OUR RELATIONSHIPS IN CHRIST, OUR SPOUSES, OUR CHILDREN, OUR PARENTS AND OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

** CHRISTIAN, SINCE JESUS IN HIS LOVE GAVE HIS LIFE FOR US, WHAT IS OUR OBLIGATION TO HIM?

*** FRANCIS HAVERGAL PUT THIS QUESTION IN THE FORM OF A HYMN WHERE JESUS SAID: I GAVE MY LIFE FOR THEE, MY PRECIOUS BLOOD I SHED, THAT THOU MIGHT RANSOMED BE, AND QUICKENED FROM THE DEAD; I GAVE, I GAVE MY LIFE FOR THEE; WHAT HAST THOU GIVEN FOR ME? (REPEAT)

**** BELOVED THE LEAST WE CAN GIVE IS LOVE. DO YOU TRULY KNOW CHRIST? THEN YOU WILL WANT TO AT LEAST GIVE AND LIVE THE ACTION OF LOVING ONE ANOTHER.

(3) QUOTE I JOHN 3:18 AND PRAY.