TIME AND PURPOSE – LOVE

“....a time to love.” (Eccl. 3:8) Love is a word grossly misused these days. Many people do not know, and some do not care, what it means. In many instances people who use the word “love” really mean “like.” Love is more than a surface thing or feeling. In many cases, if not all, we love because we are loved. We are taught love from infancy, our parents or some adult takes care of us, cleans us when we are dirty, feeds us when we are hungry, and cares for us when we are needy. That definitely is a form of love and perhaps a greater one than most of us know.

The word “love” in some form, is found more than 400 times in the American Standard Version of the Bible, and in the biblical sense of the word it means much more than many of us realize. The kind of “love” most of us understand is some kind of emotional attachment. This kind is almost universally accepted by all people. Certainly that is one of the components of love.

While we cannot give a full treatment on the subject here, we need to understand that the kind of love spoken in the Bible, is much more than emotion. Yes, emotion is involved, but there is also desire for good for the one loved, respect for God’s creature, willingness to go to lengths to help bring about happiness, according to God’s purpose. Plus there is a time when we should give more effort to accomplishing, in that person’s life, that which God desires.

Jesus said, “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:13) And what greater love to be shown to ones fellow creatures, than to see he has the knowledge of God that will save his soul?

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