

Sermon: “The Most Important Passage of Scripture, Part II” Reverend White

Scripture: 1 Peter 4:6-11

That is why the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that they might be judged as men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit. The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear-minded and sober, so that you can pray. Above all, love one another deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without complaining.

As good stewards of the manifold grace of God, each of you should use whatever gift he has received to serve one another. If anyone speaks, he should speak as one conveying the words of God. If anyone serves, he should serve with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

Introduction

Last week I started a new series on “The Most Important Passage of Scripture”. Last week focused on John 3:17 “*For God did not send His son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world*”. This week is Part Two in that series. We will focus on 1 Peter 4:8 that says, “*Love one another deeply, because love covers a multitude of sins.*”. For it was out of God’s love for the world that the debt for our sins have been covered by the price that was paid by Christ. We know from Romans 3:23 “*All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God*”. And from Galatians 3:13 we know that “*Christ paid the price in full to set us free from the curse*”. It is indeed love that covers a multitude of sins. It is because of God’s love for us that the price of sin is covered.

PART I.

There are some wounds that are so deep that the only way for them to be cured is by love. Every couple has arguments or disagreements. Perhaps there is such an event that comes to mind right now. There is the old saying that time heals all wounds. We know not all wounds can be healed, but love can cover a multitude of sins. Love becomes the bandages for the wounds that do not heal. In essence, they cover the wounds and protect against infection setting in.

PART II.

In the Bible in the New Testament there is a word that is often associated with marriage and relationships. The Greek word is *Deó*. It means to bind together. It is why in the tradition of marriage that a cloth was often tied around the hands of couples when they said their marriage vows. These strips of cloth represented that the two were binding themselves to one another in marriage. Jesus often used this symbol in his messages speaking of the relationship he has with the Father. It is also the relationship he calls disciples to have with one another. In

Matthew 16:19 it says, “whatever you bind on earth will also be bound in heaven, but whatever you loose on earth will be loosened in heaven”.

The Greek word for loosed is *Luó*. This relationship between *deó* and *luó*, binding and unbinding, is an important theme in Jesus’ ministry. It often gets overlooked in the English translation of the scriptures.

PART III.

The reason why *Deó* and *Luó* is so important is because what we are bound to determines the direction we will go in life. If we are bound to sin, then it will steer our life in the direction of evil. But if we are loosened from sin and bound to Christ, it will steer us in the direction of God.

Because God so loved the world he loosened the bonds of sin and bound us to Christ so that we might be saved. And since it was Christ who has shown us how to love God and love one another, if we are bound to Christ we will follow in that direction. So when it says love covers a multitude of sins, it means we are bound to love one another.

Conclusion:

Let me conclude with this. Let the world know we are Christians by our love. For it was the extraordinary love of God that claimed hold of our life and bound us to Christ. And it is that love through the grace of God that we bind ourselves to one another in Christian harmony. Through the multiple layers of love which are all connected and bound together a multitude of sins is covered. So let us be gracious and continue to love as Christ has shown us how.