

INTRODUCTION

- A. VALENTINE'S DAY: OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN**
- B. THE GREATEST OF THESE** (1Cor.13:13)
- C. MADE IN HIS IMAGE** (Gen.1:26f; see 1Jn.4:8,16 & Col.3:10f,14)
- D. GOD'S LOVE & OUR LOVE** (see 1Jn.4:7f)

I. GOD'S LOVE IS SELF-INITIATING (UNCONDITIONAL)

- A. HE LOVED US FIRST** (1Jn.4:10,19; see Jn.17:24; Eph.1:4)
- B. HE LOVED EVEN THE HATEFUL** (Dt.9:4-8,22-24; Rom.5:8; see Ezek.16; Hosea)
- C. CONCLUSION: HE LOVES FREELY** (Hosea 14:4)

II. GOD'S LOVE IS RECIPROCATING (PERPETUAL)

- A. INITIAL RECIPROCATION: OUR LOVE FOR HIM** (1Jn.4:19; Dt.5:10; 6:5; see Lk.7:39)
- B. FURTHER RECIPROCATION: HIS LOVE FOR US** (Dt.7:7,8/9/13; 1Jn.4:10,19/5:1/Jn.14:21f; 16:27; Ps.91:14)
- C. SUBSTANCE OF RECIPROCATING LOVE: HEAR & HEED** (Dt.5:10; 11:1; Jn.14:23; 1Jn.5:2//14,15)

III. GOD'S LOVE IS EXTENDING (MULTIPLE)

- A. THROUGH & BEYOND ORIGINAL OBJECTS TO THEIR CHILDREN** (Dt.4:37; 7:9; 15:16; Eph.1:4f; see Heb.2:13; Jn.15:9f; 17:12)
- B. THROUGH & BEYOND THE ORIGINAL OBJECTS TO THEIR SPIRITUAL BRETHERN** (1Jn.4:10,11; 20,21; Jn.13:34; Heb.13:1)
- C. THROUGH & BEYOND THE ORIGINAL OBJECTS TO THEIR NEIGHBORS** (Lev.19:18,34; Lk.10:27f; Eph.5:2,33; Col.3:14,10ff; 1Cor.13:4-8)
- D. THROUGH & BEYOND THE ORIGINAL OBJECTS EVEN TO THEIR ENEMIES** (Lk.6:27ff(35); see 1Sam.24:17; Prov.25:21f; Rom.12:17f; Ps.109:4,5)

IV. SUMMARY & ILLUSTRATION (Jn.15:9,12; 14:31; Mt.22:37,39; Lk.6:27ff)

V. THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS SERMON TO US

- A. BE COMFORTED: GOD'S LOVE FOR YOU IS INFINITE, ETERNAL & UNCHANGEABLE** (2Th.2:16,13; Jn.6:37; 10:29,17; see Jn.17:24 and Eph.1:4)
- B. BE CHALLENGED: LOVE GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART & YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF** (Mt.22:37,39)
 - 1. reciprocate God's love by doing His revealed will* (Mt.22:37; Ex.20:6; Jn.14:15; 1Jn.4:10,19; 5:2; 2Tm.3:16f)
 - 2. extend God's love by loving your neighbor in deed* (Mt.22:39; Lk.6:27ff; 1Jn.3:18; Mt.25:25f; 1Cor.13:4-8; 2Cor.8:12-14; Col.3:10ff; 1Tim.5:8)
- C. BE CHARGED: BE LOVED IN ORDER TO LOVE**
 - 1. to reciprocate God's love, know His love for you in Christ* (1Jn.4:10,19; Jn.3:16; Rom.8:28f,32)
 - 2. to extend God's love, know His love for you in Christ* (1Jn.4:10,11; Jn.13:34; Lk.6:27ff)