

## “WHO HOLDS YOUR HEART?”

**Pastor Mike Corwin**

**TEXT: ROMANS 10:1-13**

**GOD’S WORD: PSALM 42**

### **I – FICKLE LOVE:**

Well I’m safe for another year. I remembered today was Valentine’s Day and to get my wife a present and give some of my money to Hallmark for her card. Julie is once again reassured of my love because she woke up to mice. Not real ones...ceramic ones I bought her for her collection. I’m good now until the next holiday!

I woke up this morning though with a little bit of a sad heart knowing that not everyone will receive an assurance of love this day. Not everyone will be taken out to dinner or receive flowers as a token of someone’s love for them. Not everyone will get a card that warms their heart or brings a tear of joy. Not everyone will feel love this day. And that makes me very sad to know there are those who feel unloved.

But the truth of the matter is that love is indeed a fickle thing is it not? We stand at the altar and say I do...but in the end we don’t. Something goes wrong and we end up out of love for one reason or another and someone’s heart gets broken. The divorce rate in this country in 2020 was 45% for 1<sup>st</sup> marriages, 60% for 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 73% for 3<sup>rd</sup> timer’s hovers at 50%. Love is fickle and it has plenty of help. You don’t even have to leave your house anymore to cheat on your spouse or significant other because we have social media now. You can converse with and fall in love with people you can’t even see all from the comfort of your chair. The internet has become the #1 way to meet someone and the #1 cause of divorce in this country. Love is fickle...don’t believe me...ask a teenager how many times their hearts have been broken...love is fickle.

### **II – TEXT – ROMANS 10:1-13:**

There is one love though that is not fickle. Regardless of what men and women do to one another, the love of God will stay steadfast. Listen to the words of Paul in his letter to the church in Rome as we begin to look at this unailing love.

## Romans 10:1-13

<sup>1</sup>Dear brothers and sisters, the longing of my heart and my prayer to God is for the people of Israel to be saved. <sup>2</sup>I know what enthusiasm they have for God, but it is misdirected zeal. <sup>3</sup>For they don't understand God's way of making people right with himself. Refusing to accept God's way, they cling to their own way of getting right with God by trying to keep the law. <sup>4</sup>For Christ has already accomplished the purpose for which the law was given. As a result, all who believe in him are made right with God. <sup>5</sup>For Moses writes that the law's way of making a person right with God requires obedience to all of its commands.<sup>6</sup> <sup>6</sup>But faith's way of getting right with God says, "Don't say in your heart, 'Who will go up to heaven' (to bring Christ down to earth). <sup>7</sup>And don't say, 'Who will go down to the place of the dead' (to bring Christ back to life again)." <sup>8</sup>In fact, it says, "The message is very close at hand; it is on your lips and in your heart." And that message is the very message about faith that we preach: <sup>9</sup>If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved. <sup>11</sup>As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced." <sup>12</sup>Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. <sup>13</sup>For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved."

Paul is a man of God, an Apostle of Jesus Christ, and as such has had true love modeled for him. This is the love he lives with and follows. This is the love that he shares with all others. You can tell that by passages such as this. By this time he has pretty much been disowned by the Jewish people. He has given up his rights as a Pharisee in training and now travels as a missionary for Jesus, telling others of this love he has experienced. The Jewish leaders would do anything to see him dead, yet he says he has not forgotten them, not given up on them. He loves them and wants them to come to know Jesus too. His heart longs for it.

They continue to follow the Law of Moses, trying to earn their way out of hell and up to heaven by following all the various rules and regulations they have been given. They fail to realize it can't be done! They have embraced a legalistic mess instead of the message of love before them. It's not about what they can do...it's all about what God has done. It's not about their efforts...it's about God's grace as given through his Son Jesus Christ.

All they have to do is believe it in their hearts and confess it with their mouths and they too will find true and lasting love. How easy it is to accept Jesus as your Savior and then not be ashamed to tell others about it. You don't have to go through the arduous task of dating and meeting the parents, you will meet his father as you meet him. You don't have to sign up for a dating service or go on line to match.com. You don't have to worry about how you look, how you smell, how much money you have, where you live, or anything else human. All you have to do is believe because "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (verse 13). You won't be turned down. No matter who you are or what you've done, God's love will accept you and cover you.

And this love will never leave you or desert you. Paul says that anyone who trusts in him will “NEVER” be disgraced (verse 11). Jesus will never leave you, divorce you, or cheat on you. Jesus will never fall out of love with you. The love of Jesus is steadfast and true...it is never fickle!

### **III – GOD OF LOVE:**

How could he, he is after all the Son of God and according to the Bible (1 John 4:8b) “God is love.” But don’t depend on this one verse to give you this message. Take the whole Book as a whole and you’ll see this theme of God’s love over and over throughout it.

He created an entire world just so we’d have a place to live. He paid attention to every detail so everything would work together in harmony to sustain us, like a perpetual food chain to feed us and clean air for us to breath. He created a perfect garden for us to live in and then we saw that human love is indeed fickle as the first man and woman ate the forbidden fruit and brought sin into that perfect world. Yet God did not kill them as they feared would happen, he made them clothes and let them live to procreate and start the human race. When that turned out bad he sent a flood to wipe out the sinful people, yet put Noah and his family on a boat with animal pairs to continue the human race and its existence. When they got their feet back on dry ground one of the first stories we read is again of sin against God. He still didn’t destroy us but kept his love and called Abraham to be the father of his chosen people. When that people ended up as slaves to pharaoh in Egypt he sent Moses and delivered them to safety where they immediately sinned again by making idols to worship instead of God. Still he loved them and continued on, eventually taking them to the Promised Land under the leadership of Joshua. It didn’t take long before the same old story repeated itself, we were fickle and fell out of love with God and sinned...and sinned...and sinned.

And still God did not quit loving us. He sent his one and only Son to be born of a virgin in a stable, to grow up and spread the good news of forgiveness and Salvation. Then to prove just how much God loved us...to prove how steadfast that love was...to prove that he would never, never give up on loving us...that Son allowed himself to be arrested by those who were supposed to be servants of God running the church. He was hauled before them where he was found guilty and turned over to the Roman authorities with a call for his death. He was stripped naked, humiliated, beaten, and belittled. He was spit on and had thorns pressed into his head. As the skin hung from his body and the blood dripped from his wounds, he was marched up a hill called Calvary and had his hands and feet nailed to a cross where he died, not for what he had done, but for what we have done. He died to show us the love of the Creator would stop at nothing to gain the love of the creation. God is love beyond our own comprehension.

### **IV – GOD’S LOVE NOT FICKLE:**

God's love never has been and never will be fickle. His actions have proven that it truly is a love that will not let you go. His actions down through the ages have proven it beyond a shadow of a doubt. He will not divorce you because you've sinned, he will not leave you because you haven't paid enough attention to him, he will not fall out of love with you, and he will never leave you for another. His love is ongoing and eternal. Once you believe in your heart and confess with your mouth that Jesus is Savior and Lord nothing can ever again separate you from that love.

Paul said it best earlier in his letter to Rome when he said:

### **Romans 8:38-39**

<sup>38</sup>And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. <sup>39</sup>No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

You can't escape the love of God.

### **V – WHO HOLDS YOUR HEART?**

So my question for you today is, WHO HOLD'S YOUR HEART? Have you placed it in the hands of the one who will never break it? Is it being held by God because you've given it to Jesus? Doesn't matter whether you're loved here today or not by another human being, doesn't matter how fickle you've found love to be, because God loves you.

Over 2,000 years ago God sent you the most precious valentine anyone could ever receive, he sent his Son to bring you his love. And God's love never wavers or fails. It has no time limit and has been ongoing since the beginning of time and will never end for those who have found Jesus and eternal life. If you believe in your heart and confess with your mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord, then your heart can never be truly broken ever again because it's held in the heart of God.

If you don't know that love then you need to hear God call you today to "Be my Valentine" and accept the love freely given. By the power of that love you are made whole.

AMEN