

Song of Solomon 8: 7; “Many Waters Cannot Quench Love”, Sermon # 71 in the series – “I am My Beloved’s”, Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall on June 5th, 2022, in the Afternoon Worship Service.

I have taken the viewpoint that it is Christ who is speaking here in verses 5b-7. It is Christ who awakened His Bride under the apple tree. (verse 5) It is Christ who is speaking to her about how her mother the Church brought her forth; that is, begot her through His gospel being preached to her. I believe that it is Christ here who is asking His Bride to put Him as a seal upon her heart in her affections for Him which are expressed in verse 6. It is Christ who is asking her to put Him as a seal upon her arm in verse 7 because, He says, My love has been as strong as death and my holy jealousy over you is as strong as My death for you.

He would have her to remember Him in all that she is doing for Him, and to unashamedly wear her profession of faith in Him upon her arm, so that all will see. Every true Christian wants to abide in Christ’s love. And they want to know the greatness of His love which surpasses knowledge. So, here in this verse, Christ is speaking on behalf of both He and His Bride. He wants to make certain points about the love the they have for each other.

1st of all – Many waters cannot quench Christ’s love, and they should not quench ours. 2nd – Floods of waters cannot ultimately drown Christ’s love, and will not ultimately drown our love for Him either. And 3rd – Christ’s love and spiritual riches are ultimately of greater value than all earthly riches. Let us now remind ourselves just how great this love is, before we partake of the Lord’s Supper.

1st of all – Many waters cannot quench Christ’s love, and they should not quench ours.

Many waters cannot quench My love for you as my Bride, nor your love for Me because of the strength of My grace towards you. This is what Christ is saying by making this general statement. What are these many waters which would try to quench the love between you and Christ? I believe that first of all, they are people who would try to take our focus off of our love relationship with Jesus Christ and try to fix it on themselves, or some system of false religion they hold to. In Revelation chapter 17, verse 15, the angel speaking to John tells him – “The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.”

This refers to the distraction and deception of false religion. And it certainly is a terrible problem, world-wide. False religions which believe in other gods besides the only true God and His Son Jesus Christ, they want to ignore the love of God in His giving of Christ to be the Savior of the World. In doing so, they think to quench His love. People in false religions want to think that they can love God without Christ’s having had to obey God’s law perfectly for them. But it is only He who has loved God perfectly with all of His heart.

People in false religions want to believe that Christ did not have to go to the cross for them in order that they might be changed in their heart to love God and keep His commandments. They do not want to hear that they are sinful by nature and practice, so sinful that they must be saved by Christ. So it is true that those believing in a sacramental salvation, or in a works-righteousness religion, will indeed attempt to quench the love of God in the gospel. They want to try to convince you that Christ’s dying love and His purchase of grace is something which is secondary to what you yourself think that you can do to please God.

But for the person who believes in the gospel, the love of Christ becomes everything to them. They have an unquenchable thirst for more of His love. And their love rejoices in the truth of Who Christ is, and what He has done. Their love rejoices in the truth concerning Christ, from all the word of God. Let us think about our love for Christ and how it came to exist in the first place. The word of God tells us that our love for Him exists because He first loved us. We actually only love Him because He has first loved us.

Since this is true, it means that Christ’s love for us cannot be extinguished because of Who He is, and what He has done for us. His love cannot be extinguished, and it cannot be quenched so far as

to put it out, because He is God made manifest in the flesh. He has, along with the Father, and the Holy Spirit, loved us with an everlasting love. That fire of Christ's eternal and unchangeable love cannot be quenched by many waters. Because He has loved us with an everlasting love, we His people will always and forever will burn brightly in our love for Him, once we have come to know Him, and have received all the benefits of all what He has done for us. Because of His willingness to come into this world in His Incarnation, because of His willingness to do the will of God at every point in keeping His holy law, because of His laying down His life for our sins, His love is unquenchable, and it will never change.

Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and forever. His love will always be fervent, constant, and faithful, under every situation and circumstance that we will go through in this life. Our love for Him, therefore, is our learning to respond to all that He has come to mean to us in relation to all that He has done for us. Our love is shown to Him in our being faithful in our relationship with Him. 1st John 3: 16 says – “By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us.” In other words, this love of Christ's is a love which we must reciprocate. We respond to His love for us in our becoming faithful and obedient to His word.

In John 15: 9-14, Jesus says – “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.” “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.” “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that you joy may be full.” “This is my commandment that you love one another as I have loved you.” “Greater love has no man than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.” “You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.” Indeed, we have come here at this hour to declare our unquenchable love for Christ, because of His unquenchable love for us. We are his friends when we do what He commands of us.

But I want you to see that it is possible that the waters of people around you who want you compromise your obedience to Christ, may quench your love for Him if you are not careful to love Him more than any other person that you love in this life. It may indeed be the case that a person whom you love may be asking you to love them more than you do Christ. And thus you may end up having your love for Christ, as your first love, quenched, and made to fall into second place behind them. This should cause you to ask yourself whether you have really counted the cost of being His disciple.

This person or persons that I am thinking of, they may be an unsaved relative. Or they may even be a well meaning friend. They are a person who questions whether you really need to follow Christ in everything that He has commanded you to do in the Bible. They may try to persuade you that it is not necessary to regularly go to church and learn the discipline of obedience to Christ's word. They expect you, out of love for them, to do other things on the Lord's Day besides go to church. They may tell you that it is not necessary to become a member of a local church, or to love the brethren enough to spend time with them.

This, indeed, is a quenching of Christ's love to you, and a thwarting of His expectation of your expressing your love for Him, in terms of what you will do for Him, because you love Him. This is why Jesus said to His disciples in Matthew 10: 37 – He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me.” “And he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of Me.” The many waters of the love of family must not quench the fire of love in your heart for Christ your Savior. This is why our Lord said to the church at Ephesus in Revelation 2, verse 4 – “Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.” “Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place – unless you repent.”

Christ will remove your church lampstand's light from you, if you remove your supreme love from Him and give it to some other person, and make their love of greater importance than His. Jesus also said in Luke chapter 14, verse 25-27 – “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife, and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My

disciple.” “And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.” The hate that Jesus is talking about here is not a literal sinful hatred but a spiritual and holy hatred of any other person’s expectation of their love taking the place that belongs to Christ in your life. The love of an earthly wife is an exclusive love. It is a physical and personal love exclusive to her person in the bonds of holy matrimony. And yet your love for Christ must be greater toward Him than toward her, even.

The love of your Heavenly Husband Christ, is of a greater exclusiveness yet, according to these verses. To hold to Him and His love, when someone else is asking you for a greater loyalty to them is a love which is willing to bear the cross which must be born, in order to be faithful to Christ. Ask yourself now – How can I prove my love to Christ? The answer: By loving Him more than the closest of your relatives, if they are asking you to neglect the commandments of His word. You will prove your love to Him by regularly attending a Bible believing church, and loving the brethren; holding fast to Christ and loving Him more than any other person in your life. Even if your wife and children will not go with you, even if you have to go to church by yourself, your love to Christ will be shown.

2nd – Floods of waters cannot ultimately drown Christ’s love, and neither will they ultimately drown your love for Him either.

Christ’s love for us was shown for us in going to the cross for us. Usually when you throw water on a flame, it puts the fire out. But in the case of Christ’s love, water was thrown upon His greatest desires, but they burned all the more brightly. His love for us was, and it is, inextinguishable. His love for God, and His love for us and for our salvation was tested and proved in a thousand ways during the time of His earthly ministry. The fire of His love to do God’s will and to keep all of God’s commandments perfectly, on our behalf, it was unquenchable and inextinguishable from the moment of His Incarnation until He said that His work was finished, on the cross.

When He was a young man, when He went to Jerusalem with His parents, he knew what His mission was to be. And so He went and talked with the doctors of the law in the temple. He was both asking and answering questions. And they were amazed at His answers and His understanding. His parents, when the time came to leave Jerusalem, they thought that he must have been among the company of travelers. Thinking that He was with them, they went a day’s journey back toward Nazareth, but actually, He had remained behind.

He did this out of the inextinguishable desire that He had to glorify God by His life, and the love that He had for us to accomplish our redemption. He was not acting selfishly. He was not trying to act independent of His parents will for Him either. It was that His love for God’s law and for our salvation was something that He gave Himself entirely to, all through His life. When His parents came looking for Him, they could not find him until 3 days had gone by. And when they finally did find Him, they were amazed, and His mother said to Him – Son, why have done this to us?” “Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously.” “And He said to them, ‘Why did You seek Me?’ “Did you not know that I must be about My Father’s business?”

So, as we think about what the waters were which threatened to drown Christ during the time of His earthly ministry, either in preparing for that ministry, or in His going about to fulfill it to the glory of God, we see that they were found in His being tempted at various points within His own soul. One of the main temptations that He faced, in His own heart and mind, was that He would think, or do things, only to please Himself, or His parents, or the expectations of others around Him. These were the waters that threatened to drown His desire for perfect obedience, but they did not quench His love for God or for us.

He loved His parents, and others that He knew who were righteous people. He knew that it was right for Him to love them and honor them. But He knew that He must love His Father, and the mission that His Father sent Him on, even more, in terms of His priorities of what He knew He must accomplish by His perfect obedience. He knew this from His younger years. And we also know by reading the rest of the gospels; that He faced the great opposition of the scribes and Pharisees, and

rulers of Israel. These were great and mighty waters that threatened to engulf Him, and bring an end to His life before His time had come to lay it down.

When He turned 30 years of age, John revealed Him to Israel as the promised Messiah. And the opposition of the scribes and Pharisees, and rulers of Israel was immediate, and it was relentless. It was like many waters that threatened to drown Him. He bore their attacks upon His Person and ministry, as the One who had been sent by God, with great spiritual courage and fortitude of spirit. He knew that His love for our soul's salvation was greater than all the persecution, opposition, hatred, and malice of these wicked men. He willingly allowed Himself to be falsely accused, falsely tried, and unrighteously condemned by these men. He willingly went to the cross, and there He suffered and died in our place. On the 3rd day He rose again.

In Psalm 18, verse 16, He is recorded prophetically as saying, concerning His own resurrection: "He (God the Father) sent from above, He took me; He drew me out of many waters." "He delivered Me from my strong enemy, from those who hated me, for they were too strong for Me." "They confronted Me in the day of My calamity, but the Lord was my support." "He also brought me out into a broad place; He delivered Me because He delighted in Me." "The Lord rewarded Me according to My righteousness; according to the cleanness of My hands He has recompensed Me." "For I have kept the ways of the Lord, and have not wickedly departed from My God."

In other words, He is declaring here that He had accomplished our redemption! The waters of self-righteous men opposing His love for us as sinners, and His Mission, that of His saving us from our sins; in all of their opposition, they had failed to accomplish their objective! Christ's love for us prevailed and it triumphed over all! Looking at His undaunted love for us, to endure all these things for us, let us now come to the Table, and remember His love for us. And there let us renew our love for Him.

3rd – Christ's love and spiritual riches are ultimately of greater value than all earthly riches.

Verse 7b says – "If a man would give for love all the wealth of his house, it would be utterly despised." We see here from this statement that the love of Christ is of greater value than all that any person has, or possesses. It cannot be bought with any amount of money, or its value set at any price. Who will set a price on the value of a soul? What will it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? And in Psalm 49, verse 6, it says – "Those who trust in their wealth and boast in the multitude of their riches, none of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him – for the redemption of their souls is costly, and it shall cease forever (or he should cease trying forever) that he should continue to life eternally and not see the Pit."

But what we do see here is, that the value of Christ's love and the value of His death and resurrection life in our life are infinitely and inestimably great. The price that He paid in His loving us and giving Himself for us, had entirely paid our sin debt in the sight of God. It covers our multitude of sins. The riches of His grace are continually lavished upon us according to the Father's purpose and the Spirit's wise application of them to our specific spiritual needs. And so we, as we look at the emblems of Christ's love, in the bread and the wine, and think of His purchasing our redemption, let us think of what we can give Him that would please Him most. What we can express to Him at this time is our love and appreciation for all that He has done for us, all that He is doing for us, and all that He will do for us. And let us pray to be more and more His faithful servants.