

Paul's Lesson

Week of April. 13 - 19, 2020

Introduction

Paul is a true testament to the promise of God's handiwork. Once a man who persecuted those who followed Christ, he encountered the living Lord. After the scales of blindness were removed from his eye, he was filled with the Holy Spirit and he immediately began preaching in the synagogues. He became an important piece in God's plan to build up the church of Christ and spread the word of his Love to the world.

Lesson 1 Corinthians 13: 1- 13

13 If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. **2** If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. **3** If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. **5** It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. **6** Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. **7** It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. **9** For we know in part and we prophesy in part, **10** but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. **11** When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I

became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. **12** For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Questions

1. This scripture is often a favorite as it is filled with such an inspiring combination of the promise of love and the challenge of what love should be. Which challenge of love most resonates with you?
2. Paul was witness to the empty kind of love about which he speaks when he was Saul before his conversion. (Read Act 9:1-22 for more of the story!) How do you think his personal experience with the Lord affect how he views and explains love? How has he seen God's promise being fulfilled in his life?
3. After Saul's life was transformed and he became Paul, he was shown forgiveness and love by many who could have doubted or been resentful toward him. Has anyone shown this kind of grace and love toward you? Have you ever been asked to show it to another?
4. How is Paul trying to differentiate between acts that are good and acts done from love? What impact does this have on how you try to live your life?
5. How can the comparisons we have with each other hinder our ability to treat each other with the love God calls us to give?
6. Have you ever encountered a person who is difficult to love? In many cases, achieving a love as true and right as written seems impossible. If you were to pick just one of the attributes used to describe love to practice in your life, which would it be? Imagine the work God could do in our lives in which we pray for the kind of love He desires for us.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, you have shown us the Greatest Love of all and desire us to grow in that love! Yet instead we compare and compete in our actions; attempting to show the world how good we are. We are sorry. Fill us with your Love Lord. The love that is patient and kind. That does not envy or boast. The love that never fails. We praise you for keeping your promise and showing us the pure joy this love can bring! In Jesus name, Amen.