

## ~ Love, the Fulfilling of the Law ~

Sometimes the heart is astonished with its own happiness. It can happen with a burst of splendor – the sun shining on the dew-covered roses causing them to sparkle like diamonds, or finding some Bible truth after a long search, suddenly realizing a new world of light that we never saw before. Great or small, the capacity of the human heart to be happy is beautiful. The secret of happiness is love. Of course, love has many levels, but all love begins and ends with God. *God is love.* The poet has so beautifully said,

“As every lovely hue is light, so every grace is love.”

Love is behind every noble pursuit and everything contributing to happiness and beauty. The first and greatest commandment is to love God. The new commandment that Christ left his followers was, “Love one another as I have love you.” (John 15: 12) He also said, “By this all men will know you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13: 35) The end of the whole matter, the end of the commandment “is love out of a pure heart”. (I Timothy 1: 5) Yes, love is the whole message of God.

Love is not something to be put off and treated lightly. Not only do the Scriptures declare the love of God, but equally show men must *love or perish.*

Most men have felt the bitterness of hatred, anger, jealousy, and selfishness. We see a hate-filled world arming to the teeth, threatening death and destruction to all who stand in its way. Hatred and fear have been turned into a grim business of weapons for destruction. The world does not know the way of love, and it is perishing.

Presently, it is spending one-third of its wealth for war and destruction. Armament is big business – so big that the nations probably have lost control of their war spending. The philosophy of war spending is peace through naked power. Strange that even

staid, professing Christians believe this. Jesus taught, “For all who take to the sword will perish by the sword” (Matthew 26: 52), and human history flows with blood but little peace.

We can only ask, What if the hundreds of billions of war money were spent in putting bread in the world’s food basket, medicine for the sick, sent with love to the needy? Oh, how different might be the news we read today. But the tragedy is that men cannot love. Despite the recognition for the need of love, men are incapable of loving. Men just can’t open their hearts in love for fear they would be hurt or exploited. And so the world hastens toward “Armageddon”, driven by self-preservation.

The philosophy of love has inspired men in every era, but how broad is the chasm between the ideal of love and the real world of selfishness, fear, hatred, competition, and indifference. Men have known they must find a way to love, or all of the purpose in life would be lost. Yet, love is a scarce commodity in the world today. It is even scarce in the Christian world. How true are Jesus’ words, “Because wickedness is multiplied the love of many will grow cold.” (Matthew 24: 12) The newest rage in the Christian ministry is promoting health, wealth, and power through Christ – all of this and heaven, too. If Jesus offered his followers this, he could have had the whole world right then and there. He never would have been crucified. Why did the rich, young ruler turn from Christ with sorrow?

Only Christ in His Kingdom can take away the stony hearts of men and write His law in their hearts. (Ezekiel 36: 26; Jeremiah 31: 33)

Until that triumph of love on earth, let us who have drawn near to the Lord make know we are Christ’s disciples by *loving* one another. Let us feed on the promises of God, and love will abound. Send for your free copy of *Exceeding Great and Precious Promises* to warm you heart with the love of God. Click **REPLY**, and send an e-mail asking for this booklet. Include the name of this publication, your name and your mailing address. ♦