



Wednesday, 12/21/16

**CHOOSE LOVE**

READING: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

I find it ironic how 1 Corinthians seems to be a "go to" scripture read at weddings, yet many marriages end in divorce. One reason is because many do not experience in the love that comes from God. I have heard preachers state in the past to add your name to this scripture, saying "Theresa is patient, Theresa is kind...". Many times, I am the *opposite* of this passage. However, we all strive to be like Christ. Christ is all of these things. Christ *is* patient, Christ *is* kind, He does not easily anger, He is not self-seeking, He keeps no record of our wrong doings. He showed love and grace to others: the woman at the well, the woman who was about to be stoned for her sins (John 8:1-11), Zacchaeus, Mary Magdalene, the list goes on and on. Even when Jesus was on the cross, instead of asking God end his suffering, He said "forgive (those responsible for his crucifixion) for they know not what they do. He even showed love to one of the men being crucified with Him telling man that "today you will be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43). Also, when we show love to others, we are showing love to Christ (Matthew 25:34-46). God also gives us a warning that when we choose not to love others, we don't know God because God *is* love.

All of us sin and fall short of the glory of God, but we can do all things through God who gives us strength. So here is a rewrite of this passage: "(insert your name here), through Christ is patient, is kind, does not envy, does not boast, is not proud, does not boast, is not proud, does not dishonor others, is not self-seeking, is not easily angered, keeps no record of wrongs, does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth, always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. God bless each and every one of you this holiday season.

-Theresa Tackett