

## Audio Transcript of Sermon

January 10, 2026

God is Love

Hello. Thank you for joining us today. My name is Tom Laign with Sabbath Bible Study. We are made in the image and likeness of God, and we are to seek first the Kingdom of God and God's righteousness. We are God's children and God is our Father in Heaven. Having this closer relationship to God it is good for us to think about and understand God, even if with all of the Biblical imagery it is as if we are looking through a dark and smoky glass. When we think of God we think of Jesus Christ as well because the Bible is clear that the Word Who became Jesus Christ was with God at the beginning, and for our understanding of God, the beginning is given for the sake of human understanding, because God and the Word are eternal and immortal beings. When the Bible uses the phrase, "In the beginning," that is to help our understanding and not to limit God in any way.

When we think of God and the Word living for eternity, that goes well beyond our understanding. We can intellectually understand eternity but because on earth everything has a limited existence, eternity is difficult for us to fully understand. When we think of the vast distances of space, we talk about light years, the distance traveled by light in one year. The nearest solar system is the Alpha Centauri solar system, about 4.37 light years away. When we think of the space exploration accomplishments of mankind, the Voyager 1 spacecraft comes to mind. Launched in 1977, it hasn't even traveled one light day from earth. Even though it is not traveling to Alpha Centauri, if Voyager 1 were headed there, it would take more than seventy-eight thousand years to get there.

In the vastness of space, our connection to life beyond this planet is with God the Father and the Word. With this as our connection to life beyond this planet, it's good for us to think about and understand God. Love is part of Who God is. We live in a world that thinks of God as angry and vengeful, and God can definitely be angry and vengeful for those who reject Him. We know God as a loving God, and as love is part of Who God is, love must be part of who we are. If there are any questions about the love that God has for humanity, all we need to consider is that God sent Jesus Christ to die for our sins, that

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through Jesus we can have eternal life. Knowing that God loved us enough to send Jesus to die for our sins, we ought to love one another. It is when we love one another that God's love is perfected in us. Because God is love and has shown us love, we must love one another. First John four verse seven.

### **1 John 4:7-16**

- 7. Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.**
- 8. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.**
- 9. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.**
- 10. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.**
- 11. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.**
- 12. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.**
- 13. Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.**
- 14. And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.**
- 15. Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.**
- 16. And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.**

When God loved the world to allow Jesus Christ to die for our sins, the expectation was that instead of continuing to do what is evil and live in darkness, mankind would embrace the light and do what is righteous. If we acknowledge the love that God has for us through the death of Jesus Christ, we will do what is righteous. John three verse sixteen.

### **John 3:16-21**

- 16. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**
- 17. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.**

**18. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.**

**19. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.**

**20. For everyone that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.**

**21. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.**

Without the Holy Spirit, it is impossible for us to understand the love of God. Through the Holy Spirit we have faith, a faith that is built on a foundation of grace where we understand that eternal life is a gift from God. That faith gives us hope to continue day by day even when the going is tough. God's love is so incredible for mankind that he allowed His Son to die for our sins while we were yet sinners, and that love allows us to be reconciled to God. Romans five verse one.

### **Romans 5:1-11**

**1. Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:**

**2. By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.**

**3. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;**

**4. And patience, experience; and experience, hope:**

**5. And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.**

**6. For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.**

**7. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.**

**8. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

**9. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.**

**10. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.**

**11. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.**

In writing to the Galatians, Paul explained that it is through Jesus Christ we are justified and not through works of the law. While we are expected to do righteousness, it is not what we do that justifies us. It is by faith through Jesus Christ that we are justified. Knowing that we are justified by faith through Jesus Christ, we surrender ourselves to Jesus Christ allowing Jesus to live in us by doing what is righteous. Galatians two verse fifteen.

### **Galatians 2:15-21**

**15. We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles,**

**16. Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.**

**17. But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid.**

**18. For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor.**

**19. For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.**

**20. I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.**

**21. I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.**

All of us at one time lived a life of sin. Now that we have the Holy Spirit, we understand the great love God had for us by allowing Jesus to die for our sins. Knowing it is through Jesus we are saved, we are no longer children of wrath, and live as children of God. Ephesians two verse one.

### **Ephesians 2:1-6**

**1. And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;**

- 2. Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:**
- 3. Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.**
- 4. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,**
- 5. Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, by grace ye are saved;**
- 6. And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:**

Knowing that God gave Jesus Christ as an act of love so that we might be saved should give us reason to worship God for the mercy that has been shown us. Having been shown incredible love, what we do should be grounded in love so that we can better understand the love of Christ and the fulness of God. Ephesians three verse fourteen.

### **Ephesians 3:14-21**

- 14. For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,**
- 15. Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,**
- 16. That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;**
- 17. That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,**
- 18. May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;**
- 19. And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.**
- 20. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,**
- 21. Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.**

In closing his second letter to the Thessalonians, Paul not only asked for prayers from the brethren, but reminded them that God is faithful and would

keep them from evil, directing their hearts to the love of God and the patient waiting for the return of Jesus Christ. Second Thessalonians three verse one.

## **2 Thessalonians 3:1-5**

- 1. Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:**
- 2. And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.**
- 3. But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.**
- 4. And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you.**
- 5. And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.**

Through Jeremiah, God explained to Israel that the love He had for them was everlasting, explaining that Israel would once again be a great nation. He showed how the young people would have the opportunity to celebrate life during a time when the people acknowledged God seeking to go to the House of God. Jeremiah thirty-one verse one.

## **Jeremiah 31:1-6**

- 1. At the same time, saith the Lord, will I be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people.**
- 2. Thus saith the Lord, The people which were left of the sword found grace in the wilderness; even Israel, when I went to cause him to rest.**
- 3. The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.**
- 4. Again I will build thee, and thou shalt be built, O virgin of Israel: thou shalt again be adorned with thy tabrets, and shalt go forth in the dances of them that make merry.**
- 5. Thou shalt yet plant vines upon the mountains of Samaria: the planters shall plant, and shall eat them as common things.**
- 6. For there shall be a day, that the watchmen upon the mount Ephraim shall cry, Arise ye, and let us go up to Zion unto the Lord our God.**

Through Zephaniah the people were shown that God is not only a mighty God, God is a God Who rests in His love. During this future time shown by

Zephaniah, the people would have nothing to fear and would be very productive. God will be their God and will save them in a time of rejoicing and joy. Those who are sorrowful will have all that sorrows them removed from them. Zephaniah three verse sixteen.

### **Zephaniah 3:16-20**

- 16. In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem, Fear thou not: and to Zion, Let not thine hands be slack.**
- 17. The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.**
- 18. I will gather them that are sorrowful for the solemn assembly, who are of thee, to whom the reproach of it was a burden.**
- 19. Behold, at that time I will undo all that afflict thee: and I will save her that halteth, and gather her that was driven out; and I will get them praise and fame in every land where they have been put to shame.**
- 20. At that time will I bring you again, even in the time that I gather you: for I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth, when I turn back your captivity before your eyes, saith the Lord.**

In the psalms we are shown how God's loving kindness is better than life. Those who seek God and who hunger and thirst for Him will be satisfied. Instead of living in the worst of times, the people who seek God will be living in the best of times. Psalm sixty-three verse one.

### **Psalm 63:1-8**

- 1. O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;**
- 2. To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.**
- 3. Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee.**
- 4. Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name.**
- 5. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips:**
- 6. When I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches.**
- 7. Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice.**

## **8. My soul followeth hard after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me.**

The psalms also show us that God is full of compassion, and compassion is the place where love and mercy connect. The mercy that God shows to us is an example of the love of God. Psalm eighty-six verse twelve.

### **Psalm 86:12-17**

**12. I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore.**

**13. For great is thy mercy toward me: and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell.**

**14. O God, the proud are risen against me, and the assemblies of violent men have sought after my soul; and have not set thee before them.**

**15. But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.**

**16. O turn unto me, and have mercy upon me; give thy strength unto thy servant, and save the son of thine handmaid.**

**17. Shew me a token for good; that they which hate me may see it, and be ashamed: because thou, Lord, hast holpen me, and comforted me.**

In Proverbs we are told that hate creates strife and that love covers sin. Our sins have been covered through the death of Jesus Christ and when others wrong us, spiritually, we must allow love to cover however we have been wronged. What we do spiritually does not negate what is required civilly or criminally. If somebody has harmed us civilly or criminally that becomes a matter for the courts to address, and there is no expectation to keep our concerns from law enforcement. Spiritually, forgiving somebody is different than civil or criminal findings. We can and must spiritually forgive a person who has been found guilty of a crime or civil matter against us. Proverbs ten verse twelve.

### **Proverbs 10:12**

**12. Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.**

When God chose to love Israel, it wasn't because it was a great nation at the time, because in fact they were just a tiny nation. The love that God had for Israel brought them out of Egypt. With God's love is an expectation that we do

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what God expects of us. It's like if you love a person, in order for there to be a loving relationship, that person must also love you. We show our love to God by doing what He expects of us. Conversely, God will destroy those who hate Him, who do not do what God expects of them. That's why it is important to do what God expects of us, even when it is the death of Jesus Christ that makes eternal life possible. Deuteronomy seven verse seven.

### **Deuteronomy 7:7-11**

**7. The Lord did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people:**

**8. But because the Lord loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the Lord brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.**

**9. Know therefore that the Lord thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;**

**10. And repayeth them that hate him to their face, to destroy them: he will not be slack to him that hateth him, he will repay him to his face.**

**11. Thou shalt therefore keep the commandments, and the statutes, and the judgments, which I command thee this day, to do them.**

God shows mercy to those who love him and yet God also corrects his children when needed. Even though it may not be enjoyable at the moment, being corrected by God is one way we know God loves us. Hebrews twelve verse one.

### **Hebrews 12:1-11**

**1. Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,**

**2. Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.**

**3. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.**

- 4. Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.**
- 5. And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:**
- 6. For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.**
- 7. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?**
- 8. But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.**
- 9. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?**
- 10. For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.**
- 11. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.**

In due time God will exalt us, and for the majority of us that will be at the return of Jesus Christ. Between now and then, we need to humble ourselves before God knowing that he cares for us. First Peter five verse six.

- 1 Peter 5:6-7**
- 6. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:**
  - 7. Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.**

In his first letter, John writes that God shows his incredible love towards us because we are the children of God. Similarly to how the world does not know God, the world doesn't know us. This world knows of God as much as some in this world knows of us, but this world does not know us. John also shares that although the manifestation of being a child of God is not something that will be observable until Jesus returns, we are now the children of God. Because we have this hope and understanding, we very much want to purify ourselves because God is pure. God is without sin and we strive to be without sin,

knowing we have Jesus Christ as a mediator for us when we come up short. First John three verse one.

### **1 John 3:1-3**

- 1. Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.**
- 2. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.**
- 3. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.**

Love comes without fear. As John writes so eloquently, there is no fear in love. He explained that perfect love casts our fear. If there is something we fear, it is because we are not yet perfect in love. As we are perfecting love, we can take note that we love God because He first loved us, and as we love God, we also have love for others as well. First John four verse seventeen.

### **1 John 4:17-21**

- 17. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.**
- 18. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.**
- 19. We love him, because he first loved us.**
- 20. If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?**
- 21. And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.**

Loving God means we keep His commandments. There can be no claim made to loving God while disregarding His commandments. Through Jesus Christ we know we have a mediator who can intercede on our behalf when we sin, but that never gives us a license to sin. If we love God, we will keep His commandments. First John five verse one.

### **1 John 5:1-3**

**1. Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and everyone that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.**

**2. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.**

**3. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.**

Even Jesus taught that those who kept his teachings and commandments would be loved of Him and by default of God our Father. Jesus was explaining this when also explaining that both He and God our Father would come to us and live with us. While Revelation shows this will clearly happen at the latter end of what is recorded in the Bible, this also does suggest that the Holy Spirit is a manifestation of the love of God and Jesus Christ for us. When we use the Holy Spirit to do what is expected of us, it is a manifestation of our love for God and Jesus Christ. John fourteen verse nineteen.

### **John 14:19-24**

**19. Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.**

**20. At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.**

**21. He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.**

**22. Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?**

**23. Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.**

**24. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.**

Jesus gave a new commandment that we love one another, as Jesus had loved us. He explained using words his disciples would not understand at the time that hinted at His future fate that the greatest act of love is to lay down's

one life for one's friends. Jesus called us not to be servants but to be friends, and we are friends of Jesus if we do what Jesus taught. Doing what Jesus taught, and being given the Holy Spirit as a manifestation of the love of God and Jesus Christ for us, when we do what is expected of us through the Holy Spirit, it becomes a manifestation of our love towards God our Father and Jesus Christ. Jesus expects us to bring forth spiritual fruit, which means our love for God our Father, and Jesus Christ should be consistently growing. John fifteen verse nine.

**John 15:9-17**

**9. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.**

**10. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.**

**11. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.**

**12. This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.**

**13. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.**

**14. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.**

**15. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.**

**16. Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.**

**17. These things I command you, that ye love one another.**

Jesus also explained that God's love towards people flows through Him. God loves us because we love Jesus Christ and believe that Jesus came from God. Jesus came from God our Father and returned to God our Father. God's love towards us will not keep away normal challenges and hardships of life, but even in the face of these challenges and hardships of life, God's love endures. John sixteen verse twenty-five.

### **John 16:25-33**

**25. These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father.**

**26. At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you:**

**27. For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God.**

**28. I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father.**

**29. His disciples said unto him, Lo, now speakest thou plainly, and speakest no proverb.**

**30. Now are we sure that thou knowest all things, and needest not that any man should ask thee: by this we believe that thou camest forth from God.**

**31. Jesus answered them, Do ye now believe?**

**32. Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.**

**33. These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.**

We are to become perfect like our Father in Heaven is perfect. It is God who sent His Son to die for our sins while we were yet sinners, and it was Jesus Christ who died for our sins while we were yet sinners. God and Jesus Christ loved us when for all practical purposes we were the enemy of God, and that is one of the reasons why we must love our enemies, and bless them that curse us. We do good to those that hate us, and pray for them that despitefully use and persecute us. When we think of the love of God and how God is love, even having love for enemies is part of what God's love is.

Matthew five verse forty-three.

### **Matthew 5:43-48**

**43. Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.**

**44. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;**

**45. That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.**

**46. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?**

**47. And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?**

**48. Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.**

We know that God and Jesus Christ love us, and even have love for Their enemies. In return, we are to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind; and we are to love other people as ourselves. Matthew twenty-two verse thirty-four.

#### **Matthew 22:34-40**

**34. But when the Pharisees had heard that he had put the Sadducees to silence, they were gathered together.**

**35. Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying,**

**36. Master, which is the great commandment in the law?**

**37. Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.**

**38. This is the first and great commandment.**

**39. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.**

**40. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.**

When we perfectly love, we are spiritually mature. Paul wrote to the Corinthians that faith, hope, and love are essential parts of who we are as people, but that love is the greatest of these three. Paul also explained that when he was a child he thought as a child, but when he became an adult, he put away childish things. Spiritually, we cannot allow love that we have for God our Father, Jesus Christ, and other people to be less than faith and hope. First Corinthians thirteen verse eight.

### **1 Corinthians 13:8-13**

**8. Charity 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.**

**9. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.**

**10. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.**

**11. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.**

**12. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.**

**13. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.**

The time we have before the return of Jesus Christ is unknown. We have no idea of the challenges and difficulties of life that will come our way. While we have a good understanding of prophecy, like Paul explained, we have that understanding seeing through a dark glass where what we understand could be different because that dark glass obscures what we see. The impact of prophecy on our lives as we move towards the return of Jesus Christ is unknown. What we do know is this. If God is for us, nobody can really be against us. Just like God resurrected Jesus Christ, God will bring us to eternal life. Even if vile things are said against God's people, that won't cause God to abandon His love for us. Similarly, nothing will separate us from the love of Christ. Nothing in prophecy will keep us from the love of Christ, and nothing in life will keep us from the love of Christ. There is absolutely nothing that will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Jesus Christ. Romans eight verse thirty-one.

### **Romans 8:31-39**

**31. What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?**

**32. He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?**

**33. Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.**

**34. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.**

**35. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?**

**36. As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.**

**37. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.**

**38. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,**

**39. Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Nothing. Absolutely nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Jesus Christ. God, Who is love, loved us enough to send His Son to die for our sins. He then resurrected His Son, and will similarly bring us to eternal life. The Holy Spirit that we have within us is a gift of love. It is given to us in love by God our Father through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and we in return demonstrate love towards God and Jesus Christ by doing what is expected of us.

Thank you for joining us today. God-willing we'll get together next time on the Sabbath. Until then, thank you for joining us today.