



# GOOD NEWS FROM ZION

## February 2022

Pastor's notes...

As I write this at the end of January, Deborah and I are both recovering from Covid 19. Deborah was sick first, then me, and then she relapsed for a few days. So, we have taken care of one another back and forth, depending on who felt better.

Whether a person is ill for a short time or a long time, loving care from another person is important. When a person is too weak to get food, or to bathe, or to do many other things — another person can do it for the weaker person.

The caring for someone without seeking self-gain, but instead to sacrifice time and effort for the ill person, is the type of love St. Paul spoke of in 1 Corinthians 13. He said this love is a more excellent way than all the spiritual gifts he listed in chapter 12. Without true love which serves another person, that “spiritual gift” is nothing.

We sinful humans, even Christians, can never achieve this type of love perfectly. We always have some selfishness creeping into our actions and thoughts. God grants us power to love to some extent. However, God's love for us through His Son Jesus is exactly what the Gospel message is all about. Perfect self-sacrificing love is how Jesus has loved us and continues to love us.

In fact, St Paul also wrote “*but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*” (Romans 5:8). When we were unlovable and rebellious sinners, God gave up His Son for us to save and care for us.

Paul's writing on love is so clear, yet deep with meaning and power, it is good for us to read it afresh. I have copied Dr. Lockwood's English translation from the *1 Corinthians Concordia Commentary* to give us a fresh look at Paul's teaching. Also, the quote starts with 12:31, for it

gives us the link between the teaching on “spiritual gifts” and love. We read and meditate...

*12:31 But strive for the gracious gifts that are greater. And I show you a still more excellent way.*

*13:1 If I speak with the tongues of humans and of the angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy brass [gong] or a clashing cymbal. 2 And if I have prophecy and know all the mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so as to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.*

*3 And if I parcel out all my possessions, and if I give my body in order to boast, but do not have love, I am profited nothing.*

*4 Love is longsuffering, is kind; love is not jealous, love does not brag, is not puffed up, 5 does not behave improperly, is not self-seeking, is not provoked, does not keep a record of wrong, 6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but joins in rejoicing in the truth. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

*8 Love never falls. But whether prophecies, they will be superseded; whether tongues, they will cease; whether knowledge, it will be superseded.*

*9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part.*

*10 But when that which is complete comes, that*

*which is partial will be superseded. 11 When I was a*

*child, I used to speak as a child, I used to think as a*

*child, I used to reason as a child. When I became a*

*man, I set aside the ways of a child. 12 For now we*

*see in a mirror indirectly, but then face to face; now*

*I know in part, but then I will know just as I have*

*been known. 13 So now there remain faith, hope,*

*love, these three things. But the greatest of these is love.*

May God grant us to know and trust in His great love for us in Christ! May God grant us to also know and believe that this is the love we aim to have for one another!

In Christ,  
Pastor Carl Rockrohr