

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **1Peter 2:18-24**.
- B. From Roy H. Enoch (12-11-94).
- C. The NT teaches that Jesus is the pattern for every one's life (Lk. 9:23; Phil. 2:5; 1Pet. 2:21).
- D. Without a doubt, He is qualified to be our pattern:
 - 1. He was "...in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin" (Heb. 4:15).
 - 2. He "who knew no sin, became sin" (2Cor. 5:21).
 - 3. Only He could say to the Jews, "Which one of you convicts Me of sin?" (Jn. 8:46).
 - 4. He is the "Lamb without spot or blemish" (1Pet. 1:19).
 - 5. He alone shows perfect submission in service and the perfect love of the Father.

I. HIS PERFECT LOVE IS SHOWN IN THE SERVICE HE RENDERED.

- A. Above all else, our Lord was a SERVANT.
- B. Jesus **served God**:
 - 1. The prophets had depicted the Savior as a servant (Isa. 53:11; Zech. 3:8).
 - 2. At age 12 He understood that I "...MUST be about My Father's business" (Lk. 2:49).
 - 3. Jesus told His disciples that His food was to do the Father's work (Jn. 4:34).
- C. The concepts of "obeying God" and "serving God" cannot be separated in the life of X. Therefore, the perfect love of Jesus describes the Xian life as unqualified obedience (Phil. 2:7-8; John 8:55). See Rom. 6:16 (serving is obeying).
- D. Jesus **served men**:
 - 1. In fact, He could not have been a faithful servant of God w/o serving men (Jn. 3:16).
 - a. He came to serve, not to be served (Mt. 20:28).
 - b. He described to the apostles who was the greatest (Lk. 22:27).
 - c. When He washed their feet, He told them to serve each other AS He had done to them (Jn. 13:12-16).
 - 2. The devil has such control over the hearts of men that "servant" and "service" is forgotten in the "I, Me, My, and Mine" generation (Lk. 12:15-21).
 - 3. This loss of the "serving spirit" in the church today has turned dedicated Elders and preachers into beggars trying to get the work of the church done.
 - 4. Elders and preachers should not have to beg Xians to study, visit, try to convert others, give generously, and attend Bible classes regularly.
 - a. The true servant does not have to be begged to serve.
 - b. One cannot "serve God" without wanting to.

II. HIS PERFECT LOVE SHOWED IN WHAT HE HATED.

- A. Some think it strange to speak of our Lord hating anything.
 - 1. But that illustrates misconceptions of love and what X was like.
 - 2. We cannot really love without hating (Psa. 97:10; Mt. 6:24; Prov. 6:16-19).
 - 3. Contrary to blasphemous philosophers who avow that there is no such thing as absolute, objective truth, Jesus claimed to be such and to teach it (Jn. 14:6; 16:13). He sent the Holy Spirit to the apostles to guide them in all truth (Jn. 16:13).
 - 4. With such a burning love for truth, Jesus despised everything that was false or in error.
 - a. He constantly warned of false teachers/doctrine (Mt. 15:6,8,14).
 - b. Those who do not hate false doctrines are not like X.
- B. If our Lord so despised error, can those who follow Him be otherwise?
 - 1. His life of teaching was almost one continuous debate and refutation of religious error.

2. He could not teach "truth" without condemning error.
3. He could not free men from the slavery of sin without identifying those who enslaved.
- C. It is not "unloving" to expose, and to refute error: It was practiced by X.
 1. Jesus showed us that the truth needs defending when under attack.
 2. Inspired apostles and others led by the Spirit defended it, even to their death.
 3. Jude 3 commands, "...contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints."
- D. The church would be much stronger if we followed the example and teachings of X.

III. HIS PERFECT LOVE IS SHOWN IN HIS CONCERN FOR THE LOST.

- A. Nothing so completely sums up the love of X as His concern for the lost.
 1. He left heaven, emptying Himself of the glory of being equal w/God, to suffer death on the cross for the lost (Phil. 2:5-8).
 2. He never complained about the abuse He suffered: only that men were so blind as to refuse to let Him bless them.
 3. A most blasphemous teaching is that God could have solved the sin problem in some other way, but chose to send His Son to suffer unnecessarily.
 4. The most sublime truth is, "...for the son of Man came... to give His life a ransom for many..." (Mk. 10:45; Lk. 19:10).
 5. No one who ever lived ever had a clearer picture of his purpose on earth than X or worked with greater zeal.
- B. Jesus pictured sin as a reality and described its deadly end.
 1. It is hard to find a drunkard anymore, but we have millions of "alcoholics" who are unfortunate victims of disease.
 2. The sexually immoral are merely opting for "alternate life styles" (and an alternate place to heaven in eternity).
 3. Homosexuality is described as normal and those who rob, kill and rape are described as the victims of society who tried to get them to behave.
 4. But worse evils than these are the preachers practically deny sin's existence and condone these activities.
- C. Men cannot be serious about serving X and not be seriously concerned for the lost.
 1. Jesus commanded his disciples to go into the whole world and preach the gospel to every creature and to baptize those who accepted the teaching that they might be saved.
 2. This is our pattern and our mission.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Jesus is our pattern and example.
- B. He is the love that God has for us and our light for the world.
- C. We can see His perfect love in the service He rendered; in the things He hated; and in His concern for the lost.
- D. Go and do likewise.
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.