

"Live in the Sunshine"

n. Limon
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P. M.

Scripture Lesson: - Jude 20-25.

Text: - Jude 21.

Introduction: - Jude is one of the briefest of all the letters of the New Testament. The date when it was written is not yet definitely settled. Some think it was written in the year 66 A.D. Others think it was at a little later date, probably 70 or 75 A.D. The writer, Jude, brother of James, is very humble in this letter. He calls himself a servant, and a bondsman of Jesus Christ. The letter is very practical. The heart of Jude was stirred because certain men were denying God and the Lord Jesus Christ. He said, because of this, "I exhort you that you should contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints".

There are three great elements in the faith of great men. The first of these is that they were in the world, but not of it. In the second place, they were constantly looking for the second coming of Christ; and last, they were filled with missionary fire and zeal.

How may we have this strange make-up of the present day man or woman of faith. Well how shall a man or woman live, so as to be sure of these things in his or her life. One sure way is, to live in the sunshine of the love of God. How may we do this? Is it not a hard thing to live in the sunshine of the love of God?

I.

How may we keep ourselves in the love of God? There is one way to do this, and that way is by prayer. There are different kinds of prayer. Jacob prayed when he met the angel of the brook Jabbok, and his name was changed from Jacob to Israel. Moses prayed when he plead with God to look with favor again upon his chosen people. Christ prayed in the garden, for it is said, "Being in agony, He prayed more earnestly". But these kinds of prayer are not to one's I have in mind; it is rather the kind of prayer he offered when he was alone on the moun-

tain with God. I imagine the Father talked with him more than he with the Father. It is the kind of prayer offered when the one who is praying feels that he is the only one in all the universe; it is the kind of prayer which if our mother could hear, or the dearest friend on earth, we should feel that it had been diverted and had not reached God. It is the kind of prayer we offer when we let God talk to us as well as we talk to him. This kind of praying will keep us in the love of God.

II.

There are few things that will so help us as this old book, the Bible. Two gentlemen were riding together, and when they were about to separate, one asked the other, "Do you ever read your Bible? Yes," said his friend, "I do, but I receive no benefit because I feel that I do not love God." "Neither did I", replied the other; but God loved me". That answer fairly lifted the man into the skies, for it gave him a new thought. The question is not at all as to how much we love God, but rather as to how much God loves me. If we read the Bible in that manner, it will help us to live in the text of the Bible. Love dictated every word, selected every sentence, love presented every Providence, love sent Christ to die upon the cross for me; ~~brethren~~, you cannot read the Bible in this manner without keeping yourself in the love of God.

III.

There must be emphasis upon the little preposition "in". "In the love of God". All things are possible. Let us see. The soul of Johnathan was knit to the soul of David, and there may be just as close a fellowship between Christ and his followers. Now and then we find two people in this world whose lives are so blended that they look almost alike. I think the poet Tennyson has this in mind when he wrote, "In the long years liker they must grow". It is suggested by the branches which take hold of the vine; by the different members of the body all knit together; by the union of husband and wife; by the union of Father and Son. In this

union there is a stability, vitality, consciousness, affection and perfect harmony. If one is in Christ, he will live above the world and the effect of the storms of life. The earth may be covered with storms, but a little way up the atmosphere is clear and the sun is shining. If we wait upon the Lord, we shall renew our strength; we shall mount up with wings as the eagles do.

are you living above the storms of life where the sun is shining? (airplane)

Conclusion:- What is infinite love? The love of God is infinite love. The purest, sweetest, tenderest thing known on earth is the over-hanging heart of a mother over the cradle that contains her babe that can give nothing back; receiving everything and returning nothing, yet the love of the mother is but a drop in the ocean when compared with the love of God. The love of God is infinite.

There's a wideness in God's mercy
Like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in His justice,
Which is more than liberty.

For the love of God is broader
Than the measure of man's mind,
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.

Over in England an archdeacon, having reached almost the end of his life, had his home so constructed that he could spend his closing days in sunshine. In the morning they placed his chair so that he could face the rising sun; at noontime they wheeled his chair into the south window, where he could see the sun when it reached the meridian; but in the evening hours they would place him in the west window, where he could see the sun sinking behind the distant hills.

So with us in the morning hours of life, we should keep our faces toward the east window; at noontide we should live, yea live, in the south window; but when even tide comes, we ought to turn our faces toward the west window, so that all of our journey we may live in the sunshine of God's love, and thus keep ourselves in the love of God.