

SERIES: II CORINTHIANS: THE HEART AND
HUMILITY OF A MAN OF GOD, WEEK 53

TITLE: A TRINITARIAN FAREWELL

TEXT: II CORINTHIANS 13:11-14

INTRODUCTION: (1) THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT DOCTRINES OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH.

* THE TRUTH OF THIS DOCTRINE TEACHES THAT GOD ETERNALLY EXISTS AS THREE PERSONS, FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT, AND EACH PERSON IS FULLY GOD AND THERE IS ONE GOD.

** AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, THE WORD TRINITY IS NEVER FOUND IN THE BIBLE, BUT THE GREAT TRUTH OF THE DOCTRINE IS.

*** FOR THE WORD TRINITY **MEANS "TRI-UNITY" OR "THREE-IN-ONENESS" AND IT IS USED TO SUMMARIZE THE TEACHING OF SCRIPTURE THAT GOD IS THREE PERSONS YET ONE GOD.**

**** IN FACT THERE ARE 3 STATEMENTS ACCORDING TO WAYNE GRUDEM IN HIS SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY THAT SUMMARIZE THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY.

(2) NO. 1, GOD IS 3 PERSONS.

* NO. 2, EACH PERSON IS FULLY GOD.

** AND NO. 3, THERE IS ONE GOD.

*** NOW LET ME QUICKLY AMPLIFY WHAT THAT MEANS.

**** NO. 1, THE TRUTH THAT GOD IS 3 PERSONS MEANS THAT THE FATHER IS NOT THE SON, AND THE SON IS NOT THE HOLY SPIRIT; THEY ARE DISTINCT PERSONS. AND THESE DISTINCTIONS ARE SEEN THROUGHOUT SCRIPTURE.

(3) NO. 2, IN ADDITION TO THE FACT THAT ALL 3 PERSONS ARE DISTINCT, THE ABUNDANT TESTIMONY OF SCRIPTURE IS THAT EACH PERSON IS FULLY GOD AS WELL.

* THE GODHEAD CONSISTS OF GOD THE FATHER, GOD THE SON AND GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT. GOD IN 3 PERSONS BLESSED TRINITY.

** AND THEN NO. 3, THE WORD OF GOD IS ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT THERE IS ONE GOD AND ONLY ONE GOD. FROM DEUTERONOMY 6:4 WHICH SAYS: (QUOTE IT) TO I TIMOTHY 2:5, THERE IS ONE GOD. (QUOTE I TIMOTHY 2:5) ALSO QUOTE – JOHN 10:30

*** SO THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD, AND NOTE THAT THE 3 DIFFERENT PERSONS OF THE TRINITY ARE ONE, NOT ONLY IN BEING, BUT ALSO ONE IN PURPOSE AND IN AGREEMENT ON WHAT THEY THINK, THEY ARE ONE IN ESSENCE AND ONE IN ESSENTIAL NATURE. THEY ARE NEVER DIVIDED IN THEIR PURPOSE, THEY ARE NEVER DIVIDED IN THEIR OPINIONS, THERE IS NEVER AN ARGUMENT AMONG THE TRINITY. (THERE IS ONE MIND, ONE WILL, IN ONE GOD, IN 3 PERSONS.)

**** BUT AGAIN, GOD IS ONLY ONE BEING. THERE ARE NOT 3 GODS. THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD. WE ARE MONOTHEISTIC, NOT POLYTHEISTIC.

(4) NOW THIS GREAT TRUTH WHICH SHOWS THE GREATNESS OF GOD, WHICH SHOWS THE TRANSCENDENCE OF GOD, WHICH SHOWS THE GLORY OF GOD, THAT HE IS THEY, IS WHAT I LIKE TO CALL A REVEALED MYSTERY.

* DEUTERONOMY 29:29 SAYS (QUOTE IT)

** NOW THE TRUTH OF THIS GREAT DOCTRINE HAS BEEN REVEALED. SO IT IS NOT CORRECT TO SAY THAT WE CANNOT UNDERSTAND IT.

*** FOR CERTAINLY WE CAN UNDERSTAND AND KNOW THAT GOD IS THREE PERSONS, AND THAT EACH IS FULLY GOD AND THAT THERE IS ONE GOD.

**** HOWEVER, WHAT WE CANNOT UNDERSTAND FULLY IS HOW TO FIT TOGETHER THOSE DISTINCT BIBLICAL TEACHINGS. IT IS MYSTERIOUS HOW THERE CAN BE 3 DISTINCT PERSONS AND EACH PERSON HAVE THE WHOLE BEING OF GOD IN HIMSELF, AND YET GOD IS ONLY ONE UNDIVIDED BEING. THIS IS A MYSTERY.

(5) YET THAT IS GOOD! FOR IT IS HEALTHY FOR **US TO ACKNOWLEDGE OPENLY THAT GOD'S** VERY BEING IS FAR GREATER THAN WE CAN EVER COMPREHEND, WHAT WE CALL THE INCOMPREHENSIBILITY OF GOD.

* FOR PRACTICALLY THIS HUMBLER US BEFORE GOD AND DRAWS US TO WORSHIP AND REVERE HIM.

** HE IS GREAT, HE IS GRAND, HE IS IMPRESSIVE, HE IS LARGE, HE IS BIG, HE IS GRANDIOSE IN WHO HE IS! HE IS MAGNIFICENT, HE IS UNLIKE US. HE IS ALL POWERFUL, ALL MIGHTY, ALL KNOWING, ALL PRESENT, HE IS ABOVE ALL AND OVER ALL, SO BOW BEFORE HIM IN YOUR HEART TODAY.

*** THE INCOMPREHENSIBLE GLORY OF GOD RAISES OUR HEARTS TO WORSHIP THE ONE THAT IS ONE GOD WHO IS 3 PERSONS.

**** NOW THE GREAT TRUTH OF THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY IS COMMUNICATED IN THE LAST VERSE OF OUR STUDY TODAY, THE LAST VERSE OF II CORINTHIANS, WHICH OBVIOUSLY IS NO ACCIDENT IN INSPIRATION.

(6) FOR WE WILL SEE A TRINITARIAN STATEMENT MADE BY PAUL. FOR IN HIS LAST WORDS TO THE CORINTHIANS HE GIVES THEM A TRINITARIAN BENEDICTION, A TRINITARIAN BLESSING TO CLOSE OUT HIS INSPIRED WORDS TO THE CORINTHIANS IN HOPES THAT THERE **WON'T BE A CORINTHIAN CATASTROPHE AS HE** WILL SHORTLY VISIT THEM FOR A THIRD TIME.

* AND PAUL SAYS, QUOTE II CORINTHIANS 13:14.

**** NOW IN LIGHT OF PAUL'S FINAL WORDS, PAUL'S FAREWELL IN V. 14, I'VE TITLED OUR STUDY FOR TODAY, "A TRINITARIAN FAREWELL."**

***** AND WE'LL LOOK AT MORE THAN THE TRUTH** OF THE TRINITY IN OUR MESSAGE FOR TODAY, BUT WILL CONCLUDE AND APPLY IT IN OUR WRAP-UP.

****** AND WITH THAT SAID, WE'LL LOOK AT 3** POINTS AS WE WORK OUR WAY THROUGH II CORINTHIANS 13:11-14

(7) NO. 1 THE BIDDING, A WORD THAT CAN BE DEFINED AS A COMMAND, AND PAUL WILL GIVE 5 IN V. 11; NO. 2 THE BROTHERLY LOVE, VV. 12&13; AND NO. 3 THE BENEDICTION, A TRINITARIAN BLESSING, V. 14.

* AND WITH THOSE 3 POINTS AS OUR MAP AND **GUIDE, LOOK AT V. 11 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL** START WITH OUR FIRST POINT, THE BIDDING, THE COMMANDS.

I. THE BIDDING, (READ V. 11)

A. NOW THE FIRST WORD IN V. 11, FINALLY, **SERVES TO INTRODUCE PAUL'S FAREWELL** REMARKS, HIS FINAL WORDS TO HIS BELOVED BRETHREN AT CORINTH, ONES THAT HE LOVED DEARLY AND IN THAT LOVE WILL GIVE 5 ADMONITIONS, 5 COMMANDS, 5 ENCOURAGEMENTS.

* AND THESE ARE COMMANDS FOR EACH VERB IS IN THE IMPERATIVE MOOD IN THE GREEK.

** AND THE FIRST COMMAND OR IMPERATIVE IS REJOICE, TRANSLATED THAT WAY IN THE NAU AND THE ESV, GOOD-BYE IN THE NIV AND FAREWELL IN THE NKJV AND KJV.

*** NOW THE QUESTION IS, WHAT IS THE BEST TRANSLATION HERE?

**** WELL, THE GREEK VERB USED HERE LIT. MEANS REJOICE, BE GLAD, TO REJOICE EXCEEDINGLY, TO BE WELL, TO THRIVE.

1. SO REJOICE IS PROBABLY THE BEST TRANSLATION AND THE WORDS GOOD-BYE OR FAREWELL ARE USED IN SOME TRANSLATIONS SINCE THE WORD WAS ALSO USED IN THAT DAY AS A GREETING OR A FAREWELL.

* AND IN THAT SENSE, IT IS SIMILAR TO THE JEWISH GREETING SHALOM, WHICH LIT. MEANS PEACE BUT IS ALSO USED FOR GOOD-BYE AND HELLO, COMING AND GOING.

*** WELL, LIKEWISE, REJOICE AS A GREETING AND GOOD-BYE WAS PROPER, FITTING AND APPROPRIATE BECAUSE JOY IS ESSENTIAL IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.

**** I MEAN TRUE CHRISTIANS SHOULD BE CHARACTERIZED BY JOY, A FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IN GALATIANS 5:22.

1. AND PAUL USED IT AS A COMMAND TO OTHER CHURCHES LIKE PHILIPPI AND THESSALONICA. FOR IN PHILIPPIANS 4:4 PAUL SAID: (QUOTE IT). ALSO QUOTE I THESSALONIANS 5:16 – A COMMAND ALSO.

* AND THEN JESUS SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES IN JOHN 15:11 (QUOTE IT).

** AND THEN JOHN SAID IN I JOHN 1:4 (QUOTE IT).

*** NOW WHY WOULD PAUL GIVE THIS ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE CORINTHIANS?

**** WELL, PAUL WAS HARD ON THE CORINTHIANS AT TIMES, HIS MEDICINE FROM THE LORD WOULD NOT TASTE GOOD INITIALLY AS THEY TOOK IT, BUT IT WOULD PROVIDE SPIRITUAL HEALTH AND HEALING IF TAKEN.

2. SO IN THE MIDST OF TIMES OF DOWNNESS, DISCOURAGEMENT AND HARDSHIP, THE CORINTHIANS COULD LIVE ABOVE THE **CIRCUMSTANCES AND BE OBEDIENT TO PAUL'S** ADMONITIONS AND EXPERIENCE GREAT JOY.

* FOR PLEASE UNDERSTAND THIS IN APPLICATION AND PRACTICALLY: JOY WHICH AGAIN IS A FRUIT OF WALKING IN THE SPIRIT, FLOWS FROM THE UNSHAKABLE CONFIDENCE IN **GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY, A CONFIDENCE ROOTED IN GOD'S WORK THAT HE CAUSES ALL THINGS TO** WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD TO THOSE CALLED BY HIM WHOM LOVE HIM.

** SO CHRISTIAN JOY IS NOT A SUPERFICIAL, GIDDY RESPONSE WHERE CIRCUMSTANCES GO **OUR WAY, IT IS CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S CONTROL** IN SICKNESS, WITH MONEY PROBLEMS, IN BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS AND MANY OTHER DISAPPOINTMENTS OF LIFE.

*** IT IS AN INNER TRUST THAT GOD IS IN CONTROL AND ON THE THRONE EVEN THOUGH MY HEART IS BREAKING.

**** SO WHAT A GOOD ADMONITION AND **COMMAND TO BEGIN WITH IN PAUL'S FINAL** WORDS.

3. NOW NO. 2, THE 2'D IMPERATIVE IS, "BE MADE COMPLETE" OR AIM FOR RESTORATION, OR AIM FOR PERFECTION OR BE PERFECT DEPENDING ON WHICH TRANSLATION YOU HAVE.

* AND THE IDEA THAT SUMMARIZES THIS ADMONITION IS TO PUT THINGS IN ORDER, OF MAKING ADJUSTMENTS, ADJUSTING THINGS THAT ARE OUT OF ADJUSTMENT.

** AND THIS WORD IS USED IN MATTHEW 4:21 TO SPEAK OF FISHERMEN MENDING THEIR NETS.

*** THEREFORE PAUL IS ADMONISHING HIS BROTHERS AND SISTERS AT CORINTH TO MEND THEIR WAYS, TO RESTORE HARMONY AMONG THEMSELVES, TO STRAIGHTEN THEMSELVES OUT, AND THIS IS NOT OPTIONAL, THIS AGAIN IS A COMMAND.

**** AND THE CHURCH AT CORINTH NEEDED TO GET THEIR ACT IN ORDER. AND THAT WOULD MEAN TO REJECT THE FALSE APOSTLES AND LISTEN TO PAUL WHICH MEANT TO ALIGN THEMSELVES WITH THE TRUTH, WITH THE WORD OF GOD PAUL GAVE THEM.

4. MOVING ON, COMMAND NO. 3 IS BE COMFORTED OR BETTER TRANSLATED IN THE **NIV, "LISTEN TO MY APPEAL."**

* FOR THIS GREEK VERB IS LIT. SUBMIT AND CAN REFER IN OTHER USES TO SPEAKING AUTHORITATIVELY, AND CAN BE TRANSLATED ADMONISHED OR EXHORTED, TO EVEN BEG OR BESEECH.

**** AND PAUL'S POINT WAS SUBMISSION TO HIS APOSTOLIC BIBLICAL AUTHORITY WAS ESSENTIAL IF THE CORINTHIANS WERE TO GET THEIR HEARTS RIGHT AND THE CHURCH IN ORDER.**

***** SO PAUL IS SAYING, LISTEN TO MY APPEAL, DON'T PLAY GAMES, SUBMIT! PAUL WAS ADMONISHING HIS BELOVED BRETHERN TO OBEY, TO LIVE IN OBEDIENCE AND SUBMISSION TO THE WORD OF GOD.**

**** MOVING ON THE 4TH **COMMAND IS "BE LIKEMINDED," BE OF ONE MIND.**

5. AND THIS VERB LIT. MEANS, STRIVE TO HAVE THE SAME CONVICTIONS AND BELIEFS OR THINK THE SAME THINGS. AND IN ESSENCE PAUL CALLED THEM TO HAVE A COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF AND CONFORMITY TO THE **TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD, SPECIFICALLY IN WHAT HE TAUGHT THEM.**

* BELOVED, THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST DOES NOT ADHERE TO AN ARBITRARY INCONSISTENT HUMAN STANDARD OF BELIEF, BUT TO THE WORD OF THE LIVING GOD. AND DOCTRINE IS NEVER DOWNPLAYED IN THIS PROCESS.

** BUT AS THE REFORMERS OF THE 16TH CENTURY ALLOWED FOR FREEDOM IN INTERPRETING SCRIPTURE, YET THEY NOTED THAT THE CHURCH MAY NEVER WAIVER ON THE CARDINAL, ESSENTIAL, FOUNDATIONAL **DOCTRINES OF GOD'S WORD.**

*** PAUL WAS SAYING THERE MUST BE UNITY IN THE APOSTOLIC TRUTH THAT HE HAS BEEN TEACHING IN THIS LETTER, ESPECIALLY FAITH ALONE WHICH HAD BEEN CORRUPTED BY THE FALSE APOSTLES.

**** AND PLEASE GET THIS WITHOUT THINKING IT IS A COMPROMISING STATEMENT.

6. TO BE OF ONE MIND DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE ALL AGREE ON EVERYTHING, BUT THAT WE AGREE MORE TO DISAGREE OVER MATTERS THAT ARE NOT ESSENTIAL.

* AREAS LIKE PREFERENCES, OPINIONS, EVEN GRAY AREAS OF CHRISTIAN LIBERTY. BUT WE MUST AGREE ON THE FUNDAMENTALS OF THE FAITH, THE CARDINAL DOCTRINES, THE ESSENTIALS OF THE FAITH.

**** AND I DON'T HAVE TIME TO DEVELOP ALL OF THEM TODAY, BUT THAT WOULD BE A GOOD DISCUSSION FOR OUR CLASS TODAY AND WHY.**

**** MOVING ON, THE LAST IMPERATIVE FROM **PAUL, NO. 5 IS "LIVE IN PEACE."**

7. AND CERTAINLY THIS MUST BE WORKED AT AND GOES HAND IN HAND WITH BE OF THE SAME MIND ONE TO ANOTHER.

* FOR UNITY AND PEACE FLOW FROM A COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF AND SUBMISSION TO THE WORD OF GOD.

**** AND WE MUST PURSUE IT ACCORDING TO ROMANS 14:19 WHERE IT SAYS: "SO THEN WE PURSUE THE THINGS WHICH MAKE FOR PEACE AND THE BUILDING UP OF ONE ANOTHER."**

*** THEN ROMANS 12:10, 16 & 18 SAYS: (QUOTE THEM).

**** AND THEN IN EPHESIANS 4:1-3 WE ARE ADMONISHED TO BE DILIGENT TO PRESERVE THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT IN THE BOND OF PEACE, (QUOTE THEM).

***** **AND PURSUING PEACE IN CHRIST'S CHURCH** COMES FROM THE OIL OF HUMILITY VERSUS THE FRICTION OF PRIDE, OF ESTEEMING OTHERS OVER OURSELVES AND OUR OPINIONS, WHICH CAN DIVIDE US QUICKLY.

8. AND PRACTICALLY I CAN SAY TO ALL OF US, **DON'T PUSH** YOUR OPINIONS AND PREFERENCES AND SELFISHLY WHAT YOU WANT. BUT BE OF A LOW MIND AND BE TOLERANT AND GENTLE IN NON-ESSENTIAL MATTERS. AND THIS IS HARD, **BUT LET'S PURSUE IT OUT OF LOVE FOR CHRIST** AND ONE ANOTHER.

* NOW WITH THAT SAID, PAUL GIVES 5 COMMANDS TO THE CORINTHIANS IN HIS CLOSING SECTION OF THE BOOK WHICH SUMMARIZES SOME OF HIS TEACHINGS, ESPECIALLY IN A DIVIDED CHURCH WITH A LOT OF DISAGREEMENT AS WE SEE EVEN GOING BACK TO I CORINTHIANS.

** NOW PAUL ENDS V. 11 WITH A PROMISE IF THE 5 IMPERATIVES ARE SUBMITTED TO.

*** AND THE WONDERFUL PROMISE THAT COMES FROM OBEDIENCE IS THE DIVINE BLESSING AND PRESENCE OF THE GOD OF LOVE AND PEACE.

**** **AND IT'S INTERESTING THAT THIS IS THE ONLY TIME IN SCRIPTURE THAT GOD IS CALLED, "THE GOD OF LOVE."**

9. WE SEE PHRASES THAT TALK ABOUT GOD SHOWING HIS LOVE AND THAT GOD IS LOVE, BUT THIS IS THE ONLY TIME HE IS CALLED THE GOD OF LOVE.

* HOWEVER, THERE ARE SEVERAL TIMES GOD IS CALLED THE GOD OF PEACE.

** AND BELIEVERS NEED TO KNOW THAT THERE CANNOT BE PURE LOVE AND ABIDING PEACE IN THE CHURCH WITHOUT OBEDIENCE TO **GOD'S** COMMANDS.

*** THERE IS CAUSE AND EFFECT. FOR EXAMPLE, TO LIVE IN PEACE RESULTS FROM AN ATTITUDE OF HUMILITY FROM LOVE THAT BRINGS PEACE.

**** AND GOD IS THE SOURCE OF LOVE AND PEACE FOR HIS OBEDIENT CHILDREN AND THEY **HAVE GOD'S SPECIAL PRESENCE IN HIS CHURCH** THAT APPLIES THE TRUTHS PAUL HAS JUST COMMUNICATED AS COMMANDS.

10. AND YES, OUR LORD IS WITH US ALWAYS EVEN TO THE END OF THE WORLD, MATTHEW 28:20, FOR ALL TRUE BELIEVERS.

* NEVERTHELESS, HIS PRESENCE IS SENSED IN A VIABLE WORKING WAY IN HIS CHURCH WHEN HIS PEOPLE ARE WALKING IN OBEDIENCE.

** SO PAUL BEGINS HIS FINAL FAREWELL WITH 5 COMMANDS, A BIDDING, WHICH LEADS US TO **OUR 2'D POINT FOUND IN VV. 12&13, WHICH WE'LL COVER MORE QUICKLY**, THE BROTHERLY LOVE. LOOK AT V. 12 PLEASE TO BEGIN WITH.

II. THE BROTHERLY LOVE, (READ V. 12)

A. NOW IN THE EARLY CHURCH, A HOLY KISS WAS NOT A MERE FORMALITY, LIKE A HANDSHAKE OR A HOLY HUG IN OUR DAY IN WESTERN CULTURE.

* THE HOLY KISS TOOK ON A SPECIAL PLACE AND SIGNIFICANCE AS AN EXPRESSION OF BROTHERLY LOVE AND MUTUAL AFFECTION BETWEEN BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

** IN FACT DAVID E. GARLAND SAYS AND I
QUOTE: "A HOLY KISS REPRESENTS SOMETHING
MORE THAN A SOCIAL CUSTOM. IT IS A SIGN OF
MUTUAL FELLOWSHIP AMONG PERSONS OF
MIXED SOCIAL BACKGROUND, NATIONALITY,
RACE, AND GENDER WHO ARE JOINED TOGETHER
AS A NEW FAMILY IN CHRIST." (END QUOTE)

*** SO IN THE FIRST CENTURY AND BEYOND,
CHRISTIANS AS THE FAMILY OF FAMILIES
EXPRESSED FAMILY LOVE BY A HOLY KISS,
CALLED "A KISS OF LOVE" IN I PETER 5:14.

**** **AND THAT IT WAS A "HOLY" KISS**
ELIMINATED ANY SUGGESTION OF SENSUALITY,
OR MORAL IMPURITY, OR ANYTHING EROTIC, IT
WAS NOT AN INAPPROPRIATE KISS ON THE LIPS,
BUT A KISS ON EACH CHEEK OR BEHIND THE EAR
ON EACH SIDE.

1. AND WHEN BETH AND I WERE IN ITALY MANY YEARS AGO, IT WAS PRACTICED IN THE ITALIAN CHURCH AND OTHER CHURCHES IN DIFFERENT CULTURES.

* NOW PAUL ALSO TALKED ABOUT THIS CHRISTIAN GREETING IN I CORINTHIANS 16:20, **"GREET ONE ANOTHER WITH A HOLY KISS," IN ROMANS 16:16, "GREET ONE ANOTHER WITH A HOLY KISS" AND ALSO I THESSALONIANS 5:26, "GREET ALL THE BRETHREN WITH A HOLY KISS."**

** AND THE QUESTION IS, WHY DOES PAUL BRING UP THIS GREETING AT THE END OF I CORINTHIANS?

*** WELL, IT WAS A WAY FOR A LOVELESS CHURCH AT TIMES TO EXPRESS LOVE. THE HOLY KISS SIGNIFIED THAT AS FAMILY, THEY COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO PROMOTING LOVE, PEACE AND HARMONY IN THE CHURCH, WHICH THE CORINTHIANS DESPERATELY NEEDED.

**** BELOVED, THE HOLY KISS WAS INTENDED TO PORTRAY THE BROTHERHOOD, THE FAMILY SPIRIT THAT SHOULD EXIST IN THE CHURCH OF GOD. UNFORTUNATELY, IN SOME CHURCHES **LATER ON, IT WAS ABUSED AND LOSS IT'S SIGNIFICANCE.**

2. AND WITH THAT TRUTH BEFORE US, CHARLES **HODGE SAID IN BALANCE AND I QUOTE: "IT IS NOT A COMMAND OF PERPETUAL OBLIGATION, AS THE SPIRIT OF THE COMMAND IS THAT CHRISTIANS SHOULD EXPRESS THEIR MUTUAL LOVE IN THE WAY SANCTIONED BY THE AGE AND COMMUNITY IN WHICH THEY LIVE." END QUOTE**

* AND FOR US TODAY, THAT GREETING OF LOVE CAN BE EXPRESSED WITH A LOVING HANDSHAKE OR A HOLY HUG. BROTHERLY LOVE IS THE ISSUE.

** BUT ALSO BROTHERLY LOVE IS COMMUNICATED IN V. 13. LOOK AT V. 13 PLEASE.

B. VERSE 13. NOW PAUL SENDS ANOTHER KIND OF GREETING TO THE CORINTHIANS AND THAT WAS A GREETING FROM ALL THE SAINTS, ALL THE BELIEVERS WHERE PAUL WAS AT WHEN HE WROTE II CORINTHIANS, FROM MACEDONIA, POSSIBLY FROM PHILIPPI.

* AND THE POINT IS, THOUGH DISTANCE PREVENTED THE MACEDONIAN BELIEVERS IN CHURCHES FROM GIVING THE CORINTHIANS A HOLY KISS, ALL THE SAINTS OR BELIEVERS WISHED TO GREET, SEND THEIR LOVE TO THE CORINTHIANS.

** THEREFORE BROTHERLY LOVE, IS NOT TO BE CONFINED TO MEMBERS OF THE SAME CONGREGATION, IT IS TO BE SHARED BY ALL GENUINE BELIEVERS IN GENUINE BIBLICAL CHURCHES.

*** SO THE THEME OF VV. 12&13 IS BROTHERLY LOVE. WHICH LEADS US TO OUR LAST POINT TODAY IN THE LAST VERSE OF II CORINTHIANS, THE BENEDICTION. LOOK AT V. 14 PLEASE.

III. THE BENEDICTION, (READ V. 14)

A. NOW A SYNONYM FOR THE WORD BENEDICTION IS BLESSING. SO PAUL CLOSES WITH A BLESSING TO THE CORINTHIANS IN THIS LAST VERSE AND PAUL FREQUENTLY DOES THAT AS HE CLOSES OUT SOME OF HIS LETTERS.

* HOWEVER, NO N.T. BENEDICTION IS AS RICH AND PROFOUND AS THIS ONE.

** FOR IT IS THE ONLY ONE THAT MENTIONS ALL THREE PERSONS OF THE BLESSED TRINITY, THE ONLY ONE, AND THAT TO THE DIVIDED CORINTHIANS.

*** BUT PAUL WANTS THE CORINTHIANS TO KNOW THAT GOD IS NOT DIVIDED IN PURPOSE, BUT IS ONE GOD IN 3 PERSONS.

*** AND HERE WE RETURN TO THE TRUTH OF THE TRINITY THAT I STARTED WITH TODAY THAT GOD IS ONE GOD, HE IS ONE IN UNITY, ONE IN PURPOSE, ONE IN BEING.

**** THERE IS UNITY IN THE GODHEAD, AND THERE MUST BE UNITY WITH THE DIFFERENT AND DIVISIVE CORINTHIAN BELIEVERS.

1. FOR THOUGH THERE IS ONE GOD, YET IT CALLS 3 PERSONS GOD. THEREFORE THE 3 PERSONS ARE ONE GOD.

* AND THE ONE TRUE GOD HAS ETERNALLY EXISTED IN THREE CO-EQUAL AND CO-ETERNAL PERSONS, YET THEY ARE ONE IN PURPOSE, BEING AND UNITY.

** AND ALTHOUGH THE CORINTHIANS ARE NOT ONE IN BEING, THEY ARE ONE IN BODY AS THE CHURCH WITH DIFFERENT FUNCTIONS AND SHOULD WORK TOWARDS BEING ONE IN UNITY AND PURPOSE.

*** SO WHAT WAS THE ONE GREAT TRUTH FOR THE CORINTHIANS TO KEEP IN FRONT OF THEM THROUGH THIS GREAT TRANSCENDENT TRIUNE GOD?

***** WELL, AS ONE PREACHER SAID, "THE MAIN THING IS TO KEEP THE MAIN THING, THE MAIN THING."**

2. WHICH THE CHURCH GATHERED IS WORSHIP AND THE GLORY OF GOD, AND SCATTERED EVANGELISM. THUS THE TRINITARIAN TRUTH IS NOT ONLY ONENESS, UNITY IN PURPOSE, BUT ALSO REDEMPTION – SALVATION.

* FOR IT IS IN SALVATION THAT THE TRINITY IS MOST CLEARLY SEEN, MOST CLEARLY PUT ON DISPLAY.

** FOR IT WAS THROUGH THE SOVEREIGN GRACE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, GOD THE SON, IN DYING AS A SACRIFICE FOR SINNERS THAT SALVATION WAS PURCHASED FOR THOSE THAT **WOULD BE SAVED, GOD'S ELECT, LIKE THE CORINTHIAN BELIEVERS.**

*** AND IT WAS THROUGH THE LOVE OF GOD THAT GOD THE FATHER CAUSED HIM TO PLAN SALVATION TO SEND HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON IN THE WORLD TO SAVE THOSE WHOM HE CHOSE TO BE SAVED AND TO BE RESCUED FROM HIS HOLY WRATH.

3. AND AS A RESULT OF SALVATION, TRUE BELIEVERS ARE USHERED INTO THE FELLOWSHIP OF GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT, AS HE INDWELLS THEM AND PLACES THEM INTO THE BODY OF CHRIST.

* SO GOD THE FATHER PLANS THE PLAN OF SALVATION, GOD THE SON CARRIES OUT THE PLAN AND GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT APPLIES AND CARRIES OUT THE PLAN DRAWING PEOPLE TO THE **SON TO THE GLORY OF THE FATHER'S** GRACE, MERCY AND LOVE.

** WE HAVE THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE SOVEREIGN KINDNESS TO THE UNDESERVING THAT PROMPTS HIM TO LAY ASIDE THE RICHES OF GLORY WITH HIS FATHER, TO BECOME A MAN AND DIE FOR SINNERS AND RISE AGAIN.

*** WE HAVE THE LOVE OF GOD, A LOVE SO GREAT THAT THE FATHER SENT HIS SON INTO THE WORLD TO SAVE THOSE WHO TRULY BELIEVE.

**** WHICH RESULTS IN THE NEVER ENDING COMMUNION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHO HAS A MINISTRY TO GLORIFY JESUS CHRIST AND CHRIST TO GLORIFY HIS FATHER.

4. SO BELOVED, THIS BENEDICTION IS TRINITARIAN AND SHOWS REDEMPTION, WHICH SHOULD CHALLENGE THE CORINTHIANS TO BE ONE AS THE FAMILY OF FAMILIES THE CHURCH.

* AND SO GREAT A SALVATION THAT THE ONE GOD SAVES SINNERS. AND IT IS IN SALVATION THAT THE TRINITY IS MOST CLEARLY SEEN. WHAT A MOTIVATION IN THE CORINTHIANS TO OBEY!

IN WRAP UP AND IN APPLICATION: (1) BELIEVER, WHAT A GLORIOUS, GREAT, TRANSCENDENT GOD WE SERVE AND HAVE BEEN SAVED FROM OUR SINS BY.

* CERTAINLY WE SHOULD BE MOTIVATED TO GREATER OBEDIENCE TO THE ONE WHO IS THEY.

** CERTAINLY WE SHOULD BE MOTIVATED TO GREATER UNITY AND LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER THROUGH HIS GREAT ETERNAL BEING IN WHOM HE IS IN HIS GREAT LOVE.

*** AND BELOVED IF THERE IS NO TRINITY THERE IS NO SALVATION. SALVATION IS AT STAKE!

*** FOR IF JESUS IS MERELY A CREATED BEING AND NOT FULLY GOD, THEN IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SEE HOW HE, A CREATURE, NO MATTER HOW GREAT, REALLY SAVES US. FOR A CREATURE COULD NOT BEAR THE FULL WRATH OF GOD AGAINST ALL OF OUR SINS.

**** COULD WE DEPEND ON A CREATED BEING TO SAVE US FULLY? NO.

(2) THEREFORE CHRISTIANITY STANDS OR FALLS WITH THE CONFESSION OF THE DEITY OF CHRIST AND OF THE DEITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO MAKES US ALIVE TO TURN TO CHRIST.

* AND IF YOU HAVE NOT TURNED TO JESUS CHRIST FOR FORGIVENESS, TURN AND REPENT TODAY AND TRUST FULLY IN THE GOD WHO SAVES SINNERS, GOD THE FATHER, GOD THE SON AND GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT.

** BELIEVER, WORSHIP AND SERVE OUR GLORIOUS AND GREAT GOD WHO HAS SAVED YOU IN HIS GLORIOUS PLAN.

*** AND MAY WE AS TRUE BELIEVERS LOVE THE **TRUTH OF THE TRINITY, THE TRUTH OF GOD'S** WORD AND THE TRUTH THAT WE ARE TO STRIVE FOR UNITY AS OUR GOD IS ONE, AND LOVE **ANOTHER. (LET'S PRAY)**