**R795\_Rumination for Apr. 26, 2020 by K.C. Ung**

The **T**heme: **The Love of Christ** berita-bethel-ung.com

The **T**ext: *And* ***to know the love of Christ****, which passeth knowledge…* Eph. 3:18-**19**-21*May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;**And* ***to know the love of Christ****, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.
Now* ***unto Him*** *that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think,*

 *according to the power that worketh in us,*

***Unto Him*** *be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*

The **T**hots:

1. **Our Longing for Him and His Love by Faith: Eph. 3:17**

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

1. To know His Love, **C**hrist must dwell in us.
2. To know His Love, we need to **C**omprehend its **C**ompass, as follows:
3. **His Love is well-Founded –** *That ye, being rooted and grounded in love…* **Eph. 3:18-19**
4. Know that His Love cannot be **F**athomed to the **F**ullest – [See what His Love has done to our sins…]

*May be able to comprehend with all saints*

1. *what is the breadth, and length –* Psa. 103:12

*As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us.*

1. *and depth – Thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.* Mic. 7:19b
2. *and height;*
3. Though **B**rought up by the **A**ccuser of the **B**rethren in Heaven. Rev. 12:10

*In heaven…the accuser of our brethren…accused them before our God day and night.*

1. We need not fear **B**ecausewe have an **A**dvocate with the Father: 1 Jn. 2:1-2

*…sin not. And if any man sin we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:*

*And He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*

1. And He ever intercedes on our **B**ehalf. Heb. 7:25

*Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him,*

*seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them.*

1. *And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge,*
2. *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress,*

*or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?* Rom. 8:35

1. *For* ***the love of Christ*** *constraineth us…and that He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again.* II Cor. 5:14-15

1. *that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.*

Cf. The *Fulness of Christ* with regard to…Eph. 4:11-**13**-16

1. His **G**ifts: *He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists;*

 *and some, pastors and teachers.* 4:11

1. His **G**oal:
* The Immedi**ate**:4:12

*For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:*

* The Ultim**ate**: *Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God,*

 *unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the* ***fulness of Christ****:* 4:13

* Negative**ly**: *That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness…in wait to deceive;* 4:14
* Positive**ly**:

*Speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the Head, even Christ:* 4:15

* Affirmative**ly**: *From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.* 4:16

**Conclusion:** Thus:

1. *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****.* Rom. 8:38, 39
2. *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*

*Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.*  Jn. 15:13, 14

And one **C**ommand to the **C**hurch is: 1 Cor. 11:26

 *For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till He come.*

Until He **C**omes, let us **C**ontinue to love Him as He loves us: I Jn. 4:19

 *We love Him, because He first loved us.*

*The love of God is greater far Than tongue or pen can ever tell;*

*It goes beyond the highest star, And reaches to the lowest hell;*

*The guilty pair, bowed down with care, God gave His Son to win;*

 *His erring child He reconciled, And pardoned from his sin.* Frederick M. Lehman

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 795**

1. At the time of writing (24th April, 2020), it was announced by the Malaysian Government that the Movement Control Order (MCO) for the Constraining of the spread of the Corona Virus (Covid\_19) had been extended for another two weeks to May 12.

The statistics for the world (Malaysia in brackets) were then as follows:

Confirmed Cases 2, 718, 699 (5691)

Deaths 190, 654 (96)

Recovered 745, 629 (3663)

The virus struck silently initially over a few months ago, and still to become full blown at this time of writing. It penetrates national borders, shows no respect for age or gender, does not discriminate skin colour or social status, tears asunder political bias, be it conservative, democratic or liberal; whatever the clime, whenever the time, where circumstances and environment allow, it holds prime and victims fall.

Though so miniscule it has morphed into something so powerful that it has created havoc and upheavals all over the world in the economic field, political world, religious realm, and in any sphere one might think of. It has brought down over two million victims in its tracks and caused multitudes to succumb to its deadly poison.

Amidst all these turmoil, fear and confusion, controversial questions are raised.

Is there a God? If there is, why is He allowing all these to happen? Has He no compassion for the humans and creatures He created? So minute a creature can cause so gigantic a disaster throughout the whole world?

Is this God love? If so, why does He allow so much suffering, grief, sorrow, heartaches and pain into the lives of so many “innocent” inhabitants of this earth?

Are we right to question God’s love for us? Should we not question our love or, more correctly, our love for Him – in truth our rejection of His love for us? We reject Christ in Christmas and change it to Xmas. We object to its use even in supermarkets and malls. We protest the display of the sign of the cross on buildings, and in certain cases, even on church structures, and we practise all that He forbids in His scriptures as immoral to be against human rights and freedom.

So who stops loving whom – God stops loving us or we stop loving God?

Is it not time, that at times like these, we stop to pause and sincerely ask, Can God be still loving us, when we have so starkly thrown out His Person, His Precepts and His Love for us? Do we not deserve the Punishment we are experiencing? Is it not time to Repent of our sin against Him, ask for His forgiveness and respond to His Love and Compassion for us? **REFLECT.**

1. As a Christian, you have somewhat suffered in one way or the other. You have lost your job or you are taking home a much decreased income; you are experiencing difficulty to discharge your commitments in your rental, loans, etc.; you are facing problems to provide for your family needs; you have lost your job, your income, etc. “Can God be Love? Can Jesus be loving me? Does He care? Where is His Compassion?” Is it true when He said...?

Matt. 11:28, NKJV –

*Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

I Peter 5:7-8, NKJV –

C*asting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*

In times like these, it is so easy to fall prey to the Devil who seeks to sew Doubts in your mind and Heart concerning the Lord. Can you trust Him still at this time? Can you say?

Gal. 2:20, NKJV, *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh* ***I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me.* REFLECT**

**Points To Ponder:** *Why does the Butterfly have to Struggle to emerge from its Pupa?*