January 2008

Fall p... EAGLES' WINGS ... with wings "They shall mount up...

AERY NUGGED

"And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwells in love dwells in God, and God in him." 1 John 4:16. "We love because He first loved us."

We cannot always trace the way Where Thou, our gracious Lord, dost move; But we can always surely say, That God is love.

When fear its gloomy cloud will fling O'er earth-our souls, to heaven above, As to their sanctuary, spring, For God is love.

When clouds hang o'er our darken'd path, We'll ckeck our dread, each doubt reprove; For here each saint sweet comfort hath, For God is love.

Yes, Thou art love – a truth like this Can every gloomy thought remove, And turn our tears and woes to bliss; Our God is love.

Dear fellow believers,

as eagles."

Isaiah 40:31

I have been meditating a little upon the wonderful subject of God's love for us. It is a great and heart warming subject. We all, I believe, need to meditate upon it more in these difficult days. As we think of God's unchanging love for each one of us I can't help but think of the Lord's words to His disciples before He went to the cross. "As the Father hath loved Me. so have I loved you." And then He says, "continue ye in My love." John 15:9. I remember my dad saying these words. "How Thou couldst love a wretch like me and be the God Thou art is darkness to my intellect but sunshine to my heart."

Perhaps the most well know verse in the Bible is John 3:16. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son that whoso

in Him believeth ever should not perish but have everlasting life." The way of salvation is made so plain in this verse. Not baptism, not doing the best that you can do will give you everlasting life but simply believing in Him who died for sins upon the cross. What a Savior



-Sir J. Bowering

We first of all need to think of the **greatness of His love.** Each of us, young and old, were guilty of sin. "All have sinned and have come short of the glory of God." As a result we find that the wages of sin is death and after death the judgment. Romans 3:23; Hebrews 9:27. But when we believe in Him we receive the wonderful gift of eternal life.

What kind of love is His? He says "I have loved you with an **everlasting love**: therefore with loving kindness have I drawn thee." Jeremiah 31:3. Unlike human love that may change over the years His love for us will never change. In fact He says: "For I am the Lord, I change not". Malachi 3: 6.

A few lines of a chorus puts it this way: "He loves me. He loves me, and though I do not love Him the way I should, **He still loves me."** "Though we may not love Him the way we should His love for us will never change.

How do we keep ourselves in the enjoyment of His wonderful unchanging love? In the epistle of Jude we read these words: "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life." Jude 20,21.

How do we build up ourselves on our most holy faith? The words that the apostle Paul wrote to young Timothy give us the answer. "STUDY TO SHOW THYSELF APPROVED UNTO GOD, A WORKMAN THAT NEEDETH NOT TO BE ASHAMED, RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH." 2 Timothy 2:15.

As we study God's Word we will have a deeper sense of God's love for us. In order to do this we need to take time in our often busy schedules each day to read God's Word and to pray and to study or meditate upon God's Word. We need to be like the Bereans who searched the scriptures **daily** to see if what they were taught was in God's Word. Acts 17:11.

What is the best time of the day to do that? David wrote these precious words: "My voice shalt Thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto Thee, and will look up." Psalm 5:3.

How good it is to start every day by looking up to our Lord who is waiting to hear our prayers. I have to admit that some times I find it is hard to take that time in the morning. However, when I do take that precious time with Him the day goes much better. We will find that He can give us a real peace even when things do not seem to go well. May the Lord help each of us to begin our day by looking up to Him.

We can become so busy in our service for the Lord Jesus that we forget to take the time to read His Word and meditate upon the scriptures. I am reminded of Martha who invited the Lord Jesus into her home. While she was very busy getting things ready for the Lord her sister Mary was sitting at the feet of the Lord Jesus hearing His Words. Martha was upset that Mary was not helping her and said: "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? The Lord's answer was "Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: but one thing is needful: and Mary has chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her." Luke 10:41,42.

May we then in our service for the Lord and in our daily living always choose that good part by taking time to hear Him speak to us through His Word. His Word is "a lamp to our feet and a light to our path." Psalms 119:105. Whether we are old or young we each can serve the Lord in so many different ways. May we each also say with the apostle Paul: "Lord what will Thou have me to do?" As I think of His love I am reminded of a verse of a hymn that we sometimes sing:

> "He is speaking to His Father, Tasting deep that bitter cup Yet He takes it, willing rather For our sakes to drink it up. Oh what love! He loved me! Gave Himself, my soul, for Thee."

> > -J. J. Hopkins

In His wonderful love,

John D. McNeil

"Having loved his own. . . he loved them unto the end.". . . Oh, hoh sweet this experience of Christ's love in this cold world ! When the heart is chilled, and yearning for a little warmth, how sweet to turn to the Lord Jesus and feel the warmth of His love ! Ah, looking up to Him, the heart is always warmed.

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