LESSON 13 — THE LOVE OF GOD

1. CLOSING BLESSING: THE FULLNESS OF THE GODHEAD
- 2 Corinthians 13:14
- "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ"
  - The Son (Kurios = Supreme Authority)
- "The love of God"
  - The Father
- "The communion of the Holy Ghost"
  - The Spirit
- PRINCIPLE:
  - The entire Godhead is involved in the believer's experience

2. MORE THAN A FORMAL CLOSING
- This is not merely a signature phrase
- This is not routine language
- INSIGHT:
  - Paul is expressing something deeply personal and theological
- PRINCIPLE:
  - Scripture often carries depth beyond surface reading

3. PAUL'S PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF GOD'S LOVE
- Acts 7:58 (Stephen's stoning)
- Paul witnessed and participated in persecution
- RESULT:
  - He deeply understands what he has been forgiven from
- PRINCIPLE:
  - The depth of our appreciation of God's love is tied to our awareness of His forgiveness

4. DEFINING THE LOVE OF GOD
- "Love" (Greek: agape)
  - Divine, selfless love
  - What God prefers
- "God" (Greek: theos)
  - The Supreme Divinity
- INSIGHT:
  - The Supreme God chooses to love and prefer us
- PRINCIPLE:
  - God's love is intentional, not accidental

5. THE LOVE OF CHRIST CONSTRAINS US
- 2 Corinthians 5:14
- "Constraineth" (Greek: sunecho)
  - Holds together

  - Presses
  - Binds
  - Controls toward righteousness
- PRINCIPLE:
  - God's love guides and directs our lives

6. THE MANIFESTATION OF GOD'S LOVE
- 1 John 4:9–10
  - God sent His Son so we might live
- Romans 5:8
  - Christ died while we were still sinners
- Romans 8:38–39
  - Nothing can separate us from God's love
- John 3:16
  - The gift of eternal life through Christ
- PRINCIPLE:
  - The greatest expression of God's love is Jesus Christ

7. THE EFFECT OF GOD'S LOVE
- God's love:
  - Holds us together
  - Supports us
  - Unites us
  - Strengthens us
- PRINCIPLE:
  - Love is the sustaining force of the Christian life

8. GOD'S LOVE AND GOD'S PRESENCE
- 1 John 4:7–8
  - "God is love"
- INSIGHT:
  - To experience God's love is to experience God Himself
- PRINCIPLE:
  - When Paul says, "The love of God be with you"
  - He is essentially saying:
    - "May God Himself be with you"

9. RECOGNIZING GOD'S LOVE IN LIFE
- God's love is observable even in a broken world
- It is reflected in:
  - Protection
  - Sacrifice
  - Forgiveness
- PRINCIPLE:

- God’s character can be seen through acts of love

10. THE CHARACTER OF GOD’S LOVE

- God’s love:
  - Forgives
  - Protects
  - Fights for us
  - Sustains us
  - Frees us
- **SCRIPTURAL CONNECTIONS:**
  - Jude 1:24–25 — God keeps us
  - Romans 8:31 — God is for us

11. FINAL APPEAL

- Paul’s blessing:
  - “The love of God be with you”
- **FINAL TRUTH:**
  - God’s love is not abstract
  - It is personal
  - It is active
  - It is present
- **CONCLUSION:**
  - To know God is to experience His love