

PRAYER MEETING
"THE SUPREMACY OF LOVE"

Introduction

1. Three words for "love" in NT
2. This chapter sparkles with NT love
3. The theory v. the practice
DOCTRINE: The greatest grace is Christian love

1. LOVE IS HERE SAID TO BE ABOVE ALL

- 1) It is above all the following: v.1-3:
 - (i) speaking in tongues. Explain.
 - (ii) the gift of prophecy: **Illustration**: Balaam
 - (iii) knowledge of all kinds – the philosophies
 - (iv) faith – what we call "faith of miracles"
 - (v) charity to the poor – following of St. Francis
 - (vi) offering our body in sacrifice: e.g. suicide – bombers in our own time.
- 2) Explanation why love is above them:
 - (i) the above can be done selfishly
 - (ii) the above may flow from a graceless, unregenerate heart
APPLICATION: Only a true believer has the love of which Paul speaks here.

2. THE BEHAVIOUR OF LOVE IS HEAVENLY

- 1) Paul says: "greater than faith + hope". Explanation.
- 2) Its heavenly behaviour described:
 - (A) NEGATIVELY: v.4-8
 - (i) It does not envy
 - (ii) It is not proud
 - (iii) It does not put itself forward
 - (iv) it does not act out of character

- (v) is not self-seeking
- (vi) does not think evil
- (vii) it does not fail

(B) POSITIVELY

- (i) It is long-suffering
- (ii) It is kind
- (iii) It rejoices in the truth – not in evil
- (iv) It puts up with all things
- (v) It believes the best of people
- (vi) It hopes for the best
- (vii) It suffers whatever God sends
APPLICATION: Would not this world be like a paradise if there were more of this?

3. IF LOVE IS THE BEST THING, LET US TAKE PRACTICAL STEPS TO GROW IN IT

- 1) Reasons:
 - (i) Love is the character of God
 - (ii) Love shines in the life of Christ
 - (iii) Love is the very spirit of heaven
- 2) Our problem: **Illustration**: a patchy lawn
- 3) Crucial areas:
 - (i) Our tongue
 - (ii) Our temper
 - (iii) Our pride

PSALM**145²: 15 – 19****35: 11 – 16****131: 1 – 3****CONCLUSION**

O let us be as kind as we can – to all men always.

J. Wesley: "Do all the good you can"