

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **1Corinthians 13:4-8a**.
- B. Jesus said that the greatest commandment was to love. The second greatest commandment is like unto it, we again are to love. Collectively, we are to love God, love others, and love self.
- C. The great characteristic about the Xian religion is that it is built on love. It is the one great attribute of the faith that will endure forever (1Cor. 13:13).
- D. Tonight's lesson deals with love and why we are to give it to God, others and self on a daily basis.

WHY LOVE IS GREAT, AND TO BE GIVEN ON A DAILY BASIS.

- A. First, love is the fulfillment of the Law.
 - 1. All of the Law and the prophets hang on love (Mt. 22:38-40; Rom. 13:10).
 - 2. Commandment keeping is not enough. Motivation for doing gospel things is love (1Cor. 13:1-3).
- B. Second, love is the motivator of God and JC (Jn. 3:16).
 - 1. We need very little extra motivation to do the things we love.
 - 2. If we find it difficult to do things in the church we could have a lack of love in our lives.
- C. Third, love means obedience (Phil. 2:8).
 - 1. When two people enter into the marriage relationship it has been motivated by love, but demands obedience on both partners.
 - 2. They must be obedient to God and each other.
- D. Fourth, love is eternal in scope (1Cor. 13:13; 13:7).
- E. Fifth, love is required for one to be saved (1Cor. 13:1-3).
 - 1. The church in Ephesus had left their first love (Rev. 2:1-8).
 - 2. Unless they restored it, Jesus was going to remove His fellowship from them.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. First John 4:8 says that God is love. When we think of God, this attributes needs to be emphasized.
- B. Peter's words are appropriate here (1Pet. 4:8).
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.