

SERIES: II CORINTHIANS: THE HEART AND HUMILITY OF A MAN OF GOD, WEEK 26

TITLE: AN ENLARGED HEART

TEXT: II CORINTHIANS 6:11-13

INTRODUCTION: (1) THE GREEK WORD FOR HEART IS KARDIA.

*** THIS WORD IS SEEN IN SUCH FAMILIAR ENGLISH TERMS AS CARDIOLOGY (THE STUDY OF THE HEART), IN CARDIOLOGIST, A DOCTOR WHO SPECIALIZES IN TREATING THE HEART.**

**** IN ELECTROCARDIOGRAM, AN ELECTRONIC MONITORING DEVICE THAT RECORDS THE HEART'S ELECTRICAL ACTIVITY.**

***** AND CARDIAC ARREST, A HEART ATTACK.**

****** NOW FOR THE ANCIENT GREEKS, THE MAIN MEANING OF KARDIA WAS THE PHYSICAL ORGAN, THE PHYSICAL PUMP IN OUR BODIES THAT PUMPS BLOOD.**

(2) HOWEVER, UNDER HOMER THE GREEK POET, KARDIA MEANT MORE THAN JUST THE PHYSICAL ORGAN, BUT

ALSO MEANT THE SEAT OF EMOTIONS, AS IN LOVING WITH “ALL ONE’S HEART.”

*** AND FOR GREEKS OF THAT TIME, THE HEART WAS THE SEAT OF MORAL AND INTELLECTUAL LIFE AND ALL EMOTIONS WERE EMBRACED IN THIS TERM.**

**** NOW LATER, THE EMPHASIS OF HEART FELL ON REASONING, AND THE HEART WAS SEEN AS THE CENTER OF RATIONAL THOUGHT.**

***** MOVING ON IN THE EVOLUTION OF THE GREEK WORD KARDIA, THE SEPTUAGINT, THE GREEK OLD TESTAMENT, CONSIDERED THE HEART TO BE THE MORAL CENTER OF ONE’S BEING.**

****** AS WE MOVE INTO THE NEW TESTAMENT, THE MAJOR MEANING OF THE WORD KARDIA – HEART IS FIGURATIVE, AS THE CENTER OF LIFE, THOUGHT, FEELINGS AND EVEN SPIRITUAL RESPONSE.**

(3) FOR EXAMPLE, IN LUKE 16:15, WHEN SPEAKING OF GOD’S KNOWLEDGE OF PEOPLE, THE SCRIPTURE SAYS “HE KNOWS OUR HEARTS.”

*** AND THEN GOD KNOWS IF BELIEVERS FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER FROM THEIR HEARTS IN MATTHEW 18:35.**

**** WHEN WE OBEY GOD, WE SHOULD DO SO WHOLEHEARTEDLY, FROM OUR HEARTS, IN ROMANS 6:17, FROM A PURE HEART IN I TIMOTHY 1:5 AND II TIMOTHY 2:22 (QUOTE THEM).**

***** THEN WE ARE TO LOVE GOD WITH ALL OF OUR HEART AS THE FIRST COMMANDMENT IN MATTHEW 22:37&38.**

****** BUT ALSO, THE HEART IS THE SEAT OF OUR THOUGHT PROCESSES AS JESUS COMMUNICATED IN MATTHEW 13:14&15.**

(4) THIS SAME TRUTH WAS REEMPHASIZED BY THE APOSTLE PAUL IN SPEAKING TO SOME ROMAN JEWS IN ACTS 28:27.

*** AND PEOPLE WHO COME TO UNDERSTAND THE GLORIOUS LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL UNDERSTAND IT WITH THEIR HEARTS IN II CORINTHIANS 4:6 AND EPHESIANS 1:18.**

**** BUT NOT ONLY IS THE HEART A DESCRIPTION OF OUR WHOLE BEING AND THE RATIONAL ASPECT OF US, BUT IT IS ALSO THE SEAT OF OUR EMOTIONS.**

***** TO ILLUSTRATE THAT, THE HEART IS JOYFUL WHEN SOMETHING GOOD HAPPENS TO US IN ACTS 2:26 AND ACTS 17:17.**

****** BUT BY CONTRAST, WHEN THINGS GO WRONG, ONE'S HEART IS CONSUMED WITH SORROW IN JOHN 14:1 AND ROMANS 9:2 (QUOTE THEM).**

(5) AND THEN A FINAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HEART THAT I AM GOING TO EMPHASIZE IS SPIRITUAL. FOR THE HEART IS THE CENTER OF ONE'S SPIRITUAL PERCEPTION AND PURPOSE.

*** FOR EXAMPLE, THE LOVE OF GOD IS Poured OUT IN OUR HEARTS ACCORDING TO ROMANS 5:5.**

**** THEN WHEN WE TURNED TO CHRIST FOR SALVATION, GOD SET THE SEAL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR HEARTS, WE'VE LEARNED IN II CORINTHIANS 1:22.**

***** BEYOND THAT, THE HOLY SPIRIT DWELLS IN OUR HEARTS TO GIVE US A SENSE OF OUR SONSHIP IN CHRIST, AS WE CALL OUT ABBA (DADDY, PAPA) FATHER IN GALATIANS 4:6.**

****** AND THEN LASTLY, IT IS GOD WHO ULTIMATELY TESTS OUR HEARTS IN I THESSALONIANS 2:4.**

(6) NOW AS WE PUT ALL THOSE TRUTHS TOGETHER ABOUT THE HEART, THE KARDIA IN THE N.T., WE SEE THAT THE HEART SPEAKS OF THE CENTRAL PART OF PEOPLE, THAT POINT WHERE THE EMOTIONS,

REASONING, SPIRITUAL INSTINCTS AND GOD-CONSCIOUSNESS IS.

*** IN FACT, IN THE N.T. THE HEART SEEMS TO REFER TO THE WHOLE IMMATERIAL PART OF PEOPLE.**

**** WITH THAT SAID, AS WE COME TO OUR TEXT FOR TODAY IN II CORINTHIANS 6:11-13, I'VE TITLE OUR STUDY, "AN ENLARGED HEART."**

***** AND THE PERSON WITH THE LARGE HEART, THE BIG HEART, THE HUGE HEART IS THE APOSTLE PAUL.**

****** IN FACT, PAUL WILL USE THE GREEK WORD KARDIA IN V. 11 OF II CORINTHIANS 6 WHERE HE SAYS IN SPEAKING TO THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH OUR HEART IS ENLARGED TOWARDS YOU, OUR HEART IS OPENED WIDE TO YOU, OUR HEART IS WIDE OPEN TO YOU AND WE'VE OPENED WIDE OUR HEARTS TO YOU, IN USING SOME DIFFERENT TRANSLATIONS.**

(7) AND MY POINT IS PAUL LOVED THE CORINTHIANS WITH A MAGNANIMOUS LOVE.

*** PAUL LOVED THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH WITH A FORGIVING, PATIENT, SACRIFICIAL LOVE.**

**** PAUL HAD GREAT AFFECTION FOR THESE BELIEVERS WHO CAUSED HIM GREAT HEARTACHE AND GRIEF, THAT**

HURT HIM. FOR HE AS THEIR SPIRITUAL FATHER LOVED THEM AS HIS CHILDREN.

***** AND YOU KNOW IF YOU HAVE CHILDREN, THERE IS HARDLY ANYTHING THEY CAN DO TO STOP YOU FROM LOVING THEM, IN SPITE OF HOW SOMETIMES WE CAN BE HURT BY THEM AND OF COURSE WE CAN HURT THEM.**

****** BUT PAUL DEFINED THE CHARACTER OF HIS LOVE FOR HIS SPIRITUAL CHILDREN IN CONNECTION WITH HIS ACTIONS.**

(8) AND IN SO DOING, HE PROVIDED A CLEAR-CUT DESCRIPTION OF LOVE IN ACTION. AND OF COURSE WE SEE THAT THROUGHOUT II CORINTHIANS.

*** FOR IF YOU WANT TO SEE PATERNAL LOVE FOR PEOPLE, II CORINTHIANS COMMUNICATES THAT AS WE SEE THE HEART AND HUMILITY OF A MAN OF GOD IN IT.**

**** YET IN OUR TEXT TODAY, WE DON'T SEE SO MUCH THE ACTIONS OF LOVE BY PAUL, BUT WORDS OF LOVE COMMUNICATED TO THE CORINTHIANS, TELLING THEM WHAT THEY ALREADY KNEW, TELLING THEM, I LOVE YOU!!**

***** BELOVED, PAUL HAD AN ENLARGED HEART. AND IN THE PHYSICAL REALM, IF YOU HAVE AN ENLARGED HEART, THAT IS A PROBLEM, SOMETHING IS WRONG.**

****** BUT IN THE SPIRITUAL ETERNAL REALM, WE SHOULD PASSIONATELY DESIRE TO HAVE AN ENLARGED HEART LIKE PAUL FOR OTHER PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY PEOPLE WHO HURT US.**

(9) AND THAT IS MY DESIRE TODAY, FOR THERE ARE TIMES MY HEART IS SMALL, ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE WHO CAUSE HURT.

*** BUT I WANT IT TO BE LARGE FOR JESUS, WHO LOVES ME WITH AN ETERNAL UNCONDITIONAL LOVE.**

**** AND I WANT MY HEART TO BE LARGE LIKE PAUL'S FOR CHRIST'S SHEEP. AN ENLARGED HEART, AGAIN THE TITLE OF OUR MESSAGE FOR TODAY.**

***** AND UNDER THAT TITLE, WE'LL LOOK AT 3 POINTS IN OUR STUDY OF II CORINTHIANS 6:11-13.**

****** NO. 1 THE CANDOR OF PAUL, V. 11A; NO. 2 THE COMPASSION OF PAUL, VV. 11B AND V. 12; AND NO. 3 THE CHILDREN OF PAUL, V. 13.**

(10) AND WITHOUT ANY FURTHER INTRODUCTION, LOOK AT II CORINTHIANS 6:11A PLEASE WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR FIRST POINT TODAY, THE CANDOR.

I. THE CANDOR, (READ V. 11A)

A. NOW PAUL SPOKE FREELY, FRANKLY, OPENLY, STRAIGHTFORWARDLY THUS CANDIDLY TO THE CORINTHIANS.

*** AND PAUL AND HIS CO-LABORERS, OUR, DID THIS WITH THE CORINTHIANS BECAUSE LOVE HOLDS BACK NOTHING THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL, PROFITABLE FOR ITS OBJECTS.**

**** BELOVED, SOMEONE WHO LOVES YOU, THAT HAS AN ENLARGED HEART WILL TELL YOU THE TRUTH.**

***** AND OF COURSE, SOMETIMES WE SPEAK THE TRUTH WITHOUT LOVE. AND TRUTH WITHOUT LOVE IS HARSHNESS, AND THEOLOGICALLY, LOVE WITHOUT TRUTH IS HERESY, SO WE ARE TOLD BY PAUL IN EPHESIANS 4:15 TO SPEAK THE TRUTH IN LOVE, (QUOTE IT).**

****** NOW SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE TO PEOPLE BOTH IN PREACHING AND TEACHING, AND IN COMMUNICATING AND CONVERSATION WITH PEOPLE IS AN EVIDENCE OF HAVING AN ENLARGED HEART.**

1. SO WHEN OUR HEART IS ENLARGED, WE DON'T DESIRE TO BLOW PEOPLE AWAY OR BE HARSH, OR UNKIND OR USE THE TRUTH IN ANGER AS A HAMMER. NO! WE WANT TO HELP PEOPLE WITH THESE TRUTHS OF

THE WORD OF GOD AND ALSO HELP IN REVEALING BLIND SPOTS.

*** SO TRUE LOVE SPEAKS THE TRUTH IN LOVE. LOVE DOES NOT HOLD BACK THAT WHICH IS PROFITABLE.**

**** IN FACT, PAUL SAID TO THE GALATIANS IN GALATIANS 4:16, THESE WORDS: (QUOTE IT).**

***** THEN IN ACTS 20:20 AND ACTS 20:27, PAUL HAD THESE WORDS FOR THE EPHESIAN ELDERS:**

****** ACTS 20:20 – “HOW I DID NOT SHRINK FROM DECLARING TO YOU ANYTHING THAT WAS PROFITABLE, AND TEACHING YOU PUBLICLY AND FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE.”**

ACTS 20:27 – “FOR I DID NOT SHRINK FROM DECLARING TO YOU THE WHOLE PURPOSE OF GOD.”

2. AND THEN JESUS DECLARED IN MATTHEW 12:34 THAT “THE MOUTH SPEAKS OUT OF THAT WHICH FILLS THE HEART.”

*** AND OF COURSE IF WE HAVE AN ENLARGED HEART, WHAT KIND OF WORDS ARE GOING TO COME OUT OF IT?**

**** WORDS OF LOVE AND WORDS OF TRUTH.**

***** AND PAUL'S LOVE FOR THE CORINTHIANS CAUSED HIM TO SPEAK HONESTLY TO THEM.**

****** FOR IN II CORINTHIANS WE SEE PAUL SPEAKING HONESTLY ABOUT GOD AND THE GOSPEL.**

3. ABOUT SIN. AND ABOUT HIS LOVE AND AFFECTION FOR THEM.

*** AND THINK ABOUT THE PEOPLE THAT GOD SOVEREIGNLY PUTS INTO OUR LIVES, OUR FAMILIES, THE FAMILY OF FAMILIES, THE CHURCH, OUR NEIGHBORS, PEOPLE AT SCHOOL, CO-WORKERS AND PEOPLE GOD DIVINELY PLACES ACROSS OUR PATHS AT STORES, RESTAURANTS, ETC.**

**** FOR IF OUR HEART IS ENLARGED, WE SHOULD SPEAK HONESTLY ABOUT GOD, THE GOSPEL, SIN AND OUR AFFECTIONS TOWARD THEM THAT ARE CLOSE TO US.**

***** AND I WANT TO EMPHASIZE OUR AFFECTIONS. AND I WANT TO DO THAT AS WE LOOK AT OUR SECOND POINT TODAY, THE COMPASSION – LOOK BACK AT V. 11 WITH ME PLEASE.**

II. THE COMPASSION, (READ V. 11)

A. NOW FIRST OF ALL, PAUL'S COMPASSION CAN BE SEEN HERE BY THE EXPRESSION "O CORINTHIANS."

*** FOR UNDERSTAND, ONLY RARELY DOES PAUL ADDRESS HIS READERS BY NAME, IN FACT HE DOES IT ONLY 3 TIMES IN HIS INSPIRED LETTERS, AS FAR AS SPEAKING COLLECTIVELY TO THE CHURCH.**

**** ONCE IN GALATIANS 3:1 WHERE HE SAYS: “YOU FOOLISH GALATIANS” AND HERE PAUL IS EXPRESSING HIS STRONG FEELINGS FOR THE GALATIANS BEING INFLUENCED BY ANOTHER GOSPEL, A GOSPEL OF WORKS.**

***** THEN PAUL WITH A GRATEFUL HEART FOR THE PHILIPPIANS IN SUPPLYING PROVISIONS TO MEET HIS NEEDS, SAID: “YOU YOURSELVES ALSO KNOW, PHILIPPIANS,” IN PHILIPPIANS 4:15.**

****** AND THEN WE HAVE THE USE OF II CORINTHIANS 6:11, “O CORINTHIANS” AND IS EXPRESSIVE HERE OF STRONG FEELINGS, OF INTENSE LOVE, OF DEEP AFFECTION.**

1. FOR WHAT FOLLOWS THIS DIRECT ADDRESS BY NAME, O CORINTHIANS?

*** THE WORDS, “OUR HEART IS OPENED WIDE.”**

**** SO PAUL’S MOUTH WAS OPEN WIDE TO THE CORINTHIANS IN SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE, V. 1A AND PAUL’S HEART IS OPENED WIDE, V. 1B.**

***** AND OPEN WIDE LIT. MEANS ENLARGED, BROADENED, THERE WAS PLENTY OF ROOM IN PAUL'S HEART FOR THEM.**

****** THERE WAS SYMPATHY, PATIENCE, FORGIVENESS, UNDERSTANDING AND SACRIFICE IN HIS BIG HEART FOR THEM.**

2. AND THAT PAUL COULD HAVE THEM IN HIS HEART AFTER ALL THE PAIN AND SORROW THEY HAD CAUSED HIM PROVES HIS COMPASSION AND LOVE WAS GENUINE.

*** IN FACT PAUL SAID LATER ON IN THIS EPISTLE, THESE WORDS IN II CORINTHIANS 12:14&15 –**

V. 14 – HERE FOR THIS THIRD TIME I AM READY TO COME TO YOU, AND I WILL NOT BE A BURDEN TO YOU; FOR I DO NOT SEEK WHAT IS YOURS, BUT YOU; FOR CHILDREN ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE TO SAVE UP FOR THEIR PARENTS, BUT PARENTS FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

V. 15 – I WILL MOST GLADLY SPEND AND BE EXPENDED FOR YOUR SOULS. IF I LOVE YOU MORE, AM I TO BE LOVED LESS?

**** NOW PAUL DID NOT WANT TO BURDEN THE CORINTHIANS WITH HIS FINANCIAL SUPPORT, FOR PAUL SOUGHT THE CORINTHIANS, NOT THEIR MONEY, AND**

GAVE THE ILLUSTRATION OF PARENTS HAVING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR CHILDREN WHEN THEY ARE YOUNG, BUT NOT CHILDREN FOR THEIR PARENTS, AND PAUL, AS A PARENT, IN HIS LOVE FOR THEM WAS WILLING TO BE SPENT FOR THEM, EVEN TO THE POINT OF SACRIFICING HIS LIFE.

*** SO CERTAINLY PAUL HAD AN ENLARGED SACRIFICIAL HEART TOWARDS THE CORINTHIANS. BUT THAT COMPASSION DID NOT GO BOTH WAYS, FOR THEIR HEARTS WERE SMALL TOWARD HIM IN COMPASSION. LOOK AT V. 12 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 12. NOW PAUL BEGINS IN V. 12 BY SAYING YOU ARE NOT RESTRAINED BY US. AND THE WORD RESTRAINED LIT. MEANS TO CONFINE OR TO MAKE NARROW, TO COMPRESS, TO CRAMP AND TO REDUCE.

* AND PAUL'S POINT IS HIS AFFECTIONS FOR THE CORINTHIANS WAS NOT COMPRESSED, CONFINED, MADE SMALL, AGAIN HE HAD A LARGE HEART TOWARD THEM.

** HIS COMPASSION FOR THEM WAS WIDE, BROAD, LARGE, NOT CONFINED OR RESTRICTED IN ANY WAY. THERE ARE NO RESTRICTIONS FOR HIS LOVE TOWARD THEM.

***** HOWEVER, IN CONTRAST TO HIS MAGNANIMOUS LOVE FOR THEM, THE CORINTHIANS WERE RESTRAINED IN THEIR OWN AFFECTIONS FOR PAUL AND HIS CO-WORKERS.**

****** IT IS TO SAY, A NUMBER OF THEM HAD SQUEEZED PAUL OUT OF THEIR LIVES AND CLOSED THEIR HEARTS TOWARD HIM.**

1. AFFECTION AND LOVE WERE NOT RECIPROCATED.

*** THE PROBLEM WAS A CLOSED MIND TO THE TRUTH AND A CLOSED HEART IN COMPASSION TOWARD PAUL.**

**** FOR SOME OF THEM HAD BELIEVED LIES ABOUT PAUL AND TURNED AWAY FROM HIM TO FALSE TEACHERS, AND AS A RESULT, THEY HAD COMPRESSED, CONFINED, CRAMPED THEIR AFFECTION FOR PAUL. THEY HAD SMALL HEARTS TOWARD PAUL.**

***** AND INSTEAD OF GIVING HIM THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT, FOR ONE THAT FAITHFULLY SHEPHERDED THEM, THEY BELIEVED LIES ABOUT HIM.**

****** AND BELOVED, THERE IS A VERY IMPORTANT APPLICATION HERE, GIVE THOSE AROUND YOU THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT AND REMEMBER, THERE ARE TWO SIDES TO EVERY STORY.**

2. AND WHEN PEOPLE HAVE LOVED YOU FOR YEARS AND HAVE SHOWN INTEGRITY, HONESTY AND LOYALTY, THEN TRY TO GIVE THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT, UNTIL PROVEN WRONG, NOT BLIND LOYALTY, BUT HOW ABOUT SOME LOYALTY?

*** AND PAUL DESERVED THE COMPASSION OF THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT FOR HIS SACRIFICIAL LOVE FOR THE CORINTHIANS BY SPENDING A YEAR AND A HALF WITH THEM AND CONTINUED HIS FOLLOW-UP WITH HIS EPISTLES AND VISITS.**

**** BUT SOME OF THE CORINTHIANS BELIEVED THE FALSE THINGS SAID ABOUT PAUL. THEIRS WERE SMALL HEARTS, HARD HEARTS AND CLOSED HEARTS, A LACK OF COMPASSION.**

***** AND BEFORE I MOVE ON TO V. 13, NOTE THAT THE WORD AFFECTION TRANSLATED BOWELS IN THE KJV, IS A GREEK WORD THAT IS USED IN A PARALLEL WAY HERE WITH THE WORD KARDIA IN V. 11, TALKING ABOUT THE SEAT OF EMOTIONS AND PASSIONS, THE PLACE OF TENDER AFFECTION, OF LOVE.**

****** AND IT IS A WORD USED METAPHORICALLY OF THE EMOTIONS, OF AFFECTION IN A WAY TALKING ABOUT GUT FEELINGS, SELFLESS COMPASSIONATE LOVE,**

AGAIN TRANSLATED BOWELS IN THE KJV, THE INSIDE OF US.

3. AND PAUL'S COMPASSION, HIS LOVE, HIS AFFECTION, FROM THE INSIDE OF HIM WAS NOT CONSTRICTED, REDUCED OR COMPRESSED, BUT THERE'S WAS FOR HIM.

*** FOR PAUL'S LOVE WAS A KIND OF PATERNAL LOVE. FOR PAUL LOVED THE CORINTHIANS AS HIS CHILDREN. LOOK AT V. 13 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR LAST POINT FOR TODAY, THE CHILDREN.**

III. THE CHILDREN, (READ V. 13)

A. NOW PAUL IS SPEAKING TO THE CORINTHIANS WITH A PATERNAL LOVE, A LOVE THAT A FATHER HAS FOR CHILDREN, A LOVE THAT PARENTS HAVE FOR THEIR CHILDREN WHICH IS AN AMAZING SACRIFICIAL LOVE.

*** FOR MOST OF US WOULD DO ABOUT ANYTHING FOR OUR CHILDREN WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF OUR RESOURCES.**

**** AND PAUL SAYS HERE IN V. 13, "I SPEAK AS TO CHILDREN," FOR PAUL WAS THEIR SPIRITUAL FATHER, PREACHING THE GOSPEL TO THEM AND LEADING MANY OF THEM TO CHRIST.**

***** BUT NOTE THAT AS A SPIRITUAL FATHER, PAUL HAS PAIN HERE IN V. 13.**

****** FOR FEW THINGS IN LIFE ARE MORE PAINFUL THAN UNREQUITED LOVE, UNRECIPROCATED LOVE, UNRETURNED LOVE, FOR LOVE LONGS FOR A RESPONSE.**

1. AND THE CORINTHIANS DID NOT RETURN PAUL'S LOVE, HIS CHILDREN DID NOT LOVE HIM AS THEIR FATHER.

*** AND SO PAUL'S PLEA IS, "NOW IN A LIKE EXCHANGE, OPEN WIDE TO US," OPEN WIDE YOUR HEARTS TO US, HAVE AN ENLARGED HEART TO US, LIKE WE HAVE TO YOU, PAUL SPEAKING FOR HIMSELF AND HIS CO-LABORERS IN THE MINISTRY.**

**** SO PAUL'S APPEAL IS PATERNAL AND HIS APPEAL IS FOUND IN THE PHRASE IN A LIKE EXCHANGE, MEANING IN AN EXCHANGE THAT IS EXACT, FOR THEM TO LOVE HIM AS HE LOVED THEM, AS A FAIR EXCHANGE.**

***** PAUL LONGS FOR THE CORINTHIANS TO BREAK AWAY FROM SIN AND THE FALSE TEACHERS AND RETURN TO HIM, IN ESSENCE TO RETURN TO THE LORD AND HIS TEACHINGS.**

****** O CORINTHIANS, OPEN WIDE YOUR HEART TO US, ENLARGE YOUR HEARTS TO US AS WE HAVE SACRIFICIALLY ENLARGED OUR HEARTS TO YOU.**

IN WRAP UP: (1) HEART DISEASE IS THE NO. 1 KILLER IN AMERICA. AND FOR CHRISTIANS HARDENING OF THE HEART PRODUCES FATAL RESULTS SPIRITUALLY. SPIRITUAL HEART DISEASE HAS PROFOUND EFFECTS IN THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD.

*** BELOVED, OUR NEED IS LARGE HEARTEDNESS, HAVING A LARGE HEART.**

**** AND IT COMES FROM LOVING THE LORD FIRST WITH ALL OF OUR HEARTS. FOR IF OUR HEART IS FULL OF HIM IT WILL BE FULL WITH DESIRE TO LOVE OTHERS, EVEN THE UNLOVABLE AS HE LOVES US, IT WILL NOT BE FULL OF SELF.**

***** AND BELOVED OUR HEARTS ARE SMALL WHEN WE ARE SELFISH RATHER THAN BEING SERVANTS. WHEN READING THE PAPER OR MAGAZINES OR INTERNET ARTICLES ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN READING AND STUDYING THE WORD.**

****** SMALL HEARTEDNESS ALSO COMES WHEN WE LIVE FOR THINGS OVER PEOPLE. IT COMES WHEN MEISM TAKES OVER AND BASICALLY IT COMES WHEN WE YIELD**

TO THE FLESH MORE THAN WE DO WITH THE SPIRIT, FOR I REMIND YOU, THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE.

(2) BELOVED, MAY OUR PRAYER TO OUR GREAT GOD BE TODAY, I WANT TO HAVE AN ENLARGED HEART. I WANT TO BE LIKE JESUS AND I WANT TO BE LIKE PAUL.

*** AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO, A GREAT SCHOLAR AND CHURCH FATHER, OFTEN SPOKE OF THE HEART. ON ONE OCCASION HE SAID AND I QUOTE: “TO MY GOD, A HEART OF FLAME; TO MY FELLOW-MAN, A HEART OF LOVE; TO MYSELF, A HEART OF STEEL.” (MOST LIKELY SPEAKING OF A DISCIPLINED HEART AND NOT AN INDULGING HEART.)**

**** MAY OUR HEARTS BE A FLAME WITH GOD’S LOVE AND LOVE FOR PEOPLE AND SO MAY WE HAVE ENLARGED HEARTS AND LIVE!! (LET’S PRAY)**

