

# 墨爾本華人基督徒以勒團契

## 「主日崇拜證道綱要」

日期：2015年10月4日

主題：最大的是愛(二)

經文：林前13:13「如今常存的有信，有望，有愛，這三樣，其中最大的是愛」

詩歌：歌頌主愛(生67)

### 「牧者心聲」:

接續上週主日證道的分享，今天早上我們會繼續思想，在神所賜的恩典中：-「信心」，「盼望」，「神的愛」，究竟那一樣是最大的？使徒保羅引導我們在這方面去思考，語重心長的提醒，一定有其極重要的原因，就好像神僕摩西，呼天喚地勸勉以色列人，要有智慧揀選，要有智慧抉擇甚麼是最重要的，

因為這關乎整個以色列民族及個人的生死禍福。所以今天早上我們會仔細思想：

\*「最大」是甚麼意義？\*「最大」的又是甚麼？及\*為甚麼？

#### • 「最大的意義」

「最大」的同義詞就是：「最重要的」，「最有價值的」，「最有意義的」，「最需要的」，「最影響深遠的」，信心重要，盼望重要，神的愛重要，都是整個人類世代及人生所不能缺少的，但那一樣是最重要的，那一樣是最有價值的，那一樣是最有意義的，那一樣是最需要的；那一樣是最影響深遠的。

#### • 「最大的是甚麼？」

使徒保羅為我們提供答案：-「其中最大的是愛」，在信心，盼望及神的愛中作出比較，其中「最重要的」，「最有價值的」，「最有意義的」，「最需要的」，「最影響深遠的」就是「神的愛」。

#### • 「神的愛是最大的原因」

## 1) 最大的需要

「我已將你的名指示他們，還要指示他們，使你所愛我的「愛在他們裏面」，我也在他們裏面。」（約 17:26）

人是照著神的形像而被造，神就是愛，因而在人的一生當中，由出生直至離世，人都需要愛與被愛，當人的生命中充滿愛去愛其他人的時候，施比受更為有福，他本身就是一個生命滿足與富足的人，平安，喜樂，恩慈，憐憫，聖潔都在他裏面。當人得著別人的愛與關懷時，他的心靈就得著安慰，得著溫暖，得著滋潤，得著醫治，得著飽足。相對人若缺乏愛與被愛時，他就成為心靈空虛，心靈困乏，勞苦愁煩，更可憐的是生命充滿自私，貪婪，苦毒，仇恨，嫉妒，放縱等等，因而犯罪作惡。

## 2) 最大的動力

「原來基督的「愛激勵我們」，因我們想，一人既替眾人死，眾人就都死了；並且祂替眾人死，是叫那些活著的人，不再為自己活，乃為替他們死而復活的主活。」（林後 5:14-15）

人之所以能夠積極進取，竭盡所能，努力不懈地在地上生活，讀書，工作，行事為人，背後必然有一股力量在推動，可能是目標，可能是理想，或為其他人的緣故，但這些推動的力量都有其限制，保留，甚或消失。惟有神的愛，基督犧牲救贖的大愛能夠轉化成為無窮動力，推動我們甘心樂意，付上代價，甚至作出犧牲去愛神，愛人。

## 3) 最大的見證

「你們若有彼此相愛的心，眾人因此就「認出你們」是我的門徒了。」（約 13:35）人世間最悲哀的一種現象，就是各種人際關係的破裂，傷害，人的冷漠無情，虛假的愛，短暫的愛，計較的愛，都令人灰心失望，憂傷難過，但當屬主的人若能將從神而來的愛，一份純一清潔的愛，一份真誠的愛，一份付上代價的愛，一份犧牲捨己的愛去愛神，愛人，就構成一幅何等的善，何等的美的情景，更成為榮耀神的見證。

# THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE

1 Corinthians 13:13

The focus of our sermon this morning is on two phrases: the first one is '**now remain**' and the second one is '**the greatest**'. We may wonder, what is meant by 'now remain', and what are the things that now remain?

What does 'the greatest' mean? What is 'the greatest' and why?

I hope that we do not only attain the truth from the sermon, but we can also attain the greatest grace and blessing.

## The meaning of NOW REMAIN

### NOW

1) Before the glorious second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and before the end of the age. Now means the present age.

2) Before we die and our life ends. Now means a person's lifetime.

### REMAIN

1) the things which have **true values** in the present age and in a person's lifetime.

2) the things which have **eternal values** in the present age and in a person's lifetime.

## WHAT ARE THE THINGS THAT NOW REMAIN?

Before we know God, we use human intellect and wisdom to assess what are the things which are truly valuable and meaningful. Then the conclusion we get is: "money, materials, fame, status, beauty, knowledge, wisdom, ability, capability, enjoyments in life, family, marriage, children, health ....". Needless to say, people who do not possess these things feel sorrowful and helpless.

But sadly, even when people possess these, very often they are like the woman who went to Jacob's well to draw water. On the surface she owned everything but her heart was filled with emptiness, sadness, loneliness, pain, fear and helplessness.

Thanks to God's grace, after we are saved by God's Grace, through the apostle Paul, God teaches us that the things which are truly valuable, meaningful and which endures forever are 'faith', 'hope' and 'love'.

**1) 'Faith' is the type of faith that is pure and clean, steadfast, one that puts the trust in God.**

*Hebrews 11:6*

*And without faith it is impossible to please God,  
because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists  
and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*

*Hebrews 10:23*

*Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess,  
for he who promised is faithful.*

*Hebrews 4:16*

*Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy  
and find grace to help us in our time of need.*

**2) 'Hope' is the type of hope with an attitude which waits patiently, wholeheartedly looking unto God, and putting the hope in God.**

*Romans 15:13*

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may  
overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

*Titus 2:13*

*while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior,  
Jesus Christ*

*1 Peter 3:15*

*But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord.  
Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you  
to give the reason for the hope that you have.  
But do this with gentleness and respect*

**3) 'Love' is God's love**

**– love which is unconditional, without reservation and self-sacrificing**

*Romans 8:32*

*He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?*

*John 13:1*

*It was just before the Passover Festival.*

*Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father.*

*Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.*

*Jude 20-21*

*But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.*

### **The meaning of 'the greatest'**

The synonym of 'the greatest' is 'the most important', 'the most valuable', 'the most meaningful', 'the most needed'.

This is something that is indispensable in the whole age and lives of mankind.

What is the 'greatest'?

The apostle Paul gave us the answer:

*But the greatest of these is love.*

To compare among faith, hope and the love of God, the greatest is the 'Love of God'

### **The reasons why the love of God is the greatest**

#### **1) The greatest need**

John 17: 26

*I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them*

*and that I myself may be in them.”*

Men are created in the image of God. God is love. In a person's life, since the day he is born until the day he passes away, he needs love and he needs to be loved. When a person is filled with love he can love others. It is more blessed to give than to receive. His own life is contented and rich. There is peace, joy, kindness, mercy and holiness in him. When a person attains someone else's love and care, his soul gets comfort, warmth, sustenance, healing and satisfaction. On the contrary, if a person lacks love or is deprived of love, his soul becomes empty, drained, weary and burdened. More sadly, the life is filled with selfishness, greed, bitterness, hatred, jealousy, self-indulgence etc. So that he will sin and do evil.

## **2) The greatest motivation**

2 Corinthians 5: 14-15

*For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.*

The reason why a person can be positive and strive for improvement, can do his best and work hard which is manifested in the way he lives, he studies or works and in the ways he conducts himself – behind him there must be a force which drives him forward. This force can be his objective or ideal, or it can be for the sake of other people. However, there are limitations or reservations to these driving forces. And these driving forces may even disappear. It is only the love of God, the great sacrificial love of the redemption of Christ, which can transform into boundless power of motivation. It compels us to be willingly pay the price and even sacrifice ourselves to love God and love other people.

## **3) The greatest testimony**

John 13:35

*By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”*

The most lamentable phenomenon in the world is the falling apart of various interpersonal relationships - the hurts, indifference of people, insincere love, short-lived love, calculating love – they all cause us to be discouraged and disappointed, sad and sorrowful. However, if those who belong to God can love God and love other people with the love from God, what a good and pleasant scenario it will be. Then it can be a testimony that glorifies God.