*Monday, February 21, 2011*

**Real Love**

1 Corinthians 13:1-2 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. (2) And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. (KJV)

Strongs definition for ‘charity’:

26 agape (ag-ah'-pay); from 25; love, i.e. affection or benevolence; specially (plural) a love-feast: KJV-- (feast of) charity ([-ably]), dear, love.

A God of love reached out to mankind in a loving manner, and as we see in this chapter, we need to be reaching back with the same love as well. Actually without knowing and understanding the love of God your time spent here will be a waste, and in the end nothing positive concerning the kingdom of God will ever be accomplished. So what motivates you for serving the Lord, and is it a real love relationship, or are you just going through the motions?

1 Corinthians 13:1

Among various energetic sayings of this great, unlettered man, I remember to have heard the following: "People of little religion are always noisy; he who has not the love of God and man filling his heart is like an empty wagon coming violently down a hill: it makes a great noise, because there is nothing in it." (from Adam Clarke Commentary)

There are loads of religions and doctrines going past us all the time, but fewer and fewer have anything of real substance in them. Without the love of God in one’s heart you will never experience or truly know what salvation is really all about.

Matthew 6:1-4 Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. (2) Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. (3) But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: (4) That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly. (KJV)

One of the definitions of alms refers to the word ‘charity’. So are you one of those people that require an audience before you do an act of charity? Do you look to man for their approval, or are you content that you answered the calling of God and that was reason enough for your act of charity?

Colossians 3:23-24 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; (24) Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. (KJV)

So how real is your love for the Lord, and is He the only one you are seeking approval from today, really?