


LOOKING UP

September-October 2024



*"...look up, and lift
up your heads."
Lk. 21:24*

Love Is Greatest

BY PASTOR JASON SALMI

*"So now faith, hope, and love abide,
these three; but the greatest of
these is love." (1 Cor. 13:13)*

Since Paul is here writing about the Christian, the conclusion he reaches seems incomprehensible. Yes, of course love is important. Jesus said that the greatest commandment enjoins us to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. And that we are to love our neighbors as ourselves.

But faith is what makes you a Christian! It is not that you first loved God, but that He first loved you (1 Jn. 4:19). And He drew you by His Word that proclaimed you to be a sinner for whom Christ died. That His death is full atonement for all of your sin, and that the penalty has been paid. And you have trusted in Him and His promise. You believe that this is true. And, as Paul says elsewhere, it is by God's grace that you have been saved by faith (Eph. 2:8-9). Faith is the apprehension of the Gospel promise as you believe and proclaim that it is not only true, but that it is true *for you!*

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Regular Schedule

Sunday

9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship service

Holy Communion

2nd & 4th Sunday of the month

Meal

2nd Sunday of the month

Board Meeting

7:00 PM 1st Tuesday
of the month

Ladies Bible Study

10:00 AM Wednesdays

Youth Group

TBA

Friday Night Bible Study

7:00 PM Location TBA

And because of this, you now have an unshakable hope that God, who began this work in you, will bring it to completion on the Day when Christ returns (Phil. 1:6). It is because of this hope that many Christians have gone through trials, tribulation, even death, certain that when their eyes close for the last time that they will open in His blessed presence.

Yet Paul says that, as true and as great as these things are, love is greater. And this is why; "Love never ends." (1 Cor. 13:8a). When Jesus returns in power and we see Him face to face, faith will have come to its natural end, as the One in whom we now have faith delivers us finally and fully from everything that could possibly try to draw us away from Him or cause us to doubt. And hope will be subsumed as we enter into the eternal kingdom which is our inheritance as children of God. And what will then remain is love. Perfect love towards God and towards our neighbor. Truly, then, even though faith, hope, and love abide, these three...the greatest of these is love.

Looking Ahead

September 8th

Sunday School resumes

September 13th

Bible Study resumes

September 25th

Youth Group resumes

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Mt. 28:19-20

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