



Cross Currents International Ministries

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Love:

Incontestable

"... though I have knowledge, ..."

1 Corinthians 13:2

by Richard A. Bennett

Dear Prayer Supporter,

CCIM now broadcast to the pioneer missionary area of Marsabit, North Kenya, in both Borana as well as Swahili! Thank you for your gifts and prayers making these vital African ministries possible in the Borana and Swahili in addition to the English, French, Kikuyu, Taita and Turkana languages, and also our follow-up literature.

This month "Love Incontestable," the sixth chapter of "The Love of God," is sent with our blessings. Richard can be heard reading these messages on: www.ccim-media.com and from war-torn Lamu in Kenya!

Together in His Name

God's love extended through CCIM by a NEW GENERATOR for Marsabit broadcasts in Kenya.



Good news! "Dorothy's Daily Devotionals" are now also broadcast in the BORANA language as well as in Swahili from Marsabit. Thank you for your part, through CCIM, in helping purchase another much needed generator for the radio station!

The antennas, connection of power to the site for the link to greatly widen this radio outreach in Northern

Kenya and even into Ethiopia, have been accomplished by the installation of an STL link.

This further pioneer missionary ministry will bless many through the translation, broadcasting and follow-up by a Borana-speaking Pastor.

Already some of the **Borana responses** are:

- God is great! I can hardly express my joy as God has truly remembered us in Marsabit in giving "Dorothy's Daily Devotional" in the Borana language. Thank you so much!
- What a good idea to have "Dorothy's Daily Devotional" in the Borana language as well as Swahili! I am beyond excitement as my mother can now listen and understand. God bless you!
- I so needed to hear from God, and today, God talked to me through "Dorothy's Daily Devotional." Thank you so much for this Borana program!
- His Word speaks to each of our hearts through "Dorothy's Devotionals" and we praise Him!

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The Love of God

5. Incomparable Love

6. Incontestable Love

7. Inductive Love

8. Influential Love

Just as a ray of light enters a glass prism and emerges in all the beautiful hues of the rainbow, so love enters the mind of Paul's illuminated intelligence and emerges in the glorious spectrum of the fruit of **the love of God**. This is described in the first epistle to the Corinthians, chapter thirteen.

It is interesting to note, that the first three verses of this chapter compare the much-to-be-desired gifts, with the very essence of the true love of God. The common pattern of thought in each of these verses is, though I have 'this,' and not, 'that.' A few of these statements are quoted from the Amplified Bible [AMP]

No spiritual reality: *“If I [can] speak with the tongues of men and [even] of angels, but have not love (that reasoning, intentional, spiritual devotion such as is inspired by God's love for us and in us), I am only a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal”* 1 Cor. 13:1 [AMP.] In other words, oratorical flourishes devoid of God's love might tickle the ears of listeners but are not necessarily spiritually influential.

No spiritual results: *“And if I have prophetic powers (the gift of interpreting the divine will and purpose), - and have all knowledge; and though I have all faith - but have not love (God's love in me) I am nothing (a useless nobody)”* 1 Corinthians 13:2 [AMP/KJV]. Yes, though I have much knowledge and am able to expound Bible truth with clarity to even describe the characteristics of God's love, to do that without portraying a character of genuine love, is to become a useless nobody.

No spiritual reward: *“I gain nothing.”* The somber truth is that much talk does not spell spiritual reality and much **knowledge** does not form a Christian character. *“Even if I dole out all that I have [to the*

poor in providing] food . . . and have not love (God's love in me), I gain nothing” verse 3 [AB.] Though ignoring God, politicians institute programs of welfare for the poor yet have no concern for their spiritual welfare. What is the point of going to hell with a full tummy? It is vital they have spiritual help.

Job said: *“For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth”* Job 19: 25. The apostle Paul testified: *“I know whom [not what] I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day”* 2 Timothy 1:12.

The apostle John, who had witnessed the astonishing life and deeds of the Lord Jesus during His time on earth, recorded some of these and concluded: *“But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name”* John 20:31. And, *“He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things I have written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye might know that ye have eternal life”* 1 John 5:12,13.

The apostle Paul prayed, *“That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death”* Philippians 3:10. So the question comes to you and me, do we read the Bible to get to know the Bible, or do we read the Bible to get to know the God of the Bible? There is a very big difference.

The apostle John twice commended 'fathers' in the church with an identical statement, *“because ye have known Him that is from the beginning.”* However, each introduction to this statement is different: *“I*

write to you” 1 John 2:13 and “I have written you” 1 John 2:14. In other words, the ‘fathers’ had been commended in the past and now John applauds them for their continued faithfulness. Throughout the long years of their lives, they knew the saving power of the Lord Jesus in their courtship, in their marriage, in the raising of their children, in their career and in every circumstance whether in their sickness or even in their old age. That is the fruit of knowing God and His Word in each of us!

Many of us find a great blessing in sitting under the ministry of men of God who have read their Bible on their knees every day. When we listen to such teaching, our Bible knowledge increases and our walk with God is encouraged. However, information without application leads to spiritual erosion.

Let us be much aware that, **knowledge** puffs up but love builds up: “**Knowledge** puffeth up, but love edifieth. And if any man think that he **knoweth** anything, he **knoweth** nothing yet as he ought to **know**, but if any man love God the same is **known** of Him” 1 Corinthians 8:1, 2. When speaking of the Lord Jesus, John the Baptist said, “He must increase; I must decrease” John 3:30.

When I hear a teaching from the Bible with which I am already familiar, it is God’s purpose for me to understand its fresh application for my life today. If I receive the Word of God without the Lord Jesus increasing and my decreasing, I have gained academic possibilities without spiritual reality in my Christian life.

For the multiplicity of home Bible study groups and the availability of radio Bible teaching, some good, some bad, and some indifferent, from coast to coast, 24/7, one wonders why the moral climate across America continues to decline at such an alarming rate. It is because the Word of God is not being applied to the heart of the reader.

I am thoroughly convinced that, for all who have been born again, the Bible teaches a pre-tribulation Rapture. I am also aware that increasingly we hear of what I refer to as a ‘pre-tribulation tribulation,’ when the wrath of sinful man is poured out upon Christ

followers. Just as “birth pangs” increase in intensity and frequency before a baby is born, (Mark 13:8) so we hear of natural catastrophes increasing; Christians being beheaded and governments seeking to seal the lips of true believers.

Surely the days in which we live are critical indeed. The explosion of present world-wide trends, prophesied in the Bible, indicate that we are quickly approaching the period of the Great Tribulation when the love of God will be replaced by the wrath of the Lamb: “The great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?” Revelation 6:17.

To say we love the Lord Jesus is a contradiction of what we profess to believe if we have sealed lips when mingling with people in a world headed for what is described in Mathew 24:21: “then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.”

Just after Dorothy and I were engaged, she must have wearied her associates as she showed her engagement ring and excitedly spoke of Richard Bennett, the man of her life! Yes, she really does love me!

Is your love for the Lord Jesus expressed in words and in ways as you witness of His love to unsaved colleagues and friends?

Pride, and the love of popularity, resist lining up with the despised and rejected Lord Jesus. Yes: “He was despised and rejected of men” Isaiah 53:3. The sin of omission and lack of glad confession of our Lord Jesus, needs to be confessed at the Cross. It is only there that our lips will be set free to speak well of Him, the Lover of our soul!

Am I a soldier of the cross,
A follower of the Lamb!
And shall I fear to own His cause,
Or blush to speak His name?

~Isaac Watts 1674-1748

Spiritual Check-up

- * Do I know more of God’s love than I express to other people?
- * Do I only love people because they are candidates for conversion, or do I love people because they are people?