

The Gospel Herald

“As the truth is in Jesus” (Ephesians 4:21)

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS
by
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“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity (love), I am become a sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.”
(I Corin. 13:1)

Dear beloved in Christ, called into that blessed hope of salvation by free and sovereign grace,

*It was brought to my attention this morning that the word **LOVE** is a verb. I pondered that comment with great intensity as I had not deeply considered the fact that a verb is defined as “an action word.” I hear often folks use the term **LOVE** as a common spoken gesture in the time of family departure, or in a romantic aspect between two people who have a great affection for one another.*

*When the apostle Paul penned the inspired words in I Corinthians chapter thirteen, he made it quite clear that the word **Charity** (Love) was an **ACTION** word which brought about a result demonstrated, and not merely a gesture of kind speech.*

I recalled a family (Christian folks) who would use the term as they departed each other’s company “I love you,” and the other would respond the same. I was brought up in a family that was not so expressive of that term and was a little “stand-offish” from being “huggy” or overly expressive with sentimental comments.

*I recall that the dear Brother was complaining on one occasion about a child in the family who was not obeying his request to do a certain task around the home. I told the fellow from the family who was very expressive with their affection for each other, “you would think that when you tell your father all the time that you **love** him and your father says the same, you would not hesitate to do what the father requested” (I was a tad sarcastic, but trying to make a point).*

*The dear Brother replied, “Ya know you would think children would be more considerate and desire to obey their fathers when asked to do a certain thing wouldn’t you when you try and express “**I love you**, time and time again?”*

*Look with me at some of the **ACTION** that the dear apostle stated occurred when genuine **LOVE** is manifest.*

***Love** suffereth long, **Love** is kind, **Love** envieth not, **Love** vaunteth not itself, **Love** is not puffed up, **Love** doeth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. (I Corin. 13:4-7).*

“Charity (Love) never faileth; but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail: whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away” (I Corin 13:8).

*“And now abideth faith, hope and charity, these three; but the **GREATEST** of these is **Charity (Love)**” (I Corin. 13:13).*

*Beloved if **charity, love** is merely a spoken gesture without **action** as indicated by the apostle’s expression, what good is it?? God given **LOVE** by the divine operation of the Spirit causes “**action**,” and is manifest by **obedience** to He which has called us into so great salvation by grace’s predestined operation. For we **are blessed to obey our heavenly Father**, we do not obey to gain, nor merit God’s favor or blessings. The Christian life is lived by the means of the Spirit of Christ which has indwelled the born again heir of free and sovereign grace, not of **any works** of righteousness of which we shall boast!*

Dear beloved, God-granted **LOVE** is not a mere word of sentimental expression, but is a **VERB** which demands **action** that is a good work which our Lord said, “men shall know that ye are my disciples for ye have **LOVE** one for another.” For the **LOVE** of God is our source of strength that brings obedience in the pilgrim walk. For we **LOVE HIM** because He **FIRST** loved us, and this Love and appreciation brought about by Gods divine favor is the cause of the Christians devotion to desire to walk the pilgrim pathway, that Christ may be glorified, adored and honored forever without end.

Respectfully submitted,

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