**Sermon Title: The Permanence of Love**

**Sermon Text: 1 Corinthians 13:8-13**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to display the greatest gift of all.**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 4 aspects to reflect on, when considering the eternal state of love.**

**Introduction:** “We will understand it better by and by! The Christians as Corinth was saved and called to be light, but they were practicing attitudes, actions, and activities of darkness. They were called to be righteous, but lived in sin. Instead of Corinth being Christianized, the church was being paganized. The Corinthian believer’s greatest failure was love. A lack of love causes a multitude of sins, while love covers a multitude of sins!

**I. The Permanence of Love. V.8a**

**II. The Prospective of Gifts. Vv.8b-10**

**III. The Prophesy of Eternity. Vv.11-12**

**IV. The Psalm of Greatness. V.13**

**I. The Permanence of Love. V.8a**

 A. Love never – (present indicative act.) The present indicative communicates a continual action, stating that this will always be true, therefore love has no ending time period. Paul built a contrast between love and gifts, which will cease when their purpose is fulfilled.

 B. Love never fails – fails (pipto) has the basic meaning of a flower or a leaf falling to the ground, it withers and decays. Love will never fall, wither, or decay.

 **1 John 4:16** And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

**II. The Prospective of Gifts. Vv.8b-10**

 A. **Prophecies** will fail. V.8b

 (future indicative pass.) to render inoperative, to make ineffective or powerless . Prophecies will pass. [**The New Linguistic & Exegetical Greek New Testament p.38**]

 B. **Tongues** will cease. V.8c

 (future indicative mid) to cause to rest, to cause to cease. Possibly, “they shall make themselves close or automatically cease of themselves.” Cease is from (pauo) which means “to stop, to come to an end.” This is used of a voluntary action upon itself. To have a built in stopping place.

 [**Ibid.: 380**]

 C. **Knowledge** will vanish away. V.8d

 Prophecy and knowledge will be stopped by something outside themselves, but the gift of tongues will stop itself.

 D. The **Partial** will pass away. V.9

 For our knowledge and prophecy which is partial will pass away.

 **1 Corinthians 8:2** And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know.

 **Philippians 3:8** Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

 **Philippians 3:12** Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

 **Job 11:7-9** "Can you search out the deep things of God? Can you find out the limits of the Almighty? **8** *They are* higher than heaven-- what can you do? Deeper than Sheol-- what can you know? **9** Their measure *is* longer than the earth And broader than the sea.

 **Job 26:14** Indeed these *are* the mere edges of His ways, And how small a whisper we hear of Him! But the thunder of His power who can understand?"

 **Psalm 139:1-6** O LORD, You have searched me and known *me*. **2** You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. **3** You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways. **4** For *there is* not a word on my tongue, *But* behold, O LORD, You know it altogether. **5** You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. **6** *Such* knowledge *is* too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot *attain* it.

 **Romans 11:33-34** Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable *are* His judgments and His ways past finding out! **34** "For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?"

 E. The **perfect** will come. V.10

 (aor subj act) “to come”

 The context (v.12) suggests very strongly that Paul is referring to the eternal state as the final event in God’s redemption and revelation in comparison with what we will understand then. The present state of the believer and the church is only partial and this imperfect, or incomplete in light of their full fulfillment.

 There are several views about what the perfect represents:

 1. The perfect is not the completion of **Scripture**.

 2. The perfect is not the **rapture**.

 3. The perfect is not the **maturity** of the church or believer.

 4. The perfect is not the **Second Coming**.

 5. The perfect is the **eternal state**.

**III. The Prophesy of Eternity. Vv.11-12**

**IV. The Psalm of Greatness. V.13**

 “Gifts, ministries, faith, hope, patience, all one day will cease to exist because they will cease to have a purpose or meaning. But in that perfect eternal state, when we see our Lord “face to face,” love will for us will just be the beginning.

 But our showing love, practicing love, living love now are of utmost importance, more important than having any of the other virtues or gifts, because love is the link God gives us with His eternal self.”

 [**The MacArthur New Testament Commentary 1 Corinthians, p.367**]