**769\_Rumination for 03 Nov. 2019**

The **T**heme: **His Banner over me is LOVE** [[berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com/)](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com/)

The **T**ext: *He hath brought me in unto a house of wine, And his banner over me is* ***love****.* S. Songs 2:4, YLT

The **T**hots:

1. **The Display of Divine Love** – ***And his banner over me is love***
2. **C**onsider Moses’ **A**ltar-Banner in Israel’s victory over the **A**malekites: Exo. 17:15
*And Moses* ***B****uilt an altar, and called the name of it* ***J****ehovahnissi =* ***J****ehovah is our* ***B****anner”*
3. It **P**roclaims a **M**essage – *The LORD hath sworn…*
4. It **P**ledges a **M**ission – *that the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.* 17:16
5. **C**ontrast it with the King’s **B**anquet-**B**anner over his ***B****eloved* which is LOVE! S of Songs 2:4

*He hath brought me in unto a house of wine, And his banner over me is* ***love.***

1. Now **C**ompare God’s **D**eclaration **D**isplayed to all: ***God is Love*!** I Jn. 4:8b, 16

Cf. *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.*

1. **The Definition of Divine *Love* in the Greek New Testament – cf. Jn. 15-18**
2. *Agapáō* = the **H**ighest, most perfect **F**orm of love – the Love of God

*For God so* ***loved*** *the world, that He gave His only begotten Son…* Jn. 3:16

1. *Philṓ* = the natural **H**uman affection, with its strong **F**eeling of **F**ondness – the Love of Man.
2. **C**f. Jn. 21:**15**-18 – *Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest (agapáō) thou Me*

 *more than these? He saith unto Him, Yea, Lord; Thou knowest that I love (philṓ*) *Thee*

1. **C**onsider why Peter did not use the same *love*-word that the Lord used when he responded to Him
2. **C**an you say of Christ, “*I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine”* S of S 6:3, KJV

 *“I am my love’s and my love is mine…”* S of S 6:3, HCSB

1. **The Demonstration of Divine Love** – the **E**xtent of His Love: Rom.5:8, NASB

*God demonstrates His own love toward us for…* 5:8

1. ***W****hile we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 5:6*
2. ***W****hile we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.* 5:8
3. ***W****hile we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son,*

 *much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.* 5:10

1. **The Design of Divine Love. Eph. 1:4-6**
2. God’s **P**redestined **C**hoice of us… 1:4a

 *According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world…*

1. To be God’s **P**redetermined **C**hildren. 1:5

*Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself.*

*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.* Rom. 8:14

1. Now God’s **P**urpose and **P**leasure for His **C**hosen:1:4b

*According to the good pleasure of His will that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love:*

1. That we may be to God’s **P**raise in **C**hrist Jesus. 1:6

*To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the Beloved.*

1. **The Durability of Divine Love –**
2. *­*God’s Love is **E**verlasting –Jer. 31:3

*The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love:*

*therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.*

1. Jesus’ Love is unto the **E**nd. Jn. 13:1

*Jesus…having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.*

1. The Love of God in Christ Jesus is **E**ternally **E**mbracing – Rom. 8:38, 39

*For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 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.*

1. Hence, Let Us **E**nsure that ***We love Him, because He first loved us.*** I Jn. 4:19

*Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of Heav’n to earth come down;*

*Fix in us thy humble dwelling; All thy faithful mercies crown!*

*Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure unbounded love Thou art;*

 *Visit us with Thy salvation; Enter every trembling heart.* Charles Wesley,

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R769**

1. **1 John 2:14-17 –**
*…I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and* **(1)*****the word of God*** *abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.*

*Love not* **(2)*****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. 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.
The world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth* **(3)*****the will of God*** *abideth for ever.*

Three things stand out in the above passage. They are:

1. **The Word of God** (I Jn. 2:14) –

It is that which **S**ustains *the young men* (believers at their prime) and keeps them **S**trong. It is this **S**ecret in them that enables them even to defeat **S**atan, the wicked one. Make Sure you have the **S**criptures in you to keep you **S**teady and **S**trong in your Christian walk. The Lord’s response to Satan’s three temptations in the wilderness was to refer to the Written Word of God each time – *It is written…* Mt. 4: 4, 7 10

1. **The World and the Things Therein** (I Jn. 2:15- 17a)

The *World* is *kosmos.* The word represents "human life... apart from, alienated from, and hostile to God, and of the earthly things which seduce from God" (Vincent).

[quoted by Butler in his *Analytical Bible Expositor - Hebrews to Revelation.*]

These exhortations are about worldliness which is an all-too-common problem with believers:

* *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.*
* *Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.* (Jas. 4:4) – *For all that is in the world,* [1] *the lust* [or cravings] *of the flesh,* [2] *the lust of the eyes, and* [3] *the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*

Satan appeals to these three cravings in the man of the world (and the Christian too!) to bring him to his downfall. They come through various sensory channels (such as the eye and ear through the news media (newspapers, periodicals, magazines, etc.), the cyber media (Internet, Facebook, Instagram, TV, etc.) various attractions and advertisements, etc. One can just keep on adding to the list.

There is also that pride of life for self-recognition, -promotion, -prestige, -fame, etc. that can appeal to the ambitious to take steps to acquire them irrespective of what one does to others in order to accomplish what one aims.

You may like to add to the above list. But remember all this *is of the world.
And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.*

Apart from the above, you may know of other ways that Satan can employ to lure you to your lusts for the world and lead you to fall. Be alert and aware of his tactics, subtleties and devices, *Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.* II Cor. 2:11. **REFLECT**

1. A Pursuit of the world and its Pleasures will only bring about temporary satisfaction.
2. **The Will of God –** *And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof:*

*but he that doeth* ***the will of God*** *abideth for ever.*

He who reads the Word of God and seeks from it His Will for his life to do it, has the Promise that his achievements and accomplishments will be eternal – *abideth for ever*.

Is it worth the while to forsake the World for the Word of God to do God’s Will?

Or will you be like Demas –*For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world.* (II Tim. 4:10) **REFLECT**.

Points To Ponder: *Take the world, but give me Jesus, All its joys are but a name;*

 *But His love abideth ever, Through eternal years the same.* Fanny Crosby