

## The Greatest of These

**I Corinthians 13 is called the Love Chapter of the Bible.** I hope you did not forget but yesterday was Valentine's Day. So in honor of that day I wanted before our offering to read a portion of I Corinthians 13.

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.” I Corinthians 13:4-7

Paul the author concludes the chapter by saying, “these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

Jesus said a lot about love. He said, “Greater love hath no man than this to lay down his life for his friends.” Then he showed that kind of love by giving his life for us. Romans 5:8 says, “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” That is love!

Isaac Watts wrote a hymn entitled, “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross.” The first verse says, “When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died, My richest gain I count but loss, And pour contempt on all my pride.” The last verse says it all when he wrote, “Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a present far too small; Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.” That sums up what should be the Believers response. A response of love gives all.

This morning as we take up our offering I want you to consider asking yourself if your giving is loving or self-seeking? I am not simply talking about the amount of what you give though that can be a revelation in and of itself. I mean do you give out of gratitude and love or begrudgingly? Those that we love we give to. Those that we love most get our best. The offering should be a time when we give a Valentine of love to God for all He has done for us. That kind of gift, no matter the amount, is the greatest of these.