

Affected by Affection 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

I. Intro

● Anecdote

- Affection
 - According to several scientific studies - - the amount of Affection that a child receives from their parents - will affect their lives as adults.
 - Case in point - it was back in 2010 - when researchers at Duke University Medical School discovered that...
 - ...babies with very affectionate and attentive mothers grow up to be happier - more resilient - and less anxious adults.
 - In 2013 - another group of researchers from UCLA found that unconditional love and affection from a parent...
 - ...help children to be emotionally happier and less anxious.
 - And then - in 2015 - researchers at the University of Notre Dame showed that...
 - ...children who receive affection from their parents were happier as adults.
- Affects
 - According to the outcome of that study - the adults who reported receiving more affection in childhood displayed less depression and anxiety.
 - Not only that - but - they were also more compassionate overall.
 - Conversely - those who reported less affection struggled with mental health.

- Not only that - but - they also had a tendency to be more upset in social situations...
- ...and were less able to relate to other people's perspectives.
- And in light of this research - there should be no doubt about the affects of affection.

II. Outline

● Points

- Mature
 - It's in a similar - and yet spiritual way - that the affection we receive as Christians - should affect the way that mature in the Lord.
 - And while it's true that every Christian has received the love of the Lord...
 - ...it's also true that this love should affect that way that we interact with one another.
 - And as we study the scriptures before us this morning - we'll begin to see that...
 1. ...Affection will affect our Mouths
 2. ...Affection will affect our Motives
 3. ...Affection will affect our Ministry
 - With this as our outline - let's open our Bibles to 1st Corinthians chapter 13...
 - ...where we find Paul - encouraging his audience - to become affectionate believers.

III. Mouths

● Set up

• Context

- As we make our way to the 13th chapter of 1st Corinthians - I wanna take a moment to point out that...
- ...this chapter of the Bible is called by many - the love chapter.
- One reason why is because - Paul took the time to define the love of the Lord - here in this chapter.
- And it's in our next study - when we will consider the four verses - where this definition is found.
- For now - we're going to focus on the first three verses of this chapter - where Paul connects the dots...
- ...between the spiritual gifts found in chapter 12 - and the affection of love - found here in chapter 13.
- With this as our focus - let's begin our study of 1st Corinthians 13 - beginning there at verse 1 - where Paul declared...

● Text

1Co 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

1Co 13:2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

1Co 13:3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

• Love

- Here in the beginning of this chapter - we find Paul - helping his audience to understand that...

- ...those who want to use their spiritual gifts in a way that blesses other believers - must make sure that we are walking in love.
- With this as our focus - I should remind you that the Greeks used several different words - - which are translated into our English word - Love.
 - This includes Eros - which was used in reference to a romantic - passionate love.
 - The ancient Greeks considered Eros to be an erotic - lustful loss of control...
 - ...which was based on the primal impulse to procreate.
 - The Greeks also used the word - Philia - when referring to the friendly affections - of platonic relationships.
 - This second type of love wasn't based on physical attraction - or sexual passion.
 - No - instead - Philia was based on the brotherly love that is experienced by close friends.
 - The third type of love that the Greeks spoke of - was identified with the word - Storge.
 - Storge is a natural form of affection experienced between family members.
 - This kinship-based love is commonly experienced between parents and their children.
 - The fourth type of love that the Greeks spoke of - was identified by the Greek word - Agape.
 - Agape love is often times described as a selfless - sacrificial love that fills our hearts with an affection for others.

- And we shouldn't be surprised to learn that this is the word Paul was using here in our text today.

- Affection

- With this in mind - let's take a closer look at the challenge that he presented there in verse 1 - where Paul declared...

1Co 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

- Here in the beginning of this chapter - we find Paul - helping the Christians in Corinth to understand that...
 - ...the articulation of the tongue is only as edifying - as the affection that fills our hearts.
 - And while Paul was clearly referring to the gift of tongues - this is also true of every language.
 - Regardless of whether we speak with the tongues of men - or the language of angels...
 - ...if there is no affection in our hearts - then - the words of our mouths will reveal it.

- Words

- I like the way that the Lord Jesus explained it - in Matthew chapter 12 - it's beginning at verse 34 - where He declared...

Mat 12:34 "Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

Mat 12:35 "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.

Mat 12:36 "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.

Mat 12:37 "For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

- According to Jesus - the words that come forth from our mouths - reveal what's in our hearts.
- Out of the abundance of our hearts - the mouth speaks.
 - That being the case - those who's hearts are filled with the agape love of the Lord...
 - ...will produce words - that reveal the affectionate that fills their hearts.
 - Conversely - those who's hearts are filled with evil desires - will produce words that reveal their evil desires.
- Poison
 - This was precisely the point that Paul was making - when he described the carnal communication of the unbeliever.
 - It's in Romans chapter 3 - beginning at verse 10 - where he declared...

Rom 3:10 "There is none righteous, no, not one;

Rom 3:11 There is none who understands;

There is none who seeks after God.

Rom 3:12 They have all turned aside;

They have together become unprofitable;

There is none who does good, no, not one."

Rom 3:13 "Their throat is an open tomb;

With their tongues they have practiced deceit";

"The poison of asps is under their lips";

Rom 3:14 "Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness."

- Paul was actually quoting 4 different Psalms - as he described the carnal communication that comes from the unregenerate mouth.
- And while it's not uncommon for unbelievers to insist that they are all about the love...

- ...it's important for us to realize that - there are different kinds of love.
- There's Erotic love - and brotherly love - there's familial love - - and then there's the agape love of the Lord.
- And I can assure you that - the unregenerate unbeliever cannot produce words that are filled with the affectionate love of the Lord.
- Clanging
 - The same can also be said for the carnal Christian - who is failing to live in the love of the Lord.
 - Let's consider how Paul put it - here in our text today - look with me again - beginning there at verse 1 - where he declared...

1Co 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.
 - Now - I'm sure we'd all be impressed with the person who is able to speak every Earthly language.
 - And it's even more impressive - to see someone speaking a heavenly language - according to the gift of tongues.
 - At the same time - Paul also assured us that this ability to speak in tongues is nothing more than annoying noise...
 - ...if it's coming from the mouth of a person who is failing to speak from a heart filled with the affection of agape love.
 - According to Paul - the speech of a carnal Christian is comparable to a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.
- Balance
 - It's for this reason that Paul constantly encouraged every Christian to speak the truth - in love.

- For example - it's in Ephesians chapter 4 - verse 15 - where Paul encouraged the Christians in Ephesus to speak the truth in love.
- I like the way that Warren Wiersbe weighed in on this when he declared...
 - "Truth without love is brutality, and love without truth is hypocrisy."
 - Christian - listen - if we withhold the truth - in the name of love - we are hypocrites who are failing to walk in the love of the Lord.
 - At the same time - if we tell people the truth in an unloving way - then we sound like a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.
- Edification
 - I like the way that Paul expounded upon this in Ephesians chapter 4 - it's beginning at verse 29 - where he declared...

Eph 4:29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

- Knowing how easy it is for carnal Christian to allow corrupt words to proceed from their mouths...
 - ...Paul encouraged us to make sure that we are using our mouths to edify our brothers and sisters in Christ.
 - With this as the goal - it's important to make sure that the words of our mouth - are gracious words that are filled with the love of the Lord.
 - Rather than saying every word that comes to mind - we should take the time to make sure that our words will impart grace to the hearer.
 - It's for this reason that James encouraged us to be swift to hear - and slowwww to speak.
- Examine

- As someone with a quick wit - and a way with words - - I am not pretending to have a handle on this discipline.
- I can't begin to tell you how many times I've said something that was entirely unloving.
- And the chances are - we're all guilty of using our mouths in an unloving way.
- That being the case - we'll all do well to follow the instructions that Paul presented to the Christians in Colossae.
- Hold your place - here in 1st Corinthians - and let's turn in our Bibles to Colossians chapter 3...
 - ...because - it's here in the third chapter of Colossians - where we find Paul - helping his audience to understand that...
 - ...Christians should put on the love of the Lord - so that we can edify others with the words of our mouths.

● Application

- Whatever
- Let's consider how Paul explained it - here in Colossians chapter 3 - look with me beginning there at verse 12 - where he declared...

Col 3:12 ...as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;

Col 3:13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

Col 3:14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

Col 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Col 3:17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - encouraging that Christians in Colossae to put on love - which is the bond of perfection.
- Then - as we walk together in the love of the Lord - the affection of agape love should affect the way we speak to one another.
- Rather than grumbling and complaining - we should edify one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.
- Rather than tearing one another down with carnal criticisms - let's build one another up...
- ...as we share the word of Christ - with one another.

● Transition

- Points

- Now - this brings us to our second point - because listen...

1. ...Affection will not only affect our Mouths...

2. ...but - Affection will also affect our Motives

- With this as our focus - let's make our way back to 1st Corinthians chapter 13...
- ...where we find Paul - encouraging the Christians in Corinth to walk in the love of the Lord.
- Look with me again - beginning there at verse 1 - where Paul declared...

IV. Motives

● Text

1Co 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

1Co 13:2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

• Gifts

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - shifting our attention from the gift of tongues...
- ...to the gift of prophecy - the word of knowledge - and the gift of faith.
- And as we consider the point that Paul was making - it's important for us to realize that...
- ...there are Christians in the church today - who have received these spiritual gifts.
- The gift of prophecy enables those who receive it - to boldly proclaim the truth of God's word.
- The word of knowledge enables those who receive it - to know things that the Holy Spirit chooses to reveal to them.
- And the gift of faith enables those who receive it - to have an extra measure of faith - so that we can accomplish incredible things.

• Mind

- Now - as we consider these charismatic gifts - there should be no doubt that...
- ...the gift of prophecy - the word of knowledge - and the gift of faith - will empower those who receive this charisma...

- ...to become believers who are able to make an impact on the lives of our brothers and sisters in Christ.
- At the same time - it's also important for us to realize that - these gifts can be misused - and abused...
 - ...by the believers who are failing to walk in the love of the Lord.
 - And it's for this reason that Paul encouraged his audience to understand that...
 - ...the proper use of these gifts - must be motivated by love.
- Love
 - Look with me again - there at verse 2 - it's there where Paul declared...

1Co 13:2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.
 - Once again - we find Paul using the Greek word - Agape - - which in this context...
 - ...refers to the benevolent affection - that motivated God the Father - to send His only begotten Son...
 - ...so that He could offer Himself as a substitutionary sacrifice for our sins.
 - And now - those who repent - and trust in the Lord Jesus - have become the recipients of the Lord's benevolent affection.
 - And as such - we've been called to love others - with the same benevolent affection.
- Commandment

- I like the way that the Lord Jesus explained in - in John chapter 13 - - it's beginning at verse 34 - where He declared...

Jhn 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

Jhn 13:35 "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

- Now - as we consider this command - it's important to understand that...
 - ...the Lord Jesus wasn't referring to Eros - He wasn't referring to Philia - nor was He referring to Storge.
 - No - instead - Jesus was using the Greek word - Agapao - when He commanded His disciples - to love one another.
 - And just to be clear - the Lord Jesus presented them with the example of the Love - that He has for us - by declaring...

Jhn 13:34b "...as I have loved you, that you also love one another."

- Sacrificial
 - Christ Jesus elaborated on the sort of affection that He was referring to - by describing the Agape love of the Lord as a sacrificial love.
 - It's in John chapter 15 - beginning at verse 12 - where He declared...

Jhn 15:12 "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

Jhn 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

- Christian - listen - the greatest love - is the sacrificial love of the Lord.
 - This is the benevolent affection that the Lord Jesus demonstrated - when He offered Himself as a sacrifice for our sins.

- And as we consider the sacrificial affection that Christ Jesus manifest on the cross...
- ...we must not forget that the Lord Jesus also commanded those who have received His benevolent affection...
- ...to love one another - with the same sacrificial love.

- Motivation

- I like the way that Paul summed it up - in 1st Corinthians chapter 16 - it's verse 14 - where he declared...

1Co 16:14 Let all that you do be done with love.

- Everything we do - should be motivated by the sacrificial affection that Jesus demonstrated - when He died on the cross.
- And with this as the goal - it's crucial for Christians to consider what sort of love is actually motivating us.
- Are you showing up to church - in search of Eros — are you serving in order to get close to the person you're attracted to?
- Is your attendance at church about familia love - - or brotherly love - - rather than the agape love of the Lord?
- If so - then - you're motivation to serve is probably skewed by a lesser love.

- Nothing

- In order to make my case - let's consider the way that Paul put it - here in our text today - look with me again - there at verse 2 - where he declared...

1Co 13:2 ...though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

- Just to be clear - Paul wasn't referring to the motivation of Eros - or Philia - or storge love.
- No - instead - he was helping his audience to realize that the Christians who want to use their spiritual gifts properly...
- ...must make sure that they are motivated by the benevolent affection of our Messiah - Jesus.
- Otherwise - their acts of service will amount to nothing - and the reason why is because...
 - ...they are serving our Savior with a lesser love - which will fail to produce the proper affect on the people around us.
- Examine
 - In order to prove my point - we should consider the encouragement that Paul presented - to the Christians at the church in Philippi.
 - Hold your place - here in 1st Corinthians - and let's turn in our Bibles - to Philippians chapter 2.
 - And as we make our way to the second chapter of Philippians - I wanna take a moment to remind you that...
 - ...it was the affectionate love of the Father - that led him to send His only begotten Son - to come and die for our sins.
 - And it was the affectionate love of the Lord Jesus - that led Him to offer Himself as a sacrifice for our sins.
 - And now - Christians have been called to have the same sacrificial affection for one another...
 - ...so that we can accomplish our calling in Christ Jesus.

● Application

- Same Love

- Let's consider how Paul put it - here in Philippians chapter 2 - look with me beginning there at verse 1 - where he declared...

Phl 2:1 ...if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy,

Phl 2:2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

Phl 2:3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

Phl 2:4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - encouraging the Christians in Philippi to become affectionate believers - by have the same love for one another.
- And just to be clear - Paul wasn't referring to Eros - or Philia - or storge love.
- No - instead - he was directing the disciples of Christ to be like-minded by embracing the same affectionate love of the Lord.
- And as we become those believers who are motivated by the affectionate love of our Messiah...
- ...we begin to set aside selfish ambition and conceit - and instead - we begin to use our spiritual gifts - for the benefit of others.
- Examine
- With all of this in mind - we should spend a second - examining our own lives by asking - what sort of love is motivating me?
- Am I motivated by the narcissistic love of self - - which is leading me on the path of selfish ambition?
- Am I motivated by the affection of family - which keeps me from serving in the way that I should?

- Am I motivated by the love of money - which leads me to work - when I should be worshipping?
- Or - am I motivated by the love of the Lord - which leads me to engage in the sacrificial affection...
 - ...that helps me to esteem others better than myself?

● Transition

• Points

- This brings us to our third and final point - because listen...
 1. ...Affection will not only affect our Mouths...
 2. ...and - Affection will not only affect our Motives...
 3. ...but - Affection will also affect our Ministry
 - With this as our focus - let's make our way back to 1st Corinthians chapter 13...
 - ...where we find Paul - encouraging the Christians in Corinth to walk in the love of the Lord.
 - Look with me again - beginning there at verse 1 - where Paul declared...

V. Ministry

● Text

1Co 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

1Co 13:2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

1Co 13:3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

- Profit
 - Here in verse 3 - we find Paul elaborating on the statement that he made in verse 2.
 - Notice with me again - there in verse 2 - where Paul assured his audience that if he used his gifts without love - he would amount to nothing.
 - Then - in verse 3 - he expanded upon this by informing the Christians in Corinth...
 - ...that there is no profit for those who give up everything - for reasons other than the agape love of the Lord.
 - In other words - there is no advantage for the Christian - who spends time serving our Savior - and yet for selfish reasons.
 - There is no eternal reward for those who engage in ministry - for the love of self.
- Bestow
 - In order to grasp the point that Paul was making - let's take a closer look at verse 3 - where he declared...

1Co 13:3 ...though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

- Now - that word - Bestow - was translated from a Greek word - which was used of those give gifts of benevolence in order to feed others.
- And we know that Paul was a benevolent man who had a heart to help those who were poor.
- Proof of my point was revealed after the first church council - when the apostles encouraged Paul and Barnabas to remember the poor.

- And in Galatians chapter 2 - verse 10 - Paul assured us that they were eager to do just that.

- Poor?

- Now - just to be clear about this - - we should consider something Paul said in 2nd Thessalonians chapter 3 - it's verse 10 - where he declared...

2Th 3:10 For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.

- Christian - listen - when it comes to the goal of taking care of the poor - it's important for us to realize that...
- ...we're not talking about those who are able to work - - but would rather receive a handout.
- In the context of the scriptures - those who were poor - were those who were unable to provide for themselves.
- And knowing that there is an overwhelming amount of people who are ready to take advantage of our charity...
- ...I encourage Christians to give our charitable gifts here at church - so that we can our leaders can vet the scammers.

- Charity

- We should also consider what the Lord Jesus said - about the motives for why we should give our charitable gifts.
- It's in Matthew chapter 6 - beginning at verse 1 - where He declared...

Mat 6:1 "Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

Mat 6:2 "Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the

streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

Mat 6:3 “But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,

Mat 6:4 “that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.

- According to the Lord Jesus - the motives for why we give our charitable gifts - is just as important as the gift itself.
- And listen - those who bestow their charity - in order to receive the praise of others...
 - ...have received their reward - the very minute that another person sings their praise.
 - That being the case - Christ Jesus encouraged us to give our gifts in such a way - that our secret offerings are openly rewarded by God.
 - And with this as the goal - our gifts of charity should be motivated by the affection of our Messiah.
- Ministry
 - And listen - believers should not only give charitable gifts - so that the church can help those who are poor...
 - ...but - we should also give - in order to support those who are called to full time ministry.
 - With this as our focus - let's consider how Paul encouraged the Christians in Corinth - to support the ministry in this way.
 - Hold your place - here in 1st Corinthians 13 - and let's turn back to 1st Corinthians chapter 9.
 - As we make our way to the ninth chapter of 1st Corinthians - I wanna take a moment to point out that...

- ...those who called to serve in full time ministry should be supported financially - by those who benefit from their service.
- And it's here in 1st Corinthians chapter 9 - where Paul encouraged the Christians in Corinth - to this end.
- Offerings
- Look with me - beginning there at verse 7 - where Paul asked...

1Co 9:7 Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock?

1Co 9:8 Do I say these things as a mere man? Or does not the law say the same also?

1Co 9:9 For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain." Is it oxen God is concerned about?

1Co 9:10 Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope.

1Co 9:11 If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things?

1Co 9:12 If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ.

1Co 9:13 Do you not know that those who minister the holy things eat of the things of the temple, and those who serve at the altar partake of the offerings of the altar?

1Co 9:14 Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel.

- In other words - those who have been called by Christ - to full time ministry...
- ...should receive financial support - from the believers who benefit from their service.
- And with this as the goal - Paul encouraged the Christians in Corinth to give - as a matter of generosity and not as a grudging obligation.

- In other words - the motivation for our giving - shouldn't be the law of the tithe...
- ...no - instead - we should financially support the ministry - with a heart that is filled with the affectionate love of the Lord.

- Martyrdom

- Not only that - but - we should also be ready to give our lives - according to the affectionate love of the Lord.
- Let's consider how Paul put it - back in 1st Corinthians 13 - - look with me again - there at verse 3 - where he declared...

1Co 13:3 ...though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

- Now - when Paul mentioned - give his body to be burned - I can't help but to wonder...
- ...was he comparing himself to the burnt offerings which were presented at the Temple.
- Or - was he possibly thinking of the way in which Shadrach - Meshach and Abednego were cast into the fiery furnace.
- It's also possible that he was referring to the way that Emperor Nero was setting some Christians on fire.
- Regardless of what Paul meant - the fact remains that there is no reward - for those who give their lives - without love.

- Reward

- In order to explain my point - let's consider something that Jesus said - in Matthew chapter 5 - it's beginning at verse 10 - where He declared...

Mat 5:10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,

For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Mat 5:11 “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.

Mat 5:12 “Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

- Christian - listen - those who are persecuted - and martyred for the ministry of our Messiah...
- ...will be rewarded with the everlasting riches of God's righteousness.
- And as we consider this promise of eternal rewards for those who are martyred in the name of our Messiah...
- ...we can also be certain that those who are martyred for any other reason - will fail to receive the rewards of the Lord.
- And it's for this reason that we should make sure that our ministry is motivated by the affection of our Messiah.

● Application

- Motivation
- I like the way that Paul put it - in 2nd Timothy chapter 4 - it's beginning at verse 6 - where he declared...

2Ti 4:6 I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.

2Ti 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

2Ti 4:8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - describing the way that the love of the Lord was leading him to lay down his life.

- Paul was a man who longed for the day - when he would stand in the presence of our Savior - Jesus.
- And as he looked forward to the day when He would receive the crown of righteousness...
- ...Paul's love for the appearing of the Lord - helped him to have a heart that was filled with affection - for those he was serving.
- In this way - the affectionate love of the Lord helped him to endure every hardship - as he accomplished the ministry of our Messiah.
- And listen - we'll do well to follow in his footsteps - by allowing the affectionate love of the Lord - to motivate our ministry.

VI. Conclusion

● Wrap up

• Points

- Now - as we begin to wrap up this study - we should take a moment to ask - - is my heart filled with the affectionate love of the Lord?
 - And if not - then - how is my lack of affection - affecting the people around me.
 - With these questions in mind - I should remind you that...
1. ...Affection will affect our Mouths...
 - ...and it's for this reason that we should make sure that we are walking in the love of the Lord...
 - ...so that we can edify others with the words of our mouths.

2. ...Affection will also affect our Motives...

- ...and it's for this reason that we should become those believers who are motivated by the affectionate love of our Messiah...
- ...so that we might set aside selfish ambition - for the benefit of others.

3. ...Finally - Affection will affect our Ministry

- ...and it's for this reason that we should ask the Lord to fill our hearts with His loving affection...
- ...so that we can become those believers who are accomplishing our the ministry of our Messiah...
- ...according to the affects of our Savior's Affectionate love.