

**BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH: GOSPEL OF JOHN**  
**BELIEVING JESUS THE CHRIST: 23. THE LOVE THAT ATTRACTS**  
**MORNING, MAY 30, 2021**

KEY TEXT: JOHN 13:34-35

INTRODUCTION:

-trial *should* b\_\_\_\_\_ character, as Romans 5, James 1, Hebrews 12 and other texts attest: Christians should be radically d\_\_\_\_\_ based on the d\_\_\_\_\_ of Christ, the Servant of the Lord

I/ MOTIVATION: Why this love?

1. Cleansing of the Gospel: 1 Peter 1:18-23

-that love is vital goes back to Moses: see Deuteronomy 6:4-6; Leviticus 19:18; but radical c\_\_\_\_\_ is needed, as the “new covenant” promises show (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:25-27)

-the Lamb of God takes away the s\_\_\_\_\_ of the world (John 1:29); and Jesus cleanses completely (John 13:8-10; see 1 John 1:5-2:2); the blood of Christ p\_\_\_\_\_ souls through obeying the truth: so “see that ye love one another with a pure h\_\_\_\_\_ fervently”

2. Conforming to Christ: see also Ephesians 5:1-2; 1 John 3:16-17

-Christlike in character: 13:34-35, “as I have loved you”: Love must be in d\_\_\_\_\_ and in t\_\_\_\_\_; Ephesians 5 agrees: we are to w\_\_\_\_\_ in love

3. Commanded: see also John 14:21-24; 15:9-14; cf. 1 Timothy 1:5

-God changes hearts so that we might o\_\_\_\_\_ Him: that He is our Friend does not deny He is L\_\_\_\_\_

II/ MANIFESTATION: What is this love?

1. Servant Love: (compare 1 Corinthians 9; Ephesians 4:25-5:2; Galatians 6:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 2)

a) helpful: it is designed to meet the n\_\_\_\_\_

b) humble: as Jesus was driven to do the w\_\_\_\_\_ of the Father, our love does not seek p\_\_\_\_\_ payback, but the advance of the k\_\_\_\_\_ — even loving e\_\_\_\_\_! (Romans 12:17-21; see Matthew 5:43-48)

2. Sincere Love: again, 1 Peter 1:22-23

-Christian love is h\_\_\_\_\_; without p\_\_\_\_\_; a\_\_\_\_\_, and grounded in the truth of the Gospel that we b\_\_\_\_\_ from the heart (see also 1 Thessalonians 3:12)

III/ MAGNIFICATION: What is the impact of this love?

1. Revealing Christ: John 13:34-35; compare Matthew 5:13-16, 48

-Jesus applies this to the disciples’ future role as w\_\_\_\_\_: this will g\_\_\_\_\_ God

2. Proving the Truth of the Gospel (compare Romans 15:23-33; Ephesians 2:11-22)

-by our love, the world will believe that the Father s\_\_\_\_\_ the Son: e\_\_\_\_\_ for the Gospel is found in Christian u\_\_\_\_\_ (John 17:21)

3. Drawing Others: make the Gospel attractive! Titus 2; see 2 Corinthians 5

-without the a\_\_\_\_\_ work of Christ, there is no salvation (John 12:23-36): the Gospel is about being made r\_\_\_\_\_ with God (Ephesians 2:1-10)

-but it also establishes a new c\_\_\_\_\_, where all things become new; those who love Him and long to see others believe seek to a\_\_\_\_\_ the Gospel, pleading with others to be r\_\_\_\_\_ to God

**BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**KINGS: “WRITTEN FOR OUR ADMONITION”**  
**G. “THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL COME”**  
**EVENING, MAY 30, 2021**

KEY TEXTS: 2 KINGS 3, 6:8-8:29

INTRODUCTION:

- Elijah and Elisha represented God’s Word to the people, and illustrated *faithful* Israel: we have seen three key themes:
- the word of the Lord stands: a string of promises and their fulfilments can be traced
  - the dangers of the “counsel of the ungodly”, as Jehoshaphat painfully learns in his alliance with Ahab
  - the Lord reigns – no matter how much Ahab and Jezebel try to change/ignore that fact!
- what happens when we acknowledge this freely (as the prophets did)? What happens when we resist it (as the kings did)?
- background*: Moab (and Ammon) were descended from Lot; Moab had to pay annual tribute to Israel – but stopped when Ahab died; in 2 Kings 3, Israel tries to reassert its power over Moab
- Edom the descendants of Esau, Jacob’s twin brother: currently under Judah’s control (see 2 Kings 8:20)

I/ TESTING GOD’S PATIENCE (2 KINGS 3)

1. A Pretense of Faith

- not as wicked as Ahab (3:1-3), and claims to fight for the Lord (3:10, 13-14), making Jehoshaphat his ally

2. A Patient Response

- Elisha is not deceived by Jehoram’s pretense: compare Galatians 6:7-8: “God is not mocked!”

II/ TRUSTING GOD’S PROMISE (2 KINGS 6:8-23)

1. When God is For Us

- Elisha now illustrates God’s promises to a faithful people: what God does for Elisha *could* be true for the nation if they turned back to the Lord (compare 1 Kings 18:37; see also 2 Chronicles 14:11; Psalm 27:1-3; Romans 8:31)

2. Witnessing God’s Mercy

- from mercy shown to Syria, Israel should learn that God can protect them; surely Israel should call on the Lord  
-but instead, we see God’s patience coming to an end: His kindness will witness against them; see Romans 2:1-5

III/ TREASURING UP WRATH (2 Kings 6:24-7:20)

1. The Conditions:

- as in Elijah and Ahab’s day (1 Kings 17), famine brings desperation; this should remind them to seek the Lord, but instead, Jehoram blames Elisha just as Ahab had blamed Elijah (see 1 Kings 18:17)

2. The Challenge:

- Elisha insists that they “hear the Word of the Lord”: as on Mt Carmel, the issue is not the battle or the famine – it is whether or not the Lord is God; the judgment: he will see the fulfilment, but will not taste a mouthful of it

IV/ THE END OF AN ERA: 2 KINGS 8

1. A Final Reminder: 8:1-6

- the paragraph is not a mere interlude: we are being reminded of all the interventions of God along the way

2. The Day Dawns: 2 Kings 8:7-29; compare 2 Peter 3:8-14

- in 1 Kings 19:15-18, God announced his intentions to Elijah: three instruments of judgment will be raised up: Elisha (1 Kings 19:19; but only now Hazael (8:7), and Jehu (2 Kings 9): God is patient! But the Day will come, and therefore
- do not abuse the grace of God, that gives both evidence and opportunity
  - do not deceive yourself about being right with God: it is a matter of the heart
  - but do trust the Lord! The Day of the Lord comes! Live in the light of eternity, and wait with patience