

The Length of Christ's Love (Ephesians 3:18)

I. **Preface**

- A. Review context of Ephesians
- B. Why consider the love of Christ topically as we are?
- C. Setting the course for this sermon
 - 1. The expanse (distance) of Christ's love
 - 2. The endurance of Christ's love
 - 3. The eternity of Christ's love
- D. Opening Prayer based on promises of Scripture
- E. Introductory illustration: *Ultra-distance running*

II. **The EXPANSE of Christ's love**

- A. Nothing is too far from God's reach
 - 1. Gen 18:14, Num 11:23, (Dt 30:4-5)
- B. God's arms are not too short
 - 1. Isaiah 50:2, 59:1, (Job 40:9)
 - 2. (Psalm 22:1); Psalm 139:8-10
- C. **Application**: Think of a person who appears furthest from God's saving grace, and pray that the arm of God's mercy will reach down and save them.

III. **The ENDURANCE of Christ's love**

- A. *His love endures forever* – Psalm 118, Psalm 136 (26 times!)
- B. God is unchanging – Mal 3:6
- C. The attribute of God's *immutability*
 - 1. in His essence (Psalm 90:1-2)
 - 2. in His attributes (love - 1 John 4:8)
 - 3. in His will (without passions = impassable)
- D. God's immutability is a terror to the wicked
 - 1. Justice or Mercy – which do you desire?
- E. God's immutability is a comfort to believers because it means that God is always faithful to the promises of His Word
 - 1. He is our Rock (Deut 32:4, Psalm 18:2, 31)
 - 2. Great is His faithfulness (Lam 3:21-23, Psalm 36:5)
- F. **Application**: Is your love changing? (1 Cor 13:4,5,7) or, as you comprehend the love of Christ, are you being conformed to that image?

IV. **The ETERNALITY of Christ's love**

- A. Eternity past to eternity future (Ps 102:25-27, 103:17, Jer 31:3)
 - 1. God's love in eternity past (election)
 - a. Col 3:12, 1 Thess 1:4, 2 Thess 2:13, Eph 1:4-5, 2:4-5
 - 2. God's love in eternity future – John 13:1
 - a. How long is *unto the end*? end of life? until we sin?
 - b. No! 1 Cor 1:8, 2 Cor 1:2, 2 Thess 3:3-4, Jude 24-25
 - 3. Love this way! Song of songs 2:8-13