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

“Rooted and Grounded”

**Intro:**

***Ephesians 3:17***

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

***“that ye, being rooted and grounded in love.”***

 **Agricultural** Term – Rooted (plant)

 **Architectural** Term – Grounded (building)

* **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)

*Romans 5:1 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: Romans 5:5 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.*

* Being convinced God loves you even when you’ve **blown** it big-time (David)

*Psalm 51:1 Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: According unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.*

***“May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height”***

* God’s love is **broad** enough to love you regardless of how you look, where you’re from or what you’re like
* God’s love is **long** enough to have loved you before the foundation of the world and still be loving you for all eternity
* God’s love is **deep** enough to love you even in the depths of your deepest sin
* God’s love is **high** enough to surpass any love you’ve ever experienced.

*1 John 4:16 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.*

*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.*

*“persuaded” –* ***confident****, secure, convinced*

*Psalm 1:1 Blessed is the man That walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.*

*2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord; And in his law doth he meditate day and night.*

*3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, That bringeth forth his fruit in his season; His leaf also shall not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*

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

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

***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.*