EPISODE NO. 328

1 Cor. 12:31b; 13:1-13

Love

Paul wrote these words: 12:31b  I will now show you the best way of all:

13:1 Even if I speak with human languages or the language of angels, but I do not have loving concern, I have only become like the noisy sound of a gong or the crashing sound from cymbals.  2 I may have the ability to prophesy, to know all secrets, to possess all knowledge, and to have the kind of faith which can move mountains, but if I don’t have concern for others, then I am nothing.  3 I could give away everything I own and sacrifice my body, so that I could brag about it, but if I did not have love, I have gained nothing.

4 A loving person
    is patient;
    is kind;
    is not jealous;
    is not boastful;
    is not proud;
    5 is not rude;
    is not interested only in himself;
    is even-tempered;
    does not hold grudges;
    6 is not happy when someone else does wrong;
    is happy when truth wins;
    7 never quits;
    always trusts;
    always hopes for the best;
    always keeps on going.

8 Love lasts forever.  There are such things as prophecies, but they will disappear.  There are such things as inspired languages, but they will stop.  There is such a thing as knowledge from God, but it will disappear.  9 We only know portions of things from God.  We prophesy in parts, 10 but when that which is complete comes, the parts will disappear.
11 When I was a small child, I used to talk about the things that a small child would talk about. I used to think and reason as a child did, but now that I have become an adult, I have put aside the ways of children. 12 At this time, we see only a blurred image in the metal mirror. At the time of maturity, we will see plainly — as one person looking at another’s face. Now I know things only partially, but then I will know everything completely, just as God knows me completely.

13 Now these three things last: faith, hope, and love — but the most important of these is love.