*“With the Master Before the Mirror of God’s Word”* by Susan Heck

A Ladies Bible Study on First John

Tuesday, November 26th, 2019

*“The love of God---a wonderful truth for the believer in Jesus! John mentions in his letter just how deep God’s love is for us, so deep, in fact, that He sent His son to die for us! And as we think about the depth of the Father’s love, we should bow our hearts in an attitude of humble thanksgiving and express our thanks in a tangible way…an attitude of love towards others.” (pg.223,224)*

**Susan’s Summary** of Chapter 16– “How Deep the Father’s Love for Us!” – 1 John 4:7-12 (pg.’s 233-234)

So to wrap it up, *“We Love Others Because Love is the Nature of God” (vv 7-10)* and *“We Love Others Because God Loves Us” (vv 11, 12).*

Ladies, the idea of loving others comes from the One who is love Himself---God. Without Him, love would not even be a concept that we could understand. Once again, John is stressing the importance of loving others, and the motive to love others is God, who is Himself love, and who loves us. I want to end by focusing on the love of God. To do so, I would like for us to meditate on the words of the song,

***The Love Of God***

(verse 1) The love of God is greater far (verse 2 ) When hoary time shall pass away,

Than tongue or pen can ever tell; And earthly thrones and kingdoms fall,

It goes beyond the highest star, When men who here refuse to pray,

And reaches to the lowest hell; On rocks and hills and mountains call,

The guilty pair, bowed down with care, God’s love so sure, shall still endure,

God gave His Son to win; All measureless and strong;

His erring child He reconciled, Redeeming grace to Adam’s race---

And pardoned from his sin. The saints’ and angels’ song.

Refrain:

Oh, love of God, how rich and pure!

How measureless and strong?

It shall forevermore endure---

The saint’s and angels’ song.

(verse 3) Could we with ink the ocean fill,

And were the skies of parchment made,

Were every stalk on earth a quill,

And every man a scribe by trade;

To write the love of God above

Would drain the ocean dry;

Nor could the scroll contain the whole,

Though stretched from sky to sky.

*“Words of this song by Frederick M. Lehman; Verse 3 was penciled on the wall of a narrow room in an insane asylum by a man said to have been demented. The profound lines were discovered when they laid him in his coffin.”*