**A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS: THE WEALTH AND WALK OF A BELIEVER**

“Rooted and Grounded Part 2”

**Intro:**

***Ephesians 3:17***

***That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,***

* **God’s love for us is the stabilizing force in our lives.**

*“rooted”- To be firmly established with the underground part of the plant which supports its structure and supplies its nutrients.*

 Being “rooted” in God’s love means…

* Being convinced God loves you even when it **seems** He’s **not** loving you (Joseph)
* Being convinced God loves you even when you’ve **blown** it big-time (David)

*Romans 8:38 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.*

* **Our love for God is the motivating force in our lives**

*“grounded” –* ***foundation****; to establish or* ***build*** *upon*

*1 Corinthians 3:10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed* ***how he buildeth thereupon.***

*11 For* ***other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.***

*12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;*

*13 Every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of* ***what sort it is****.*

*At the Judgment Seat of Christ, our work will be judged based not only upon WHAT we did, but WHY we did it.*

***A motive check-list***

1. If no one ever knows what I am doing (giving, serving, sacrificing), would I still do it?
2. If there was no visible payoff for doing this, would I still do it?
3. Would I joyfully take a lesser position if God asked me to?
4. Am I doing this for the praise of others or how it makes me feel?
5. If I had to suffer for continuing what God has called me to do, would I continue?
6. If others misunderstand or criticize my actions, will I stop?
7. If those whom I am serving never show gratitude or repay me in any way, will I still do it?
8. Do I judge my success or failure based upon my faithfulness to what God has asked me to do, or how I compare with others?

* Our love for God is to be the reason we **serve** Him. (Ex. 21:2-6)
* Our love for God is to be the reason we **hate** this world’s system (I Jn. 2:15-17; Ps. 97:10)

*1 John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

*16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*

*17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.*

*Psalm 97:10 Ye that love the Lord, hate evil:*

* Our love for God is to be the reason we **obey** Him (Jn. 14:15; I Jn. 5:3)

*John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

*1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.*

* Our love for God is to be the reason we **serve** others (Gal. 5:13)

*Galatians 5:13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.*

* Our love for God is to be the reason we **love** others (I Jn. 4:19-21)

*1 John 4:19 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.*

***Ephesians 3:19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.***

*“know” – to know by* ***experience*** *in a variety of applications*

***If we’re ever going to “know by experience” the love of Christ, we must “experience” loving others as Christ loved us!***

* *I’ll never understand what it took for Him to forgive me, until I forgive someone who has wronged me in the worst way.*
* *I’ll never understand what it took for Him to love me in my sin, until I love someone who has sinned horribly against me.*
* *I’ll never understand the level of sacrifice it was for Him to lay down His life, until I’ve laid down my life for the sake of others.*
* ***I’ll never experience the fullness of God until I’ve experienced loving others the way that He loved me!***